

## Ninth District



*everychild.one voice.*

Hello! My name is Bruce Bergman, and I'm your new Ninth District Parliamentarian, following in the eminently venerable steps of Sue King. I am excited to have joined the Ninth District for the next two years, and I look forward to being able to help all councils and units with bylaws, standing rules, parliamentary questions, issues and procedures. Although I am still getting my feet wet in this new role, my goal is to get back to everyone as quickly as possible. Please let me know if any of your needs are urgent and I'll handle them right away.

By way of introduction, I have been involved in parliamentary procedure for over 30 years, starting in high school with a "Parli Pro" debate team, and continuing with a variety of organizations, boards and companies over the years. I am a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP), and a past Southern Area Director for the California State Association of Parliamentarians (CSAP). I have held many roles within boards, including those of committee chair, vice president, secretary, parliamentarian and director-at-large, and I have taught, trained and advised in the area of parliamentary subjects for quite a while. I currently serve as the Bylaws Committee Chair for CSAP. In the past, I was the Parliamentarian for Meadowbrook Middle School PTSA, and currently hold the Parliamentarian role for Shoal Creek Elementary PTA and Mt. Carmel High School PTSA. My wife, Joy, and I have two beautiful daughters, aged 8 (Bella) and 15 (Cassie), and when not reading a copy of Robert's Rules of Order (ha!), we are typically visiting Disneyland or going to softball and lacrosse games.

In order to better serve your needs, I've established a "Help Desk" for any issues or questions you might have. This will help both of us because it will track your communication with me (so I don't forget anything), and allow you to see the status of your request at any time, as well as provide a basis for a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) board that I hope to build next year. If you have ANY needs -- whether they be simple questions of procedure or process, complex opinions, interpretation of your bylaws and standing rules, or any other matter -- please contact me by either sending me an email at [helpdesk@ParliamentaryPro.com](mailto:helpdesk@ParliamentaryPro.com), or by visiting the HelpDesk web page I've set up here: <http://helpdesk.ParliamentaryPro.com>. You may, of course, always reach me at the traditional parliamentarian@ninthdistrictpta.org email address if you wish, too. My direct mobile number is 858-829-2456, although I may need to call you back during working hours (if I'm in meetings or such), but I will endeavor to return all calls and emails promptly.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with any council or unit that would like to have me, or to provide a short introduction to proper meeting procedures, for example. I know that running a unit can be daunting, especially when faced with learning how to do it "following the rules," but trust me, it's very easy. I can explain how to make and handle motions, how to interpret your bylaws, or even just offer advice on how to apply your bylaws and/or standing rules to any sticky situations might have. I'm here to service the entire district, so please look me up if you have anything you'd like to discuss.

In the meantime, I would like to remind everyone that your Nominating Committee should be getting underway (for most units) about now. Remember that Officer Elections are typically held at the spring Association meeting, so that means your Nominating Committee should be prepared to present their report to the Association in January or February. Your individual unit may vary, so check your bylaws to see which dates are important. No matter what, the sooner you can get this going, the smoother the entire process will go, and that makes everyone happy. :) Also, if you are in the process of reviewing your bylaws, and intend to make amendments or changes, please send them through the pipeline soon; most of the time it will be at least 1-2 months for full turnaround.

I'm excited to be working with all the great leaders I've met and heard about at the council and unit levels. This should be fun!

*Bruce*