

Hartford County ROVAC Minutes - Tuesday, March 21st, 2017

Guest speakers: Scott Bates, Deputy SOTS & Carole Mulready, Election Monitor

Chairperson Darlene Burrell called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

Our guest speaker will be the new Deputy Secretary of the State, Scott Bates at 10 am and the county meeting will pause to allow him to speak. Also, Carole Mulready, Hartford Regional Election Monitor will speak to us at the end of the meeting.

Vice Chair Report by Sharon Krawiecki -Welcome to new Registrars: Mark Sheehan, Enfield; Giselle "Gigi" Feliciano - Hartford; Susan Abram - Plainville; Thomas Janik - Southington; , John Ferrari - Windsor Locks; Beverly Jackson & Donna Rusgrove - Burlington.

Secretary's Report by Laura Wolfe - The January 2016 minutes were sent out. No additions or corrections were requested. Minutes were unanimously approved. The September 2016 minutes were just sent to Darlene and need to be edited, before sending out.

Treasurer's Report from Sue Burnham - Sue had a referendum, so she could not attend today. Sharon collected money for the spring conference Hartford County raffle basket - \$6 per town.

Audit Committee by Lisbeth Becker - The audit committee met and reviewed the first six months.

Convention Committee by Ann Clark - The dates are set: Wednesday, April 19 is Education Day, Thursday, April 20 is Education in the morning and our annual ROVAC meeting and Friday April 21 is Secretary of the State Day at the Groton Marriott. If you need a room, call immediately. Don't plan to park in front, plenty of parking on the side. Everything will be on the first floor. Food will be buffet style, but if you have any food restrictions please let them know. ROVAC dues must be prepaid to make a reservation for the conference.

ROVAC County meeting was suspended for our guest speaker, Scott Bates, Deputy Secretary of the State.

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SCOTT BATES, guest speaker:

Thank you for inviting me and giving me a tour of Newington's Town Hall. How many of you have ever been to the Secretary of State's offices in Hartford? Please think of it as your office also, please come and see us. Unfortunately, the Secretary was out of town today, but I give you her greetings.

A couple of thoughts to share, a little bit about me, but mostly about our common mission. I grew up in Stonington, CT. It is a great little town. I remember when I was ten years old my Dad ran for First Selectman as a Republican in a very Democratic town at the time. I think he lost 3 to 1, but I admired him, I was so excited about that. I remember going to the Town Hall to hear the election results announced and both sides were there to shake hands at the end of it. To me, this is the ideal to participation in one's own government and how we can conduct ourselves. For the past many years I have worked on five continents in about a dozen countries on their electoral systems in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo - mostly after wars in crisis situations. I have seen where systems break down for a lack of civility and lack of faith in institutions. There are good people everywhere, but sometimes the institutions let them down. What all of you do, what all of us do together, to inspire integrity and confidence in our electoral systems is of paramount importance to our democracy, our country, and I have to say, to the peace and security of the world as a whole, because countries around this planet still look to us for an example. So if you ever wondered, you don't get a lot of appreciation from the public sometimes, but that is okay. We need to remember that our main mission, that we do every day, fits into something even bigger. The ideal that I got about Democracy, that I have worked on throughout the world, was fostered from growing up in a small New England town just like your town or city. What we do is really important. Look at this last election, and some aspects of it were very troubling, especially aftermath. Questioning the integrity of the ballot, from both sides you hear about rigged elections. I think this is long term damaging to the system. Yet somehow, more people voted in Connecticut during this past election than ever

before. Somehow more people are registered than ever before in Connecticut. Somehow you handled 35,000 people wanting to register and vote on the same day. You did it, you did it with not many resources. You should really be proud of that, it is a tremendous accomplishment. It maintains the credibility of the system and things did not break down. What you do is so important. Our office will do all we can to support you, and your work, and not get in your way. If you feel that is happening at any time, please let me know. I always appreciate constructive feedback. Unconstructive feedback will be accepted, feel free to reach out to us. Consider us your partners that want to work with you on this very, very important mission. Thank you for letting me speak today and again, don't hesitate to reach out at any time.

Q. What is the thought process behind the "no fault" absentee ballot?

A. I can give you an example. I lived in Stonington, but I worked in Washington, I ran a think tank for about four years on National Security. I didn't always know when I would be in town and when I would be away. More than once I voted absentee because I guessed I would be out of town. The thought of missing the election was a horrible thought. But I remember reading the fine print, and if I was in town for any part of Election Day, I was going to be in trouble. I was concerned, living in a small town, that someone might see me at the gas station because my flight got cancelled. I think the idea is to make people feel like that do not need to lie or hide in order to vote. I think that is the motivation behind no fault absentee ballots. The policy that has been proposed will have the legislature looking at it seriously and it is moving through the process. There are real differences and concerns about it that need to be heard, but right now it is still in play but it has not been voted on yet.

Q. Regarding the final exam for Registrar Certification, when will that be scheduled, will it be before the conference?

A. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Conference in a few weeks. Some of our team met with the Certification committee yesterday to discuss it. No particular dates have been set yet, but it should be announced pretty soon. [Peggy Reeves arrived and answered] that yesterday the committee went over the hundreds of questions that were submitted and then boiled them down to a test that is fair to all of you. The instructors got together and came up with the questions, and then gave them to Ted and Lew. Ted and Lew said if we can't answer a question then we certainly can't include it on the exam. Some of the submitted questions were really hard. So that is what they are working on and it should be done very soon. The test will be done at the Secretary of State offices exclusively. All of the details of the exam are up on the CITI - UConn website. The SOTS staff will proctor the exam.

Q. What about parking at 30 Trinity? Will there be spaces for us?

A. We know parking is difficult, we will work on that.

Q. Will the exam be offered before April 19th, the timing will be difficult for some of us, with holidays coming up? We had heard that handing out the certificates would be part of the conference.

