



Robert Said What?

March, 2021



Teaching Ourselves to Sewe the Community

From the desk of

Joyce Gleason RP

While the second year of my two-year term (April 1 '20 -- March 31 '21) was not the year I would have planned, I consider myself fortunate that the officers, chairs and members of CCPU were with the unit and me to offer advice and support. I literally could not have led our unit without you. I am grateful and full of thanks to each and everyone one of you.

It would have been so easy to shut down CCPU for the rest of the year. Attempts to celebrate Parliamentary Law Month with the Punta Gorda City Council and the Charlotte County Commissioners in April were unsuccessful due to that shut-down. And we, in fact, did cancel our May Meeting.

Contributing to the decision, of course, was the closing of the FOP Hall. Ernie Boss, FOP president, mentioned how their active police members did not have protective equipment to allow for their safe interaction with the public while on the job. Our Executive Board voted via Zoom to immediately advance an additional donation, in the newly-approved '20-'21 budget (which would normally have been given in March '21). Thus we assisted the FOP in protecting their brothers and sisters in the field by providing the donation early. And so began a series of Executive Board meetings via Zoom throughout the year for wise counsel and to aid in decision-making.

While the summer wore on, we witnessed many other organizations make the same difficult decisions about meetings. FSAP cancelled its spring Annual Meeting, eventually making it up during the fall Henry M. Robert Day event in October. NAP had planned a

remarkable dual event for August -- the National Training Conference and the roll-out of the 12th edition of RONR. All of this fell to a virtual event, a great one nonetheless, attracting more than twice as many participants as might have attended in-person! Approximately 10 CCPU members were among those.

The Executive Committee decided to set the September meeting as virtual or in-person by a poll conducted online among our members. The majority decision was to hold that meeting virtually in September with Vice-president **Louis Rivera** presiding and **Brian Pelkie** serving as Zoom host. Members agreed to bylaw changes to allow electronic meetings. Thanks to Mary Giddens, members were also introduced to the process by which upcoming bylaws changes were made. Those would be offered for votes at succeeding meetings. Later however, member **Rev. Randy Moody** pointed out correctly that all motions were invalid since voting occurred at a technically unpermitted electronic meeting. In response, the unit held a **Special Meeting** in October to correct our Bylaws and Standing Rules to permit such meetings, and to validate the actions taken during the September meeting. Will we ever forget the setting of **Sam King's** sunny driveway and lawn chairs?

As decided by a member poll, the November meeting was held in-person at the Oak Forrest Condominiums' clubhouse in Port Charlotte, thanks to Brian Pelkie, their CAM. Uncertain how our winter classes might take place, we nonetheless approved the meeting dates and cost for "The Practical Application of Robert's Rules of Order" (PARR, our traditional introductory 6-week course) and "The Art of Presiding" course, offered biennially for 5 weeks. The major business of the day was plowing through the myriad changes in the bylaws

Lesson given after business meeting at 10:30 conducted by Karen Price.



Annual Meeting
March 11, 2021
9:30AM—11:30AM
Details on Meeting to follow

Follow is on

Email: btrules@gmail.com

but, in spite of devoted attention to these alterations and Mary Giddens' extraordinary presentation, the work was not completed. We thus called for an **Adjourned Meeting** to the following week in the same location and completed the task then. Brian Pelkie presented his well-received lesson, "What Happened to My Script?".

For January, the members polled selected a Zoom meeting, thanks to Louis Rivera's hosting skills. At this time it was apparent that the intersecting needs to meet in person or virtually, the adaptation of our courses to a new format, the integration of RONR 12, and the delay in advertising meant that it was unlikely our courses could take place as in the past. Instead the Executive Board cancelled the courses in favor of newly-created offerings for a 3-hour Introductory class organized by Joyce (to be held at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Associations as a "proof of concept" class for leaders in their group), a 2-hour presiding class set by Brian, and a re-established legacy RP study group led by Sam (but, in fact, now joining the offering by the Dade-Palm Beach Unit). The membership agreed. Joyce reappointed committee chairs under the new Bylaws to serve until the next administration. The major order of business that day was to complete changes in the Standing Rules, again presented by Mary Giddens. The work extended longer than planned (cancelling the lesson prepared by **Barbara Davis**) but were, in the end, finished.

Throughout this year, Secretary Barbara Davis offered us minutes from 5 member and 11 executive board meetings, a huge piece of work. Editor Libby Curnow worked diligently to produce 4 issues of *Robert Said What?*, **Christine Sutherland** successfully transferred the facebook page to Louis Rivera's charge, since the new bylaws assigned it to the vice-president as part of the Publicity Committee. Webmaster **Louis Rivera** worked to keep our site up-to-date with the myriad changes. Our treasurer, Sam King, and membership chair, **Barbara Holland**, could report 2 new members and a loss of only 1 member, resulting in a total of 28 members in CCPU. Under our new Bylaws, the new Finance and Nominating Committees will present their reports at the March '21 Annual Meeting.

This has been an amazingly busy year in spite of a pandemic!



CCPU Website—<http://www.robertrules.org>

The biggest
obstacles in our
lives are the
barriers our
mind creates.

Bylaws Committee



Starting in the spring, **Mary Giddens**, chair of the bylaws committee, oversaw a major review of our documents via conference phone calls. Meeting weekly over several months were committee members **Luceal Curry** and **Libby Curnow**, plus **Joyce Gleason** *ex officio*. They are to be commended for the time and effort they put into this project.



For decades the FOP has generously offered us space for meetings and classes. Over the years, CCPU has contributed by donating tables, chairs, a projection screen, etc. The hall was in need of major repairs, but Ernie Boss, FOP President, told us of their decision to put a hold on any renovations, close the hall to outside groups, and to support their active police, who did not have enough protective equipment to allow for their safe interaction with the public while on the job. We fully understood and supported that decision by contributing the budgeted amount of \$200 to their efforts.

May Newsletter
Deadline
April 20, 2021



2019—2021 Officers

President—Joyce Gleason—joylee16@gmail.com
Vice President—Louis Rivera—iinspect@gmail.com
Secretary—Barbara Davis—babsdavis@comcast.net
Treasurer—Sam King—gammanuking@gmail.com