



"The Intern" and my love story



My oldest son took me to see "The Intern" this week and I loved every bit of it. Afterwards, I realized that **the arc of the story line followed my own love story**. In my twenties, I was a "bright young thing" enjoying a great career with the State Department. Everything looked great on the outside. Inside, though, I was all over the map. I'll spare you, dear reader, the boring details, but **emotionally I was as "out of it"** as the Anne Hathaway character.

The Foreign Service had assigned me to Moscow when I had the great good fortune to fall in love with **Lew Macfarlane, my late husband**. Lew was ten years older than I and embodied **the best qualities that we saw in the Robert DeNiro character** (as well as a few more, of course!). His steady attention to what really needed to be done, his quiet caring for other people, his creative solutions and his ability to act decisively were all mirrored in the movie.

A good leader, in my view, embodies those qualities. A good leader **supports followers to persevere** in the face of difficulties. A good leader **identifies**

the real problems and speaks the truth about them in a way that encourages others to tackle them. A good leader **“doesn’t sweat the small stuff,”** and knows that much of life consists of small stuff. And a good leader always sees the human side of others, and enables followers **to become better human beings** despite their quirks, failings and errors.

Lew used to tell me, **“Jurassic Parliament is not about dinosaurs.”** As we move forward developing new curriculum and materials to share with you, I realize that **it’s about more than Robert’s Rules.** I learned so much from Lew, and I miss him so much. But I am filled with gratitude at having been married to him for 33 happy years. And I am so grateful, through my partnership with Andrew Estep in Jurassic Parliament, to be able to share what I learned about leadership and life in that marriage with you.

Ann G. Macfarlane

Professional Registered Parliamentarian

Quick tip: The chair must control the meeting



Every chair must know how to control the meeting. **Be prepared to interrupt people** who are rude or who speak out of turn. You are the guardian of the members and must speak up when their rights are violated. Simply put, **if you lose control, the meeting is a failure.**

Get the real scoop on motions, voting and quorum, and chairing the meeting - and enjoy doing it!

We promise you that you will enjoy our webinars on Robert's Rules - unlikely as that may sound. And the proof of the pudding is in the feedback: **"It was like a conversation over coffee with an expert in their field. Very enjoyable,"** was the comment of Gary Kipp, Executive Director of the Association of Washington School Principals.

[Read more comments here](#), and sign up today for an hour with Ann. You'll be glad you did!

[Mastering Motions in Robert's Rules](#) 1 hour

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:00 am Pacific time

[Avoiding Voting and Quorum Mistakes](#) 1 hour

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 9:00 am Pacific time

[Iron Hand, Velvet Glove: Chairing the Meeting](#) 1 hour

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 9:00 am Pacific time

[More topics in November and December.](#)

These webinars are affordable at \$29 each. We also offer a special rate for clerks, secretaries and executive assistants at \$19.

News about us

Ann is singing with the Magnolia Chorale again, loving the splendid music. She has the honor to serve as president of the board this year, thereby giving her parliamentary inclinations full scope (don't question her fellow board directors too closely about that...). Andrew and his partner are enjoying the lovely new home they recently purchased. They are looking forward to hosting bigger and better parties.

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