A. We aren't on the committee, so we aren't sure but we expect there will be several options. So people who can come and take the exam before the conference could get their certificates during the conference. We anticipate several options to take the exam.

Q. Going back to absentee ballot proposals, when we broaden the process to get absentee ballots, how do you see this in the long term? Will this change the way Elections are held in Connecticut? For example, currently the Town Clerks handle AB ballots so this has a huge impact on them. Is the thought to move to an all-mail in process like the state of Oregon?

A. I have not heard anything about that and my guess is that with this kind of a change we will see an incremental increase in the flow of ABs, I can't imagine it would be a profoundly big one. People who want to vote absentee generally are already doing it. If we notice a big uptick that is great, but I have not been in any conversations that we are going the way of Oregon system. As far as I know this is just to address the situation we just talked about. We want people to feel okay about voting and not be technically breaking any law or regulation. It is just a technicality.

Q. But if you allow absentee balloting for any reason, once you open access, we essentially will have an early voting situation in Connecticut. We get lots of phone calls leading up to this past election from people asking if we have early voting. The current answer is no. So we can call this letting anyone who requests absentee voting, but lets call it what it really is, early voting. Won't this change the way the entire state votes?

A. I would not call it changing the entire way, this is maybe just a small aspect of voting.

Q. I disagree, given the number of phone calls I got leading up to this past Election, and I am from a small town. I think the impact will be bigger than expected, people don't want to wait in line. Some people enjoy going to vote, but if people are given this option many people will choose to vote absentee.

A. Which town are you from? How long are the lines?

Q. Avon and the lines are not long at all.

A. Isn't that great! Some towns and cities they are very long. I think that anything we can do to make sure every vote is counted and every voice is heard is probably a good idea. That is why the Secretary does support some movements towards early voting. Those early voting bills are in front of the legislature right now. In Stonington and Avon we don't have a big problem with long lines, but I think that are other parts of the state that might. So that is why there are people that are for that. This particular change, I would be willing to put my wallet on the table, is not going to lead to a big jump in absentee voting. I don't think most people are as obsessed with reading the details as I am, and were concerned about running afoul of the law by using an absentee ballot. But we will see. If this change is something that all of you feel you can't handle, then you will have the opportunity to address this with the legislature after trying it for a year or two.

Q. Please share your name and town when asking a question. Deputy, how should we address you?

A. My name is Scott, Scott Bates, so please just use my name. But thank you for asking, I have worn many hats over time. I was an appointed Secretary of State in Virginia back 24 years ago and I was a Police Commissioner. So I have had all kinds of titles, but for us to work well together, my name is fine. I really appreciate hearing your candid views, otherwise we would make policy choices in a vacuum. The Secretary doesn't, she has been doing this for a while, but I am just getting started with this, so it is important for me to hear your thoughts. Just keep it informal.

Q. Your eminence, just kidding, Peter Gostin, New Britain. Our ROVAC Legislative Committee was discussing yesterday the absentee ballot proposals. My main concern, regardless of the specifics, is that any change is going to butt up against the CT State Constitution, which has very limited reasons for issuing an absentee ballot. Any legislated amendment will fail a Constitutional test, unless the Constitution is amended. Two years ago an amendment was brought forward and failed at the polls. Do you know of any proposal to get another Constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2018? A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote seems unlikely in this legislative session, but a simple majority during the next two sessions could put a question on the ballot for the Gubernatorial Election in 2018. How is the drafted response going to address absentee voting, or will they address the Constitutional issue first?

A. You can also call me professor, because I taught law, but not Connecticut Constitutional law, so I am not an expert. Constitutionality is a great question. The people on the GA committee and others who fashioned the legislation are doing so it will pass Constitutional muster. Nobody wants to pass a bill and have it chopped down in court later on. There are bills that on early voting that would lead to a Constitutional amendment, so that track is going on as well. While some of the legislation you don't want to see how the ideas come about, but on these in particular, there are some really good people - Republican and Democrat on the GAE committee. You probably know them, as you are on that committee. I have not heard any of them express concern about the Constitutionality. It will be interesting. I would like to see this go forward. Constitutions are supposed to state broad principles and then you legislate based on those principles. It seems to me, we are getting wound around the axle. You don't want to end up like Brazil that has 228 articles added to their Constitution. I mention this because I think a lot of this needs to go through the legislative process, concerning the details. But the broad strokes still need to be covered in the Constitution. I am happy to talk with your committee with this. Ideally it would be great if we had bipartisan consensus on this kind of issue. There are people in Fairfield county that are out of town almost all day and then there are cities where the lines are too long because they can't handle the volume.

Q. Any legislation that you are excited about and hoping to pass?

A. I'll let Peggy speak to that, she has a key role in following everything. The Secretary's priority long term is to register everyone who is qualified to vote and they know about their opportunities to vote. In people's busy lives we are responding to that need. I loved going to cast my ballot this last Election Day, and I took my Mom to the polls, she is 87. And now I have to disclose something, I am a

Democrat and I was able to vote for a woman for President. So we went to the firehouse to vote, and then we saw our neighbors at the coffee shop afterwards. It was wonderful. I didn't care if my candidate didn't win. I was so proud of our country. I have been to so many places, where there is violence in the streets, where governments are overthrown and we just moved forward the next day. We can never take that for granted, it is a big deal. I love voting at my polling place on Election Day. I don't get how some people stand in line for two hours just to cast their vote, I'm not sure I would be willing to do that. Let me leave you with this one thought, when I was in Kosovo, after a terrible war 1995, before that it was a terrible Communist dictatorship. I saw a 90 year old lady vote. I went around this country on Election Day to watch people vote, and the lines were miles long. And people stood and they voted, because they hadn't had the chance to vote before. This 90 year old lady said to me, "I have always wanted to vote, that is why I am standing in line like this, I waited my whole life to do this". So sometimes we might think something is inconvenient and a pain in the neck to administer but just remember, people count on us. We will fight for you to get new resources, we need to do that. We need to work together on that, what you do is important and I appreciate that. Secretary Merrill's priority is clear, to ensure that everyone can vote.

