

ROVAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Zoom Meeting
February 15, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President Chris Prue (Vernon) at 10:04 AM.

Members: Chris Prue (Vernon), Annalisa Stravato (Wilton), Karen Birck (Wilton), Sue Larsen (So. Windsor), Brian Smith, (Norwalk), Peter Gostin(New Britain), Jeff Rogers (Montville), Darlene Burrell (Suffield), Tracey Ohaus (Chester), Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) Christine Psathas,(Willington),Lisa Amatruda,(Woodbury), Lauren Olson (Ashford) Tim DeCarlo,(Waterbury), Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury), Sue Burnham(So. Windsor)

Highlighted in yellow are those in attendance.

Chris Prue, Vernon, welcomed Pernell Hamilton as the new New Haven County Chair.

- I. Minutes: **A motion to accept the minutes of 10/12/2023 was made by Jeff Rogers (Montville). Seconded by Lisa Amatruda, Woodbury. The motion passed with 3 absentions.**

- II. Treasurer's Report:

Peter Gostin, New Britain, reported for Brian Smith that the CD's are working well and that the 6 month CD is coming up for renewal. The treasurer's report will be on file.

III. County Reports:

- A. Fairfield County: Fred Decaro, Greenwich reported their next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 22nd.
- B. Hartford County: Darlene Burrell, Suffield, reported that the next meeting would be March 12th and our speakers would be from SEEC.
- C. Litchfield County: Lisa Amatruda, Woodbury, reported their next meeting will be Feb. 26th. She also said that BOE at large elections will be exempt from early voting.
- D. Middlesex County: No report.
- E. New Haven County- Pernell Hamilton reported that there was a vote for a new chair. Laura Santino, Hamden, would be on the legislative committee. Their next meeting will be in March.
- F. New London County: Jeff Rogers, Montville, reported they met in Jan. to discuss early voting ideas. The new handbook just came out. Their next meeting will be Feb. 29th.
- G. Tolland County – Christine Psathas, Willington, reported 8 out of 12 towns attended their Jan. meeting. The next meeting will be March 13th in Vernon.
- H. Windham County- Lauren Olson, Ashford, said they are having a round table discussion so they will all be doing the same thing.

IV. Committee Reports:

- Conference Committee – Lauren Olson (Ashford) reported that sign up for the Spring Conference is up. The rooms are almost full. A second block will be opened up at \$132 /night. They are getting proposals from Wyndham and Windsor Mariotte for the fall Conference. Our meeting in April will be at a local restaurant in Bristol.
- Education Committee – Chris Prue (Vernon) reported that the committee will meet tonight to elect a new chair.
- Handbook Committee- Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reported they have not met since January. They are working on the primary section of the handbook.
- Legislative Committee: Sue Larsen, South Windsor, reported the committee will meet on Feb. 6th.
- Technology Committee – No report.

- *Ways and Means – Sue Burnham (South Windsor) reminded everyone about the spring conference has the county baskets. Middlesex and New Haven Counties need to add members to the committee.*

V. Old Business:

Chris Prue, Vernon, gave everyone the new policy on the Judy Beaudreau Scholarship. There will be an application process and not a lottery as before. Jeff Rogers, Montville, stated that the applicant now has a stake in the game. Peter Gostin, New Britain, stated he hires a lot of students. The Registrars of Voters would be responsible for sending all the applications in. Jeff Rogers, Montville, said the GPA and other new information on the application was necessary. If approved, this would go into effect at the next spring conference. Students can apply the following year if they desire to. The scholarship would be opened up to all students and not just the one working the polls. The committee will have the ability to disqualify for any reason. We will have a full discussion at the next meeting. In the meantime, we can send Chris Prue, Vernon, our views on the policy change.

VI. New Business:

A discussion on early voting began. There are still a lot of questions and we are waiting for the updated handbook. SOTS is working on a new module. CVRS is being worked on so EV will show up on the official voter list. The mail in deadline is March 15th. The in-person deadline is March 25th in order to vote the next day. SOTS is planning an update every week to answer questions. SOTS may use the disk report to update EV which is similar to ABs. This will be difficult for cities and large towns to divide up the voter lists. Chris Prue, Vernon, will find out more detail. Make sure the person filling out the envelope has good penmanship. The recommendation is for the 550 Turbo Label maker.

Peter Gostin (New Britain) asked about what is going on with the new tabulators. SOTS probably knows which company they want but no public decision has been made. The issue is in the hands of the AG office.

Darlene Burrill, Suffield, is concerned about Registrars not being able to act as the Moderators. She also asked if unofficial checkers would be allowed at early voting. NO.

The budget has not been done. This will be discussed at the next meeting. There will be a quick meeting in March for this purpose.

All Chairs need to send their reports in ASAP so Chris Prue can send out the reports the two weeks prior to the conference according to the bylaws.

VII. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sue W. Larsen
ROVAC Secretary*