

ROVAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Newington Town Hall

February 9, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Chris Prue at 10:03 AM.

Members: Chris Prue (Vernon), Lauren Olson (Ashford), Pete Gostin (N. Britain), Sue Larsen (So. Windsor) Fred DeCaro (Greenwich), Sue Burnham (So. Windsor), Jeff Rogers (Montville), Darlene Burrell (Suffield), Annalisa Stravato (Wilton), Tracey O'Haus (Chester) , Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury), T. DeCarlo (Waterbury)

I. Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of 1/12/2023 was made by J. Rogers. and seconded by S. Burnham passed.

II. Treasurer's Report:

December 2022

Primary Checking Account:

- Starting Balance as of 11/30/2022- \$88,035.53
 - Total credits- \$3,330.00
 - Total debits- \$1,877.17
- Ending Balance as of 12/31/2022- \$89,487.86

Conference Checking Account:

- Starting Balance-\$1,172.53
 - Total credits- 0
 - Total debits- 0
- Ending Balance- \$1,172.53

Scholarship Savings Account:

- Starting Balance-\$6,464.93
 - Total credits- \$0.11
 - Total debits- 0
- Ending Balance- \$6,565.04

January 2023

Primary Checking Account:

- Starting Balance as of 12/31/2022- \$89,487.86
 - Total credits- \$3,330.00
 - Total debits- \$1,877.17
- Ending Balance as of 12/31/2022- \$70,801.77

Conference Checking Account:

- Starting Balance-\$1,172.53
 - Total credits- 0
 - Total debits- 0
- Ending Balance- \$1,172.53

Scholarship Savings Account:

- Starting Balance-\$6,565.04
 - Total credits- \$0.11
 - Total debits- 0
- Ending Balance- \$7,065.15

III. County Reports:

- A. *Fairfield County- No meeting but possible meeting on 2/23 depending on actions by the Legislators.*
- B. *Hartford County-The secretary of the State will be a guest speaker at the March meeting.*
- C. *Litchfield County- No Report Anne-Marie Mastroianni, long-time Registrar and County Chair has passed away. A meeting will be held soon.*
- D. *Middlesex County- Met on 2/8/2023. There are many new registrars. Discussed: Canvass, Eric, Retention schedule and Budget. Suggested that new Registrars attend the conference and take the new Registrar Class.*
- E. *New Haven County- No Report. Meeting scheduled for 2/20/2023 in N. Haven. Sec. Thomas will attend the meeting.*
- F. *New London County- meeting on 2/16/2023. Hoping for an update on the SEEC complaint, Answered questions regarding the New ROV class, and the conference. The previous meeting was a potluck. 26 people attended.*
- G. *Tolland County- The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2023, 10am in Vernon.*
- H. *Windham County- Next meeting is tonight 6:30 for the potluck, meeting at 7pm in Ashford.*

IV. Committee Reports:

- *Conference Committee-*
 - *The conference committee is ready for this upcoming conference.*
 - *There is a need for new speakers for the conference. Last conference there was difficulty hearing the speakers at the previous conference. J. Rogers and P. Gostin made and seconded a motion to spend up to \$2,000 to purchase 2 new speakers. Motion passed.*
 - *J. Rogers asked about the cost of the trailer that we use for moving all the conference equipment. C. Prue and J. Rogers will discuss the idea of ROVAC using Jeff's trailer.*
- *Education Committee- No meeting but will be meeting soon. F. DeCaro has an idea for a guest speaker. T. DeCarlo will run the New Registrar class. L. Olson will help with questions about small towns and referendum. There will also be a Moderator's Recertification class led by C. Prue>*
- *Handbook Committee- All new assignments have been sent out. The committee is waiting for any new legislation.*
- *Legislative Committee-*
 - *GAE met last week. 40 bills were raised.*
 - *Sec. Thomas called T. DeCarlo to discuss ROVAC stand on Early Voting. She is drafting a bill with the Committee Chairs.*
 - *T. DeCarlo anticipates that there will be a bill in the next week. There are no hearings set yet.*
 - *T. DeCarlo is optimistic working with Secretary Thomas.*
- *Technology Committee- Met two weeks ago.*
 - *Action on tabulators. Uconn has one of Glastonbury's tabulators and is taking it apart. Uconn is pushing for new tabulators as soon as possible. Feels they are necessary if there is to be early voting.*
 - *Lou Fiero and Doug Leary have created a directory on how to clean up the database of all towns prior to a new CVRS program that is expected in the coming years.*
 - *The committee is looking into pollbooks. The committee feels like it is important that we can use e-books to better track voter movements.*
- *Ways and Means- A reminder was sent to all county chairs that baskets are needed for this conference to raise money for the Judi Beaudreau Scholarship.*
- *V. Old Business:*
 - *Audit- Action taken on the Audit Report Suggestions*
 - *A motion was made L. Olson (Ashford) and seconded by P. Gostin (N. Britain) to consolidate the conference and primary credit cards. Motion passed unanimously.*

- A motion was made L. Olson (Ashford) and seconded by S. Burnham (S. Windsor) provide credit cards from the primary account to the President, Conference Chair and Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.
- Tax Preparer- The audit committee suggested that a professional tax preparer should prepare the 990-tax paperwork. A motion was made L. Olson (Ashford) and seconded by S. Burnham (S. Windsor). Motion passed unanimously. This has already been passed by the ROVAC board in previous year.
- P. Gostin is looking into a new bank for our accounts.
- SEEC Referral: C. Prue submitted the SEEC complaint on the Thursday after the meeting. Hadn't heard anything for some weeks. It was also sent to Sots. The lawyer at SEEC didn't see anything against Title 9 so they would take no action. EMS is not in Title 9.
 - C. Prue felt that ROVAC had put the SOTS on notice that we know what they did was wrong.
 - F. DeCarlo thought the SEEC decision was incorrect. SEEC should look into section 9-314. F. DeCaro and J. Rogers wants ROVAC to go back to SEEC and resubmit.
 - D. Burrell (Suffield) felt that Registrars were also at fault because they didn't check the data before filing. A meeting with the Town Clerk is necessary to find errors in tabulation. Many towns don't do this.
 - F. DeCaro stated that he wants the complaint resubmitted. He doesn't want to use EMS until it is repaired.
 - ROVAC wants counties to look into their results and make certain they are correct prior to the legislature accepting the results.

VI. New Business:

- All but two positions to the ROVAC board have candidates. F. DeCaro will setup a zoom and P. Gostin will hold another meeting.
- There is an issue with requests for refunds from the conference. L. Olson wants something in the rules regarding a deadline to make it easier for the Treasurer.
 - F. DeCaro suggested 60 days from the Conference. Other members thought a shorter time to request a refund is better for the Treasurer. A motion was made by J. Rogers and seconded by L. Becker. Passed One abstention.
 - The early bird pricing will be erased from the ROVAC website. A motion was made by L. Becker and seconded by L. Olson to remove early-bird pricing. Passed unanimously.
- There is a desire for an online ROVAC store. F. DeCaro is looking into an online store that has been used before. C. Prue also wants to purchase coins for handout to people in ROVAC who do extraordinary things and deserve recognition.

VII. Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn at 11:57 by Lauren Olson (Ashford) and seconded by Jeff Rogers (Montville). Next meeting will be held on March 9, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren L. Olson

Registrar of Voters, Town of Ashford, ROVAC Secretary