- B. We had a very limited agenda, in terms of legislation this year. As the Deputy explained, we are for changing the Constitution. When you have a Constitution full of specifics, that can not be legislate upon, it makes it very difficult to govern. The Constitution should be a living, breathing document that covers basic principles. Instead we have a Constitution that which is unlike any other state and it is hard coded on very specific provisions. It makes it very difficult for us to change Election laws unless we change that. That is the whole point of Secretary Merrill's initiative a couple of years ago, and now that track as Peter Gostin talked about is a way to leave it up to the legislature to decide what to update in Election laws, and to take baby steps along the way. Regarding everything else, we have some service issues. We will discuss at the conference if anything passes, but this is a very slow legislative session, most bills won't be looked at until April.

I would like to discuss an important issue - did any of you receive a letter from the Public Interest Legal Foundation? (No one raised their hands.) A letter is circulating in Fairfield county regarding a group of people seeking voter information from all of the Registrar offices. Specifically they are seeking public records under the National Voter Registration Act. I am going to read you parts of this letter, because it may be coming your way. Looking to see if non-citizens have either attempted to register to vote or successfully registered to vote and how you dealt with them. I spoke to many towns that said we don't have any non-citizens trying to register. Ted and I have drafted a response to use to address this, but first of all it is very important that you talk to your town council, FOI officer or first selectman and give them a copy of the letter. The letter asks to come in to your offices and start looking through your files. We want you to be aware and be prepared. If you have had an incident with a non-citizen, you may have referred it to SEEC or the DOJ - you will need to reply with that information. Any SEEC forms or paperwork regarding non-citizens would be covered by their request. Quoting the letter:

"I am writing on behalf of the Public Interest Legal Foundation to request inspection of records relating to your offices, voter list maintenance obligations as related to the National Voter Registration Act. We are a non-partisan, non-profit, public interest law firm that is interested in your list making procedures designed to protect the integrity of American Elections."

And then it goes on to talk about the National Voter Registration Act and then it says "pursuant to Section 20507 of the act we are looking for all documents regarding registrants who were identified as potentially not satisfying citizenship requirements for registration from any information source. Including information obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles or from the Department of State since 2009. This request extends to all documents that provide the name of the registrant, the voting history of the registrant, and the nature and content of any notices that may have been sent to the registrant." And then it goes on and on. They also want to know the number of voters registered in your jurisdiction and your total voting age population. You may not know your voting age population, as that is a census number. The census bureau has those numbers but you don't. What Ted and I advice, is to simply say you do not know that number if you don't know it. You would

give the number of voters registered. Just let us know if receive the letter, and contact your town for help before responding. Taffy sent out a letter from us with this advice that you all should have received.

Q. Do we have any avenue of knowing whether someone is a US Citizen or not - so how do we answer this request?

A. Correct, if you are given the information that someone is not a citizen, you will act upon that. So if someone tells you for example I once got a call from someone who said that their mother is not a US Citizen, in that case you would take action - but otherwise on all voter registrations the voter is swearing and attesting upon penalty of false statement that they are a US Citizen who is eligible to vote.

Q. We did have this happen, when we noticed a drive only license was being used to register to vote. We explained to the voter that they were not eligible.

A. There is also some confusion about the different driver's licenses, I just got an email last week. If you have a driver's license that says "Not for Federal Identification Purposes" that license is perfectly fine, it is what my license says. Only the drive only licenses can not be used, it has a DO in the left corner and the state of Connecticut is orange, not blue. Please be careful, there are many citizens who have not chosen to get the Federal ID, and those are perfectly valid IDs.

Q. When someone enters their driver's license online, can they use the drive only, or will it stop them from registering?

A. No, the online system is designed to prevent anyone from registering with a drive only license. Those licenses are only issued to undocumented workers and they are not eligible to vote and it would reject them. Now, the system can not delineate those with green cards who have a full driver's license. But to be clear, they are making a affirmation online that they are a US Citizen, the same as a paper form, when you register online.

Q. What was Denise Merrill on the radio, WTIC in the morning, discussing about Massachusetts absentee voting and having a similar program in Connecticut?

A. Yes, I went to a conference about early voting in Massachusetts right after the Election. What they have, and what we have now is that you can go into a Clerk's office and complete an absentee ballot. The difference is there is no excuse needed in Massachusetts to get the absentee ballot. I am not sure of the time frame for Massachusetts, but the Connecticut proposals are talking about limiting early voting to one to five days before the Election. So there is a possibility of restricting early voting to Town Halls, rather than open it up to polling places.

Q. To go back to the online voting, for the DO licenses, the system will not accept them, but will it generate a letter?

A. No, no letter, they just can't get through, so you won't get those.

Q. The Massachusetts early voting made some headlines as the counties complained about a huge increase in their election costs, so how would extended absentee voting significantly cost more?

A. I am not sure, but I do remember reading about the additional costs. We will look into it. I am calling it absentee because I don't think it was set up like a polling place. I will check to see how they did it.

Q. My brother votes in Massachusetts and he said he did have the option to go to a polling place early.

A. Okay, that would explain the additional costs, for poll workers, etc.

Q. Is Connecticut considering a similar system with early voting places?

A. I have not heard that, but that would be up to the legislature.

Q. What is happening with poll books, are we getting close? Given the state's budget situation, will there be money to implement it, to supply towns with the purchasing costs?

