
ROVAC ANNUAL MEETING 2020 MINUTES

The meeting was held on October 9, 2020 at the Pavilion at Henry Park, 120 South St, Vernon, CT 06066.

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 AM by Sue Larsen.

In attendance: Sue Larsen (S. Windsor), Chris Prue (Vernon), Anne-Marie Mastroianni (Bethlehem), Sue Burnham (S. Windsor) Lauren Olson (Ashford)

Credentials Report: Chris Prue (Vernon) announced that five members of ROVAC were present and eligible to vote.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting: Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting was made by Ann-Marie Mastroianni and seconded by Chris Prue. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: No report

Budget Report: Reported by Chris Prue.

- Dues will need to be increased by \$10.00 per Registrar, which includes their deputies, to cover a deficit in the budget caused by the cancellation of the conference. We should not be running our Association on the back of the conference.
- This is a year when new registrar classes need to be held. This is a biennial expense. \$300.00 will be added to the budget instead of the usual \$1,000 since the classes will not include the meals.
- Trailer fee was changed to meet the actual- \$365
- Facility deposit- Won't be spending a deposit
- Lobbyist- contractual increase with the new PR portion to \$21,000 instead of \$18,000
- Misc. line- was reduced to \$300 to meet the actual spent in the last several budgets.
- Storage increased by \$25 a month.
- Equipment is decreased to \$550 due to COVID.
- Total budget: \$132,700 both income and expenditures to be an equal budget.

A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Sue Burnham and seconded by Lauren Olson. Passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: A motion to accept the committee reports as presented, made by Ann-Marie Mastroianni and seconded by Sue Burnham, passed unanimously.

No business left undone from the previous meeting, there was no new business to be brought forward.

Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:24AM by Sue Burnham and seconded by Ann-Marie Mastroianni.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren L. Olson, ROVAC Secretary

2019/2020 has been quite a year. It began with all the committees looking forward to the time where they could work on ideas, they did not have the time to do. Then came Covid 19.

At the Fall Conference last September, we had election board games from Wallingford which were a hit. The education committee took suggestions from all of you and developed a successful educational conference.

Sullivan & LeShane did a PR training session for the ROVAC executive board. With the primary coming this spring and the Presidential election next November, now was the time to develop the messaging we will need over the next several months.

Chris Prue and myself worked with the Dept of Corrections to test how registering prisoners could work. We both went to York Prison to register possible voters along with law students and advocacy groups. We registered over 134. I did a talk on voter eligibility to those in prison on felony charges so they understood what to do when they have completed their sentences. I was part of a lockdown which was quite an experience. I went back a few weeks later to do the absentee ballot application process. After this attempt was made, several issues became apparent. As Registrars we could not handle registering people in the prisons because of the lack of personnel necessary to accomplish this. I have continued to work with the Commission to develop a working plan to insure there is a means of registering eligible men and women in prison. The hope is that we would have a proposal before the GAE next session.

Annalisa Stravato is working on a welcome package for new Registrars. The goal is to provide them with the beginner tools to run a successful office.

The Presidential Preference Primary started with all of us thinking in terms of a Democratic Primary and then there were two. We started preparing our municipalities for the cost of a double primary which none of us included in our budgets. As Covid 19 took over the Northeast, the Secretary of the State recommended to the Governor to move the Primary to June 2nd. ROVAC worked with SOTS on implementation teams to develop strategies and procedures for the primary. No excuse Absentee Ballots due to Covid 19 was implemented as a safe means of voting. This put the Town Clerks under the gun and made planning for poll worker levels almost Impossible. Safe Poll Plans were sent to all the Registrars to implement. PPE packages were to be sent to the ROVs based on the number of polling locations. Money from a Federal Grant was being allocated to all the municipalities. As the virus got worse, the Governor moved the Primary date to August 11th as that date would match up with the already slated State primary.

The spring conference set for May in Windsor was cancelled. The Hartford/Windsor Mariette agreed to allow the deposit to be used for a spring conference next year. An annual meeting was attempted on June 29th but the 50-member minimum was not achieved so the annual meeting will be held at a later date.

Since the Legislature was closed due to the corona virus, no legislation was passed. All activity centered on the Governor's executive orders. We will continue to rely on the surveys to develop our agenda so expect another survey this fall.

I attended most county and committee meetings. I tried to zoom into as many meetings as possible but technology wasn't always agreeing with me.

I want to thank all of you for the extra hard work we have had to put in to make this year work.

Thank you all.

Sue W. Larsen