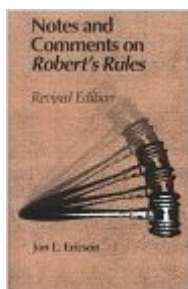


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Notes And Comments On Robert's Rules, Revised Edition



Synopsis

Although Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised serves with distinction as the parliamentary authority, it too often seems intimidating and confusing to those who must use it. In this book, Jon L. Ericson seeks to clarify, not simplify, Robert's Rules. He stresses that members of an organization must discover that they are not controlled by, but have a choice of—and may, in fact, even modify—the rules by which they are bound. Ericson begins with the Order of Precedence, which he defines as the key concept in understanding and utilizing parliamentary procedure. He then uses a question-and-answer format in which a logical progression of essential parliamentary questions is explicitly answered, with a rationale for each rule. Throughout, he provides specific page references to Robert. Through these three elements, he makes classic doctrine intelligible and workable, leading the reader step-by-step through the rules and their applications and, in the process, reducing or removing the negative attitude held by many toward parliamentary procedure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The principles discussed are not new, but their mode of presentation is fresh: a logical progression of essential parliamentary questions clearly answered, with a rationale for each rule. The doctrine of the book is sound, even where it occasionally departs from tradition. . . . The book is a model of usable scholarship. It is unique to its field."—James H. McBath, University of Southern California

Jon L. Ericson conducts workshops and serves as convention parliamentarian throughout the

country. He is presently the Ellis and Nelle Levitt Professor of Speech Communication at Drake University, where he has served as provost and has received numerous awards for both teaching excellence and for significant contributions to the university community.

I bought this book many years ago because I was serving on the Board of Directors of a nonprofit. It was a small organization that continued using Roberts Rules despite the fact that they are astoundingly complicated and not very useful for small organizations. Just in case you've never had to deal with Roberts Rules of Order, it has all the charm of reading stereo instructions. Thankfully, this book helped dumb it down for me.

Although this book is nearly ten years old at this point, it is still the book that makes the standard guide to parliamentary procedure most accessible. The question and answer format mirrors the way that most people come at the rules to begin with. It doesn't replace the rules; it provides a clear map to them, and a clear explanation as to why they are what they are to begin with. Ericson also helps us to see that the rules are not static, but alive and adaptable to the particular situation. He enables us to USE the rules rather than be used BY them. I recommend this book (along with the standard Rules of Order Newly Revised) for anyone who works within an organization large enough to need rules of order. In his introduction, Ericson says, "Herein lies the premise of Notes and Comments: parliamentary procedure should assist rather than intimidate the members it serves." His book allows parliamentary procedure to do just that.

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