A. Really good question, we are hopeful, and I do want to talk about this, as it is a timely topic, given the FBI hearing yesterday in Congress. When Secretary and I met with the FBI several times leading up to the Election we wanted to thank all of you because you were all on message that it would be difficult if not impossible to hack our voting machines. That is because we are a highly decentralized system and we are not connected to the internet. Those are pluses in our favor. The first question the FBI wanted to know was do you have electronic poll books? And we said no and they were relieved. The reason is that many electronic poll book systems are vulnerable to attack. Then the FBI wanted to know specifically who programs our memory cards, where do they come from? We explained it was out of state to LHS, but we have an audit program in conjunction with UConn. We told them about our pre-election and post-election audits, we have one of the safest voting systems in the country. So it was great they we did

not have to worry in Connecticut, and throughout the country the vote was not hacked. The Electoral college process however had some chaos injected into it, a concerted effort. But in answer to your question, yes, we are still hoping electronic poll books will come but only if we can find a safe system. The last I heard, Alex has reviewed 5 systems now, a couple of them were just lacking a few things and they have been asked to resubmit. We still do have the money, it is being kept in a separately in an investment - separate from our bonding and separate from our budget. It is a key investment fund. How long we can keep it there I don't know, but for now we have it.

Q. Why can't we just use poll books at the polls offline? Why are we waiting for a secure way to use them online? If we could move forward it would save a lot of money and we could download the information collected.

A. Yes, I think that is possible. I don't know the specifics. For those who use them, do you send information to candidates during the day? (Several answered yes, we do.) Okay, so that use might be a problem.

Q. So is that the main problem?

A. Yes, if it was a closed system, a totally closed system might be something that works.

Q. But for those who have already invested in equipment, who have been saying only positive things - so do you anticipate certifying them?

A. So yes, that is possible.

So I wanted to talk to you about this past Election. You all did a great job, as Scott mentioned. It was probably one of the easiest Presidential Elections in a very long time from our perspective. What did you all think of it? (It was the worst, so exhausting.) But what we did not get, and State Elections Enforcement felt the same, were the hundreds of complaints throughout the day. Much less than in the past, some calls, but not as many. What I did want to say, is that although our voting machines are totally safe, are voter registration systems are another matter. We need to be ever vigilant with those. We contacted the Department of Homeland Security and they did a special cyber hygiene scan of our centralized voter registration system to make sure that there were no intrusions. In fact in two states, Arizona and Illinois they did breach the system, and the Russians did get in. What they intended was to create chaos and mischief, so that voters showing up at the polls would not be able to verify where or if they are registered. The breach didn't affect the vote. So in these states, where elections are run by County, they turned out to be using the easiest passwords in the world, like 1234 or 5678. They couldn't see what was done, where anyone had been moved - but if the hackers are really good, it wouldn't be obvious. If experts are really good with sabotage, it would be very difficult to see. These are the only states this year, but for 2018 and 2020 we will all need to be extra vigilant. We will use whatever protections the government will give us, to ensure those systems are safe.

Q. On the topic of vigilance, we found we could access CVRS on our laptops at Town Hall. Is this safe to do, the same as the secure hardwired access that our desktop computers have? Our IT guy thought it was going through the secure router, so we were able to use laptops for EDR. Is this safe and is there a limit to how many computers you can use?

A. Yes, it was safe, you were going through the secure router provided and yes, there is a limit to how many computers you can run CVRS on, based on town size.

Q. Will there be any efforts to change or strengthen passwords for CVRS?

A. That is a good idea, but that would be up to our new IT director, Tom Miano from Rocky Hill. Perhaps he can come to a meeting with ROVAC to discuss what he has done and what they are working on.

Q. You mentioned the pre and post memory card audits, but there is nothing in the law that states we have to send the cards in. What is your recommendation on this?

A. I hope that you all are taking advantage of this, and if you are not, now you should especially be taking advantage of this. When you get your memory cards, and you do your L & A testing, one of those cards that is in "ready for election" mode should be sent to UConn to ensure that you have done all of the steps and the cards are working properly up to that point. And then after the election is over, you are going to send cards to UConn so that they can make sure there have been no strange events happening with your cards during Election day and everything proceeded correctly. I will send out another email explaining that process before your next Election. You really want to take advantage of this, so that

Alex and his team can look for anything that happened. Most of the time if they find something it is fixable, like your clocks weren't set to the correct time or date. Or perhaps something occurred at the polls, where you closed down a tabulator and used the backup, so the card shows that you didn't start at 6 am. He keeps track of all of those things.

Q. So it would be nice if we heard about any issues. Our problem is that when we send off these cards and we have no indication that they were received, no indication that they have been sent back to LHS and no report of what they found. These are the things that Registrars need to know. We are very careful about changing the time, but we have been asking for a report from Alex each time. We have asked for confirmation each time, but did not get a reply. These cards are expensive.

A. You do raise a good point and we could send you the reports when we receive them from Alex. Alex posts all of the results on his website, and you can look at them there, it can take awhile for him to get it up there, but it will have all of that information. We invited Alex to come down to the SOTS national conference in Washington DC, where he gave an excellent report on all that he does for you. It would be great if he could come to ROVAC and do the same thing. What he does, what he has found and what issues have come up, details so that you don't repeat mistakes.

Q. The chain of custody is an issue for our town, because you don't hear from them if they were received or if they were given back to LHS. Those cards are \$350 each, this is a lot of money. We have heard tales of lost memory cards and UConn saying that is not our problem. Is that going to change? Could the SOTS cover any liability there?

A. No, you could send them covered by insurance. Perhaps UConn can find some secretarial help to confirm receipt of the cards. LHS has complained about missing cards, but it isn't clear that is a big problem.

Q. When should Registrars complain to the SEEC? Our town files a complaint anytime a voter on the inactive list comes in to vote, signs the affidavit that they still live in town, and they we subsequently find out they have moved - we send that to SEEC. We have heard from other Registrars that the SEEC doesn't want that, unless there is evidence they voted twice. It is our understanding that any violation of the law should be brought forward. So even though this is not a duplicate vote situation, they have committed fraud. Should we send this to the SEEC?

