

American Library Association Constitution and Bylaws Committee  
Report to Council  
Midwinter Meeting 2015—Chicago, Illinois

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ALA corporate memory in the Governance Office states that the adoption of the Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure sometime prior to 2001 was adopted at that time because its language was more user-friendly and accurate than the language then used in Robert's Rules of Order. It appears that this was done to make it easier for ALA members to understand procedural rules, especially for those who do not deal with parliamentary procedure issues frequently.

The reasons for this precedent-setting endorsement of intelligibility and usability action fifteen or more years ago remain relevant today.

Article XII of the ALA Bylaws states:

Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, in the latest edition, shall govern the Association in all cases to which it can be applied and in which it is not inconsistent with the Constitution, the Bylaws, or special rules of order of the Association. The American Institute of Parliamentarians

Parliamentary authority? That is one reading of the current

Yet in practice, the superseded 2001 edition

Even though it remains in use within ALA, the 2001 manual is no longer available in printed book format; it is available only as a downloadable ebook. For ALA members in governance positions, including members of Council, who need or want access to the content of ALA's parliamentary authority, this would be acceptable. However others may find access to that content more convenient in printed form.

For those who prefer paperback for reference and guidance to parliamentary procedure the list price for the printed 2012 The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure manual is \$19.00 available from Amazon for \$14.50 (<http://aipparl.org/site/bookstore2/>).

## PROCEDURAL INFORMATION ON AMENDING THE ALA BYLAWS