

Meeting Date: December 20, 2022

Members: Chris Prue (Vernon), Lauren Olson (Ashford), Tim DeCarlo (Waterbury), Annalisa Stravato (Wilton), Fred DeCaro (Greenwich), Sue Burnham (S. Windsor), Darlene Burrell (Suffield), Jeff Rogers (Montville), Pete Gostin (N. Britain), Lou Decilio (Stratford), Tracey O'haus (Chester), Christine Psathas (Willington), M. Russell (Bethlehem)

Meeting was called to order by President Chris Prue at 6:30PM

I. Minutes from last Meeting: A motion by S. Burnham and seconded by T. DeCarlo to accept the minutes of the October 13, 2022 meeting passed with the following abstentions: M. Russell, C. Psathas, A. Stravato.

II. Treasurer's Report:

OCTOBER: Checking Account balance as of 9/30/2022-\$82,879.53
 Cash outflows of \$1,086.48
 Deposits of \$2.250
 Outstanding payments- \$200
 Checking Account balance as of 10/31/2022- \$84.243.05

 Conference Account balance as of 10/1/2022-\$1,172.53
 Conference Account balance as of 10/31/2022- \$1,172.53

 Scholarship Account balance as of 11/1/2022- \$6,464.72
 Deposits- \$0.11
 Scholarship Account balance as of 11/31/2022- \$6,464.83

NOVEMBER: Checking Account balance as of 10/31/2022-\$84.243.05
 Cash outflows of \$731.57
 Deposits of \$4,720.18
 Checking Account balance as of 11/30/2022- \$88,035.03

 Conference Account balance as of 10/1/2022-\$1,172.53
 Conference Account balance as of 10/30/2022- \$1,172.53

 Scholarship Account balance as of 11/1/2022- \$6,464.83
 Deposits- \$0.10
 Scholarship Account balance as of 11/30/2022- \$6,464.93

III. County Reports:

- **Fairfield:** Met last week. F. DeCaro will bring up a discussion under New Business, from his county meeting.
- **Hartford:** No meeting. The next meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of January
- **Litchfield:** Committee appointments were made. Ann Marie
- **Middlesex:** Met in October
- **New Haven:** Want to invite the Secretary Elect to a meeting as soon as available.
- **New London:** Talked about the Election, how we are all doing. A pot luck will be held in January.
- **Tolland:** Met 11/16. Had a potluck dinner.
- **Windham:** Next meeting at the end of the January or start of February.

IV. Committee Reports:

- **Conference** – L. Olson presented the spring conference to be held at the Southbury Wyndham to be held on April 2-4, 2023. People were concerned that the conference will be held over Good Friday. M. Russell made a motion to hold the conference on April 1-3, 2023. After disagreement, M. Russell withdrew her motion. A request was made to try the third week in September if the hotel could accommodate. The board left it to see if the hotel could accept our changes or if there were another hotel that could accommodate ROVAC.
- **Education** – The Committee will start meeting in the new year. F. DeCarlo will work with M. Russell. L. Olson will also connect M. Russell with Dr. Alexander Russell, the head of the UConn Vote Center.
- **Technology** – No Report
- **Handbook** – No Report. They are working to complete all the changes.
- **Legislative - Legislative committee is focusing on issues that impact us.**
 - C. Prue, T. DeCarlo and R. Bingham met via Zoom with Secretary Elect Stephanie Thomas. Discussed was Early voting, EMS, Tabulator readers, Customer service of staff and other grievances. Assured the new SOTS that we want to partner and work with her.
 - Representative Fox is no longer the house chair of GAE. He was willing to work with us and will be missed. Senator Flexer is still the chair in the Senate and the House Chair is Rep. Blumenthal.

Recess at 7:27PM for dinner. Restarted meeting at 8:17

- **Ways & Means** – No Report
- **By-Laws** – No Report

V. Old Business: None

VI. New Business:

- L. DeCilio presented the Audit Committee Report. It has been filed with the board. C. Prue may present changes at a future meeting. They will meet again in February.
- T. DeCarlo presented the new two-year contract with our Lobbying team of Sullivan & LeShane. We started with them in 2014. The increase will be \$1,000 a year for those two years. A motion to accept the contract was made by M. Russell and seconded by L. Olson. Passed unanimously.
- Election of Officers. P. Gostin is the chair of the Nominating Committee. Asked if the current officers were willing to continuing to serve. They all agreed.
- P. Gostin presented the idea of moving the ROVAC funds into a different bank. Since the sale of People's United to M&T, there have been too many problems with banking, as well as two local branches in/near N. Britain will be closing. Will present other options of banks to consider.
- F. DeCaro presented a letter that was unanimously supported by Fairfield County regarding the issues of the technology failure at the last election. C. Prue informed the Board that he sent a certified letter about the problems of EMS prior to the Election. He asked the head of the Town Clerk Association to join in the letter but she refused. Discussion ensued.
 - A motion by J. Rogers and seconded by F. DeCaro to send a letter to the public, naming people who should have prepared for the problems to be delivered prior to 12/31/2022.
 - M. Russell stated that the board needs to work on fact and not on emotion. We need to focus on the issues previously mentioned and let SOTS know what we want and expect. We need to be professional.
 - L. DeCilio voiced concern that SOTS is trying to cover up the problems.
 - A. Stravato wants to notify the press to protect ourselves against being accused of politics, we did our due diligence.

- C. Prue said he would do as the board requests. There are only 15 days left of the SOTS term. Doesn't want to start on the wrong foot with the new SOTS.
- Proposal- C. Prue to work with Fred to compose a formal letter addressed to Sec. Thomas. Cc to T. Bromley and M. Kohler to describe what happened, that it was brought to the previous Secretary and staff and nothing was done. "Your job to fix it."
- J. Rogers amended his motion, seconded again by F. DeCaro, to send a letter based on the original letter written by F. DeCaro and file an FCC complaint to ask for a remedy. Passed unanimously.

VII. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by T. DeCarlo and seconded by P. Gostin 9:15PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren L. Olson
Registrar of Voters
Town of Ashford
ROVAC Secretary