A. I would err on the side of caution and send as much as you possibly can to them. The problem with bona fide residency is that people have the right to move between houses and places. If they no longer live at that address, they will investigate that. But there are situations where someone has more than one house they live in, or if their house burned down for example, it is a temporary move out of town. Intent matters and the SEEC will not prosecute in those situations. They will move forward if there is a case where someone no longer has any allegiance to their old town and still come back to vote.

Q. We had three people who moved to Massachusetts, but still had their Connecticut Driver's License. They haven't changed it to avoid the expense. We have made a total of eight complaints. Because Massachusetts does not have EDR and we do, they have come back. But when we talk to other Registrars, they only send if there is evidence of duplicate voting.

A. Yes, you can report those. But just to be clear, it is not against the law to be registered in two states. For example, a college student might vote out of state when they are at school, and then come back to Connecticut to register, or a high school student registers in Connecticut but moves out of state and registers - those will not be prosecuted, only if they are voting in both places.

Q. How would you know if they voted twice, in CT and out of state?

A. Actually, you can find that out. Now that we belong to ERIC - Electronic Registration Information Center, we actually get access to over 21 jurisdictions. So you receive the list of matches with other states, and this can include when the matched voters have voted, so you can compare. ERIC will start checking for duplicate voting, particularly if someone is voting absentee in one state and in person in another state. So these are great tools in keeping your registry up to date and accurate and to make sure that people are not violating the law.

Q. Does Massachusetts belong to ERIC yet, because that would be a big help to our community? Is there a reason why they haven't joined?

A. No, not yet but we are trying to get them to join. It does cost money to get in, \$25,000 is the initiation fee to get in, to get it up and running, and then there is an annual fee to stay based on the number of voters you have. We think it is worth it's weight in gold simply because now you do not have a bloated list, you do not have organizations or campaigns that there is a possibility of people committing voter fraud because you can say we are doing everything possible to make sure that our lists are accurate. Rhode Island has just come in, but New England has been a little slow at this. Connecticut was the first. So for those who live near Rhode Island we are exchanging information, there is a lot of interplay between our two states. I am hoping Massachusetts will join soon and frankly, I would really like to see Florida come in. Think of all the cross voters, the snow birds that are going back and forth. Where is their legal residence, and have they registered in Florida? We are trying to get them to join, but because they have such a big voter registry, this is going to cost them more.

Q. Regarding the ERIC list, when a Registrar received the list of people who had passed away, they investigated but could not confirm to back that up. Should they call a neighbor, would that provide enough evidence to confirm before moving them to off? The ERIC list information still needs to be confirmed before you take action doesn't it?

A. Unless we are talking about a very common name, like John Smith, I would take this information as the truth, and confirmation that they passed away. Remember that the ERIC list is checking the Social Security number for a match, and the date of birth. I know this sounds terrible, but if you took someone off who is still alive, they can still vote. And you can Google their name on the internet, to get confirmation if they died out of state. As long as it is not a common name, you can use the ERIC list. Go with your gut.

Q. Is there any chance that the ERIC list will get a little more cleaned up when we get them? It was a little bit better this year, there were less columns. We are a small town, and I know how to widen the columns to fix it, but the report came to us all hashtags and impossible to read. We had a short list of 30 names that was 6 pages wide with all of those columns when we printed it. I can't imagine what a city would do with a long list.

A. Well, a lot of towns do not print it out. For anyone who is really savvy at how to make this work, if you would like to come to the office and help us make this better, we would love to see that happen. I did reach out to some people, because last year was so difficult, and we did try to make it better. But if anyone would like to come in and help, because it is so much information. Steve Mason is trying to get it to you in a better format.

Q. Did Fred DeCarlo's committee ever get started, they was some hope they would help you this year?

A. No but thank you, I will write that down and get back to Fred.

Q. Will it be possible to get the date of birth on the ERIC report?

A. No, but let me explain. You do not get a match unless the date of birth matched. The reason it is not in the report is because in many states date of birth is totally confidential, or only partially available, just the year. So we can't show it on the report, but it has already been matched.

Q. How do we handle suspected duplicates the ERIC list that the DMV - CVRS doesn't catch? We were told years ago to go by the signature to confirm the voter's name but we had a voter who filled in a different first name when they re-registered, so the new town is presuming it is not a duplicate. We can see it is a match based on their signature.

A. You need to work out with the other town a best solution if you really think it is the same person and investigate whenever something is amiss. If you got this from the ERIC list then the last four digits of the social security were matched.

Q. What do you do if the other town does not agree it is a duplicate?

A. This is where you need to negotiate and figure it out. If ERIC identified it is a match, then it probably is a duplicate.

Q. We had someone register in September, sent them a letter and it came back that they didn't live there, so we made them inactive. Should we just delete him?

B. NO, never. Just keep them in inactive.

Q. Regarding this voter group that is asking for access to our files, we have not redacted social security numbers on the older cards where the full number was provided. So should we go through our files and redact it?

A. No, if you hear from them and they want to come to your office, you can still make them be very specific about what they want to look at. If they want to see the voter registration cards, you can redact

those cards requested or make a copy that you can redact the social security number from the copy.

They do not have carte blanche to look through all of your files.

Q. When someone comes in like that, that would be FOI, but they could spend a month going through all of that information card by card. Is there any limit you can apply?

A. I do not know, this is unprecedented. You are correct this could create some chaos in your office and set up shop for a month. Talk to your FOI officer, or the FOI commission, to get a common sense approach to handling this. When we get these requests, we tell them we will get to this in a manner that is consistent with the functioning of our offices. You are not required to shut down your business activity, use your judgment.

Q. We use a plastic cover to put on requested cards that lets you read the card, but the blacked out part covers the social security numbers. You can make copies using it.

A. That works with the cards in the current format.

Q. I received emails from an out of state college student asking for participation in a survey. Do we have to do this?

A. I received and looked at the questions, they were broad questions for their thesis, like why did you get into public service? It is not Registrar specific and it is optional to participate.

