

Jurassic Parliament enables leaders of public and nonprofit boards to run great meetings and great organizations. We provide down-to-earth, insightful and enjoyable training in leadership, procedures and meeting management. All our presentations are succinct and lively. Some workshops include the use of dinosaur props and interactive exercises.

Meeting Management

Jurassic Parliament: Running Great Meetings Using Parliamentary Procedure

Many people are intimidated by procedure and would like to understand it better. This workshop uses toy dinosaurs to teach the essentials of parliamentary procedure. Participants practice making motions, amending motions, and voting. We cover the role of the presider and three “golden rules” to make discussion productive and pleasant. One participant wrote, “This is the only time *Robert’s Rules of Order* has been fun, believe me!”

Essence of Jurassic Parliament – 1 hour

Fundamentals of Jurassic Parliament – 3 hours

Complete Jurassic Parliament – 6 hours

Bad Bylaws and Ways to Fix Them

No one likes to read bylaws, but you need to know if your bylaws are the source of some of the challenges your nonprofit is facing, or if they hold the key to resolving problems. This workshop offers practical guidance for board members who want to ensure that their nonprofit follows best practices. Participants receive a short set of bylaws for an imaginary organization and analyze them to find the hidden booby traps.

Better than Consensus: Making Casual Meetings Efficient and Fair

Consensus seems like a nice idea, but often it’s not very efficient. Groups that dislike formality can have fair, efficient and enjoyable meetings by following the simple guidelines offered in this presentation.

Budgets for Boards

Board members who are not financial experts often feel intimidated by the reports they receive. This workshop takes board members through an interactive exercise to see whether the stated priorities of an imaginary organization actually match what the numbers tell us. Designed for those who don’t like mathematics but want to do their duty from a fiduciary viewpoint.

City and County Councils or Special Districts—How Formal Should We Be?

It is vital for public bodies that do their work in the public eye to know when to use formal procedure and when to loosen up. This presentation clarifies which rules are essential to successful functioning, and which ones don’t matter so much. We cover the role of the mayor or the chair and provide a checklist for effective presiding.

Do We Have to Use *Robert’s Rules*?

A nonprofit organization is a legal entity and must follow certain procedural requirements. This presentation describes how a board that finds the complexity of *Robert’s Rules of Order* intimidating can establish useful and efficient procedures to guard against liability.

Keeping Things on Track When Folks Are Rude, Crude or Confused

Knowing how to deal with difficult people is one of the key skills of a good presider. This interactive workshop demonstrates how to handle obnoxious people (or dinosaurs) at your meetings, and defines the authority of the presider in challenging situations.

Voting and Quorum

Proxy, plurality, mail or absentee ballot, voting by email... if you are serving on a nonprofit board, you need to know the specifics that make voting methods legal or not for your organization. This session defines the jargon, reviews state law, and offers insight into common voting problems encountered by voluntary organizations.

We’ve Made a Mistake—Now What?

This interactive workshop presents effective methods to change a decision once made, to take it back, or to start the discussion all over again. We’ll compare when to table and when to postpone a motion, how to vote a motion down, and how to kill it quietly, without a fuss.

Leadership

Inspired Leadership

Elected leaders of civic bodies and nonprofits want the best for their organizations, yet sometimes are tripped up by the process of achieving their goals. This presentation offers specific and practical insights into how to get the most out of your meeting time and allow the creative energy in your city or organization to flourish.

Boards, Commissions and Committees

Communities sometimes struggle with the proper role and function of their appointed boards, commissions and committees. This presentation covers the role of the advisory groups to a city or other civic body and how they can function effectively. Real-life questions and examples are encouraged.

The City Clerk—Lurker or Leader?

City clerks can be placed in a difficult position when they are better informed about what is correct in a given situation than the individuals they work for. This interactive presentation addresses ways to deal with the difference in social status between clerk and elected officer, and provides suggestions as to how to raise challenging questions when necessary. Real-life questions and examples are encouraged.

Fear, Shame and Guilt in Voluntary Organizations

Recent research shows that emotions and reason are interdependent. Leaders need to be able to recognize and react to negative emotions in themselves and others if they are to achieve their goals. This session offers insight and guidance on how to do this in an appropriate and professional way.

First Time on a Nonprofit Board? What You Need to Know

It has been said that there are two jobs in life for which we receive no training: parenting and serving on a nonprofit board. Review a director's legal responsibilities and learn your rights and obligations as a member of a charitable, educational or professional board. Enjoy the confidence of understanding your role and being prepared to take an active part in discussion.

I've Just Been Elected President—Help!

Serving as president of a voluntary organization offers special rewards—and special challenges. This session provides clear and pragmatic guidance on what your job actually is, how to be clear about your responsibilities, and how to chart a path for success.

I've Just Been Elected Secretary—Help!

The secretary holds a vital office in the organization, yet many secretaries never receive clear guidance on what the job involves. Learn about different types of minutes, what your role is during the meetings, and how to handle the minutes approval process in the electronic age.

I've Just Been Elected Treasurer—Help!

As nonprofits are subject to ever greater scrutiny from authorities and the public, it is essential to understand your duties as treasurer. This session provides an introduction to your responsibilities and suggestions about how to fulfill them successfully.

Nemawashi: Recruiting Great Candidates for Association Leadership

As the Internet draws volunteers away from associations and presents seductive alternatives to meeting in person, how can we recruit the best people to lead? The secret is *nemawashi* or “cultivating the roots” (Japanese). Learn a new way of thinking about nominations that can help develop leadership in your professional association or society for years to come.

Who's in Charge Here Anyway?

Leaders and their board members sometimes clash over who has authority to do what. This interactive presentation discusses what to do when the president is too authoritarian or too wishy-washy. Does the president or the mayor decide what's on the agenda? What can you do if the president talks all the time? What about a president who isn't fair to the members? Real-life questions and examples are encouraged.



Lessons for Leaders

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Visit our website to review the schedule of current sessions and other resources, or contact us to arrange onsite training. We also offer consulting and parliamentary services to civic and nonprofit organizations.

Get in touch today and take advantage of the only fun, easy way to run great meetings using dinosaurs.