

CO-2 Bylaws and Procedures Sub-Committee

MPLA Board Report

October 2024

The Bylaws and Procedures Committee has not met.

I attended the Admin Committee on 9/24/2024.

I have began looking into the parliamentary authority section in regard to what update might be needed for Article XI. Parliamentary Authority of the Bylaws, and to specifically consider the question of Robert's Rules of Order versus Sturgis. My findings were as follows:

It is generally agreed that the best parliamentary authority for an organization is whichever best meets the needs of the organization considering the size and complexity of the organization and the types of business handled by the organization.

Robert's Rules of Order was initially published in 1876 by Henry M. Robert as an adaptation of the rules and procedures of the United States Congress. Four editions were published before his death in 1923, including **Robert's Rules of Order Revised for Deliberative Assemblies** first published in 1915.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, current is 12th edition (RONR, released September 2020, first published as the 7th edition in 1970) is the the most comprehensive authority looked at and comes in at 630 pages of text and a total of 712 pages. There is also a Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief book currently in the 3rd edition, that acknowledges "at least 80 percent of the content of RONR will be needed less that 20 percent of the time."

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief (current is 3rd etition) is a guide for using RONR, but is not intended as a replacement for RONR. It is the only concise guide authorized by the Roberts Rules Association (made up of decendents of Henry M. Robert).

Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure by Alice Sturgis was first published in 1950. After Sturgis death in 197 the 3rd and 4th editions (2001) were published by the American Institute of Parliamentarians. Sturgis was written with the express purpose of being completely usable and modern with an emphasis on being concise, simple and clear.

American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (AIPSC, 1st edition 2012, 2nd edition, 2023) is legally a distinct book from Sturgis with different content, ISBNs, etc., but based on the same purpose of simplification, modernization, and ease of comprehension.

Article XI currently states:

The rules contained in the latest edition of Sturgis, *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any

special rules of order the Association may adopt.

As the Sturgis book will presumably not be updated, it is recommended that we change to:

The rules contained in the latest edition of the *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

Respectfully,

David Alexander