Q. What do you see as your role as the Deputy Secretary of State, what is your role going to be with the Registrars?

A. That is a good question, it could be whatever you would like, but technically I am the chief operating officer out of the Secretary of State's office. So I am responsible for what goes on in our office and all interactions. I work to support the work that Peggy and her team are doing, so you can count on me as another person you can take a question to. If there is a systemic issue that you have with our office, let me know that. We want to resolve those kinds of issues. That is my mandate from the Secretary.

Q. In the past we have had deputies that have done the job very differently, totally different styles.

A. I would like to hear what worked best and what didn't but when I read what my responsibilities are, I am COO, so I am on the hook for everything. I have told the Secretary that I will be responsible to you, for getting things done and not getting done.

Q. You are not asking for us to send questions to you that we are sending to the staff, to Peggy and Ted? This would be for the issues where we are not able to get an answer from them?

A. I think that is fair, that makes sense. If you are not getting a timely answer, let me know. If you don't get an answer from Peggy or Ted, or whomever, let me know. The plan is to attend the conferences and as many of the Registrar meetings as I can. We are funded for a staff of 72, but currently as COO I am in charge of a staff of 67.

B. Scott is very busy with personnel matters daily. This afternoon in fact, we are having diversity training, so we can't stay too long. But we are always glad to be here. There is always something going on in our office. When Denise is out of state as President of the National Association of Secretaries of State, Scott is pinch hitting for her. Denise will have a very busy agenda until July or August, when she passes the baton as President.

C. I was able to chair a Deputy Secretaries of State meeting, and I found the areas of agreement, even though two-thirds of the Secretaries of State are Republican, everyone pretty much agreed on the fundamentals on some of the most challenging questions that we have. Secretary Merrill has run the National Association with the Secretaries of State in a way to bring everyone along. So while other institutions in this country are riven by partisanship, we are trying as hard as we can to make sure that does not happen at our level. Thank you for the invitation to be here, I have already learned quite a bit. I am not going to hold myself as an expert on what you do, but I am going to be responsible for the smooth operation of this office, and this helps me learn. I look forward to more of these kinds of meetings.

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ROVAC County meeting was resumed at 10:49 am.

Education Committee by Sharon Krawiecki, Bristol - So far for the conference we have Tom Hennick coming Wednesday morning, and what is most important and new this year is that the technology committee and the education committee got together. Ted has agreed to come and teach along with Technology on Wednesday

afternoon. The reason for this is that a lot of Registrars are making mistakes taking people from other towns using the online and DMV registrations. He is going to go over how it happens, and what you can do, the real nitty gritty of why you should be careful when you take someone from another town. It is becoming a very large problem.

Q. Weren't there over 700 errors found during this last election? Is this about creating duplicates where you fail to take someone or about taking the wrong voters, like stealing the John Smiths?

A. It is all of those, and then continuing on Thursday morning Lizbeth, Sharon and Carole will be doing reconciliation at the end of the day. Everything we do in our offices, for example, to catch those mistakes. We have one-person input, and a different person check CVRS to make sure it is correct before mailing the letters. Not a single card gets filed in our office without a double check by two people. Lisbeth and Carol have similar, but different ways to do this, so that is one of the Thursday morning classes. Kevin O'Hern is coming from SEEC on Thursday morning. Q. Will we be getting conference materials soon?

A. Yes, we will be sending out the Powerpoint presentations, we are hoping to get that out to you. One more note, on Thursday Kevin will be covering those issues that we are doing wrong, what generate the most complaints. The theme of this conference is fixing ourselves.

Q. Are the classes all day? How long are the classes?

A. Yes, three full days, and 45 minute classes. Ted will be talking in one large room with three big screens, so if you feel that using the online registration is causing problems, with duplicates and stealing, please sit up front and if your town doesn't have issues with this, sit towards the back.

Q. How is it known that voters are being stolen and where the problems are?

A. Ted came to a technology meeting and yes, he knows which towns are having issues with this, he has lists. He will be working with Chris to try to make sure they can sit towards the front (so they can see and hear the presentation).

Q. Do these towns know they have issues? We haven't heard anything about this.

A. I do not know, but if you are asked to sit towards the front, then you may have an issue. Bristol for example, every year we inventor every Registration card in our office. This is how we discovered towns had stolen our voters, on Election Day, when someone was not on our CVRS list and we checked and found their paper record. There is a possibility when they weren't on the list that they didn't vote, because they didn't know about EDR. Spring is a great time to start, when your office is less busy. This is just a suggestion, to do it before the canvass, when you have some time. We did have help with the filing, so that we cleaned up issues like the maiden name didn't get attached to the married name. Something to consider doing with your down time.

Q. We use free help, we ask high school students to help with the filing and checking. They get community service hours. Something to consider, it looks good on their resume and it helps you out.

A. So be aware of this and (when you go to Ted's class) you will be more aware of these issues and will find out what is happening that is causing the problems. You may be doing something, without even knowing that you are doing it.

