

The Parliamentarian's Role

August 2024

Bert Lema

In reviewing the Local Auxiliary revalidation forms submitted to the Department following this year's elections, I noticed several of you have not appointed a Parliamentarian. So what, you're wondering? Your Auxiliary submits your bylaws updates when required. Anything else you can manage on your own and besides, no one really wants to do it anyway. Right?

Wrong! The Parliamentarian's role is a function for several reasons, a few of which are detailed below:

- The Parliamentarian is the expert who knows the proper procedures and rules to use during a meeting. Rules and procedures are outlined and passed along to us via the National Bylaws, the Department Bylaws, and your own Local Bylaws.
- As Parliamentarian, you are often called upon during meetings to interpret the bylaws and rules of order so you must become intimately familiar with them all.
- You are the advisor to the President, officers, and committees to ensure compliance with the bylaws.
- Members rely on the Parliamentarian to ensure their rights within our organization are protected.
- You are the arbiter of efficient, effective, and fair decision-making for your Local Auxiliary.

So, is being a Parliamentarian an easy job? No. But it is an essential one, critical to the overall functioning of your Local Auxiliary. Can you learn how to be a Parliamentarian? Absolutely!

If you are asked by your President to function as her Parliamentarian or are currently in that role, I am here to provide assistance and answer questions. Admittedly I am new to the role of Department Parliamentarian, but I have been the Parliamentarian at my Local Auxiliary for several years so have experience to share. You can email me at lema81@wowway.com or call me at 586-214-1019. Leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.