



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
MID YEAR REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN  
JANUARY 15, 2022  
ANITA BIGGS

Good morning, Madam Department President,

As your Parliamentarian, it has been an enlightening, rewarding and at times a disappointing first six months. The Smoothie Shop on your Boardwalk is open for business and prepared to serve cool drinks, with parliamentary whipped cream. While Smooth is what we would like for our organization, there are choppy issues throughout the state that require more attention and some guidance.

While parliamentary procedure questions would be what all Parliamentarians would love to address, we have been peppered with bad behavior, bullying, improper procedures, lack of protocol, non-transparency, members not following Bylaws, illegally called meetings to remove Unit presidents, yes presidents with an S. These are just a few of the issues we have faced the first six months. I have been asked my opinion by members and leaders in certain matters. Once I give an answer that is based on rules and bylaws, one of the members who asked, replied, "parliamentarians should be seen and not heard". Well, that would be nice. Yet, I am still a firm, optimistic believer that we can get over this bad spirit that is plaguing so many unit members. So, you don't like your President or another member for that matter; have you considered helping her or him? You want someone else to actually come in and remove the president because you don't like what is or is not being done. Instead of conspiring against the president, the unit members should step up to assist with programs or openly address the issue. If for some reason you cannot solve the issue, there are options. One is the annual election, although that may take too much time to solve an issue, there are resources. The District President should be available to assist the Unit President and if that fails, the Department President has authority over Units. The Department President really doesn't have time for these squabbles, so lately the

parliamentarians have become involved. Ultimately, it's the unit that govern their own unit. These days many parliamentarians have evolved to a referee, psychiatrist, or psychologist. I believe, our organization will need to invest in more training for our leaders and members; when training occurs; listening and reading is extremely important. Most of what you need to know is clearly written in the bylaws and standing rules. Mutual respect is mandatory of course. However, if you constantly challenge authority and the rules, you may need to look at yourself. (that's the psychiatrist part).

My question to you all, what do personality conflicts have to do with serving our veterans, their children, their families, our active-duty military, and our communities? The answer is nothing. We need to set aside the personal conflicts, follow the bylaws and the rules to put the mission above your personal desires. In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security. Let us bring our best behavior and best self forward when we are volunteering to help others.

We can do this.

Thank you, Madam President,

This concludes my report