Legislative Committee report by Peter Gostin, Lisbeth Becker, and notes from Sue Larsen - I will be giving a little update, since our last county meeting in January it has been a very busy session. There has been a lot of stuff thrown at the wall by legislators, regarding early voting, and absentees - 9 or 10 bill variations on this theme. We did not concern ourselves with that, but we are all tracking them. As mentioned earlier, probably down to one or two that are being considered. For those of you who are new, our legislative committee works with the general assembly government administration elections (GAE) committee in the legislature. Currently, because of the tie in the Senate, there are two co-chairs from the Senate, plus one co-chair from the House. So, the committee is a three-headed monster, as many of them are throughout the government. We, as the legislative committee, have submitted one specific ROVAC bill that encompasses the issues that we surveyed you on last year. We are presenting, and trying to get modifications, to specific statutes (that we agreed upon). You should be receiving tracking reports from Sue or Darlene, regarding the general assembly bills that are up. There are links to each bill in the report. The one specific to ROVAC is SB 898. You can easily click on the information from the tracking report. It shows you the areas, specific statutes, with the numbers, and the legislative language that is being put forward. So, I will go over each of the parts in our bill, and so far, nothing

in our bill has been shot down yet, although there are some areas of disagreement. The “unknown” vote we are trying to get called the “unassigned” vote so that it reflects that it is not unknown, we know what it is. It will still get assigned by dividing it up among the major and minor parties (who endorse the same candidate). Our next step, based on what we have heard from our membership, is to leave it in an unassigned bucket and not credit it to either party. That is for the future, right now we are just trying to get the language to change. We have a lot of support for this from the GAE committee. We are also trying to improve the audits, because sometimes we get the information from the lottery by the Secretary of State not timely enough, and it goes past the 14/15-day window, which means that some of us have already started moving memory cards and packed up the ballots. We are asking for the results of the lottery to be announced within 72 hours of the Election or Primary. SOTS contends that they have too much going on with revisions and recounts, and tallying everything so that is not realistic. But we need to get this information quickly, so maybe there will be a compromise, such as 7 days. Anything would be an improvement, so that towns don’t get stuck with people being on vacation for the Thanksgiving holiday. It is hard to cobble together a team late in November, so that is what we are working on. It will probably be a negotiating point with the GAE. There was a hearing two weeks ago and we had about a dozen Registrars at the Capitol, half of which were there to testify different portions of all these points in our bill. We did not have anyone repeat anything. Melissa Russell opened the testimony to speak on behalf of ROVAC. Then point by point we had different people testify to the various parts of our bill. They listened pretty well, although sometimes you are only addressing three or four, other times it is more than half a dozen GAE committee members. Everything is recorded and written testimony is submitted before the hearing. Electronic pollbooks are currently not certified because by statute UConn is required to approve certification. We are trying to add consultant companies who have knowledge in this area, to be part of team, to review electronic pollbooks. The Secretary of State is not in favor of this because she sees this as an attempt to eliminate UConn, but that is not our point. We are just saying there are other authorities out there who can look at this. The foot dragging that has been going on by UConn has got to stop, we should have an approved vendor. It is nowhere near close to having anything approved so we are trying to add the committee to study the issue with UConn and try to come up with something palatable, that meets all of their criteria. We have gotten push back on that, but it is not dead. Also regarding new technology, we are concerned that the new IVS roll out was done within a month of the Election. We are trying to change the statute to require any new technology training to be done at least two months prior to an Election, and nothing new within the two-month window. It gets to be an awful lot for all of us to handle, to have to take time off to learn a new system while we are preparing for Elections, so we are trying to change that. We have an area for petition signatures, regarding the required number, and whether or not voters that are added during the petition process require a recalculation of the required number candidates or slates need to get to force a primary. We are submitting language to clarify the number needed, basically stop everything at the time the petition papers are issued. Also clarify that signatures must be obtained by those who are already on the list, not any new signatures. The last one is creating an archive of information from the Secretary of State. We inundate them throughout the state with a lot of different questions, but also a lot of the same questions, over and over. There is no repository for any of us to go and see what their rulings are because they are only going back to the town that asked the question, whatever it is they are looking to solve. So, what we are asking the Secretary of State is to create some kind of informational database in a bank where we can all tap into those frequently asked questions. This would be enormously helpful for all of us, if they had that. But I do know that the Secretary of State spoke to this issue and she is generally in favor but there is no money for her office to implement this type of thing. When she was asked how much would it cost, she had no answer but she thinks it would be a high number. It could be a matter of one or two people researching this and getting it done over in a year or half year, we don’t know how long it would take. In theory, the Secretary is in favor, but not so much in the implementation because it would cost her office a lot and we all know the State’s situation is not adding money to anyone’s account. We had a meeting yesterday with our lobbyist from Sullivan and LeShane. They gave us an update on our bill, and it has gotten a generally enthusiastic response from the various GAE members. The follow-up that they do on our behalf is just tremendous, we could not have found a better lobbyist than Sullivan and LeShane. They are doing a whale of a job for us.

Q. On Friday bills were already being sent bills to the floor, was this early voting one of them?

A. So Paddi talked about that, this is bill 897 and if it comes to a vote and splits down party lines than it will come down to Nancy Wyman casting the deciding vote. They can still put amendments on it and there are some issues with it because the Senate did not okay it, but the House did.

Q. So there was a tie in the Senate?

A. Right, so that is why it will come down to Nancy Wyman. But it still has to go through a municipal fiscal impact and also the Attorney General's take on it and whether or not it meets the Constitutionality, given Connecticut's Constitution. I asked Paddi about that Constitutional issue yesterday and she will be following up on that type of thing with a member of the Attorney General's office. Someone she knows directly, she has a lot of experience with this and she will try to get us some answers on the Constitutionality of any changes when it comes to absentees. My personal feeling is that even if it passes, it will immediately get challenged. There are a lot of towns that will be affected by this, especially the larger towns. Our Town Clerk's Association is dead set against this, against any enlargement of absentees. Paddi LeShane said in the newbie class that is so important to contact your legislators, know who your delegation is in your town. Make a phone call, ask them to come in to your office when you see them at Town Hall. Tell them how important these bills are, and specifically ask them for their support for 898 and tell them why. Many times, our legislators are reaching out to us, ask us what bills are you concerned about, let's talk about it, and we do. ROVAC day, which is April 12th is a great opportunity for them to come to you, they get some ice cream, and then you get to talk with them. It is nicer if you talk with them in your own environment, because you can be relaxed when you talk to them, and look for a commitment from them. It is a great way to keep the communication going, to keep our jobs secure. Make sure you come with your counterparts, no matter what your affiliation is, talk to your State Representatives and your State Senators. Communication can be very beneficial to all of us. That is a wonderful segway into ROVAC day, which is where we get our legislators to come to our ice cream social. Every one of you should have some kind of rapport with them, tell them to come, it is Wednesday, April 12th. We will have the ice cream social between 1 and 3 pm. At that time, we will try to get them to support SB 898. It is in the Capitol Building in the old Judicial room.

