PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT for the LA CROSSE DIOCESAN COUNCIL of CATHOLIC WOMEN

While at the September 25-28, 2014 National Council of Catholic Women annual convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan I had the pleasure of speaking with Pat Reymann. She is a registered parliamentarian, and has assisted at the convention for many years.

She had recommended that when a convention is held yearly or biennially the president should appoint a committee of three to review and approve the minutes. The reasoning behind this is that the minutes should be approved in a timely fashion, and not waiting a year or two for them to be approved. This is also recommended by Robert’s Rules of Order. When the next convention is held, the president announces that a committee of three had approved the minutes. The minutes are not read, they were already approved.

Protocol can be defined as the code that sets forth the order of precedence, correct procedure, and the rules of official and social behavior. Protocol is an important factor in all organizations – it covers forms, manners, and ceremonies used in the official life of an organization. It promotes orderly procedure reflecting the rules of etiquette. If handed properly, the casual observer will give little thought to protocol; however, if there is an oversight or error, even though unintentional, nothing will be more obvious.

Remember that protocol is basic courtesy. While special rules have been established for proper conduct in handling certain situations, where there is no specific rule, you will always do well to use common courtesy. This is from our National Council of Catholic Women new booklet Protocol Points.

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:5

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