



*The following is an opinion of Marianne Haydon, Professional Registered Parliamentarian*

**PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS AND THE INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE**

**Issue:** When a Color Guard is used at an event, conference, convention or meeting when is the renewal of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States recited?

When does the Americanism Chairman give her patriotic inspirational message?

**Sources consulted:**

*Roberts Rules of order Newly Revised 10th Ed.* page 349 line 19. Opening Ceremonies immediately after the meeting is called to order may include the Invocation (which if offered, should always be placed first), the singing of the National Anthem, the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a ritual briefly recalling the objects or ideals of the organization, or the like.

Websites of additional information:

<http://nys4h-staff.cce.cornell.edu/documents/9-ToolL8.doc>

<http://www.fortunecity.com/millennium/puppet/989/cere/cereflag.html>

<http://www.flagsbay.com/flag/2008/07/17/presenting-the-colors-ho/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bG-upqfUXos>

**Opinion:** The members of the audience are to stand and show respect for the flag as soon as it comes into view. This may take several minutes from the time the color guard has entered and proceeded to the front of the room to present the colors. After the Renewal of the Pledge and/or a Patriotic song, the Color Guard posts the colors on each side of the riser unless flags are already in place and they exit the room. As soon as the flags and/or the Color Guard have exited, the audience is then seated and the Americanism Chairman gives her inspirational patriotic message.

If no Color Guard is used, the Americanism/Patriotic Chairman gives a Patriotic message after the Renewal of the Pledge and/or singing of the National Anthem. It is considered a report of a committee chair so the audience is seated

**Conclusion:** The reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America is given immediately after the presentation of the colors by the Color Guard.

As soon as the flags and/or the Color Guard have exited, the audience is then seated and the Americanism Chairman gives her inspirational patriotic message.

If no Color Guard is used, after the Renewal of the Pledge and/or singing of the National Anthem, the audience is seated and the Americanism/Patriotic Chairman gives a Patriotic message

<p><b>This opinion is based on general principles of parliamentary law and <i>Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised</i>. Nothing in this opinion should be construed as interpretation of statutory law.</b></p>
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