Q. Will you have a formal invitation that we can pass along?

A. Yes, we are having Paddi LeShane come up with something that we can use. She will share that with our committee and we can share that with you.

Q. We can send an email, but an invitation with nice graphics would be much better.

A. We will see what they come up with and try to pass that along as soon as we have it. So it is in the Capitol building where the Governor's office is, but on the opposite end, on the second floor, in the old Judiciary room. George Cody from New Canaan will bring his fantastic display of historical buttons, bumper stickers and all kinds of political paraphernalia. It is something to see. Tell them there is nothing better to do that Wednesday, come and support ROVAC, and see what George brings.

Q. In the petition portion of our bill, what are you asking for? When you put down a number on the petition paperwork, that is a solid number?

A. Yes, exactly.

Q. You mentioned a bill on early voting, that has been sent to the floor, what number is that?

A. SB 897 - That is the Secretary's bill.

Q. I don't see it in the tracking report we just received

A. It is on page 5 of the latest tracking report for 3/24, which will be sent out soon.

Q. Is the Legislative Committee going to put together a sheet of points of interest on all of these bills? It would really help to know what to talk to our legislators about, you did that once before.

A. Yes, we may still do that again. I will mention it to her, and she can pass that along to the county chairs to distribute.

Q. What bills are we, ROVAC, supporting or fighting against? Are there any?

A. When you look at the tracking report, there is a letter on the left hand side of the report. It will say O for Oppose, T for Tracking, S for Support, the legend in the upper right that explains all of those letters mean, so you can easily see what ROVAC is tracking, what we oppose and what we support.

Q. So those codes are just us, what ROVAC is doing for all of these reports.

A. Yes. Make sure you are getting the tracking reports, they are being sent to everyone (on Darlene's list).

Technology Report by Anne Kilby and Lisbeth Becker. The meeting minutes were emailed to all Hartford County members. We meet every two months, usually the last Thursday of the month and we publish all of our minutes on the website and we also notice all of our meetings on the website. We meet in Glastonbury at the Riverfront Community Center. Everyone is welcome. Our last couple of meetings have really been focused on how we make sure that we reduce the amount of errors on CVRS. In doing that we are really looking at different elements of CVRS that are working or not working. We are also trying to look at things that are a little bit more how it impacts cities and large towns and smaller communities. We have found that the issues are separate depending on the size of your town. Specifically, in looking official voting lists we got some comments from people that there were issues with names dropping off of it, once it had been saved on CVRS for the Election. In that, you start realizing that the devil is always in the details. For instance, the Official Voter List is driven by the voter ID number. So that if somebody does not pull a person and does it after the fact, and because the newer registration was done online, and you are preserving that online registration that means that the voter is assigned a new voter ID number. And the old ID number gets lost. So, if you are missing names from your official list this is probably the primary cause for someone to be dropped from the Official Voter List. Then when you look at the alphabetical list, that does not use voter ID numbers to be generated. And that is why you may find some differences in your list. We are trying to whittle down and really understand the system that we are working with so that everyone can have some clarity on that. In general, beyond getting some details of what the program is that we are working with, we have been really focused with Ted on, at these meetings, on reducing the errors. From the Secretary of State's perspective, their big concern is the disenfranchisement of voters. When we talk about the wrong pull, the Sally Smith registering to vote and attaching Richard Jones information to her voter record because maybe they have the same birthday and somebody wasn't looking carefully and pulled the wrong person. In between that and duplicate voters, that is really where we have been focusing our time. We are also working with the Education Committee to help develop some ideas of how to link all of these wrong pulls and duplicates. We have gone over electronic poll books and electronic audits. We are trying to look into a way to remove birthdates from published lists online. That is because we get call from voters all the time who are agitated by the fact that their birthdate and all of this information is available online. We are also looking at scheduling a stress test annually. That seemed to work really well last time and it is a good way to test out the system before an Election, which is the most important time.

Q. Is there any updates on whether or not we are going to be doing the election management system this year?

A. We have gotten wonderful feedback from a lot of different people, from this group as well, and everyone is in agreement that there are significant issues with Election Management System. What SOTS has said is they will not support for the Municipal Elections the EMS system. That does not mean you cannot use it. It will be fairly accessible to those of you with one polling location. Otherwise they are not going to pay to have someone answer your questions, help you set up or anything else like that. That is their stance on that. As far as making other adjustments to the EMS system, that was going to be driven by financial resources. There are some items that have already been addressed, and this is all covered in our minutes, unknown votes will not be calculated and saved automatically. The save function has been fixed. The timeout function has been eliminated. These were all things that could easily do. But some of the other, broader issues with EMS, they are taking a wait and see.

Q. Regarding the stress test, we had four computers that we did the stress test on. But when we had the Election we added six computers to do EDR, so we actually had 10 computers for Election Day. Do you realize when you do the stress test you are not adding in a lot of other computers, you may not be taking this into account?

A. Yes and no, into taking that into account because on Election Day, the SOTS asks the other state government offices to not run do certain work on Election Day that require large volumes of bandwidth. That is the only offset, that I am aware of. But you make a very good point about that, so we should suggest for more people to join in.

Q. So we should try to get more computers online for the stress test?

A. Yes, and we also include the Town Clerks to join in the stress test.

Q. Our town brought in what we were going to do on Election Day. We had extra people, using laptops, so that we were using what we would be doing on Election day with EDR.

A. Excellent. That is a good point, towns should try to do the stress test as a simulation of Election Day.

Nominating Committee Report by Charlie Murray. Everyone should have gotten one, if not two, notices and we have people stepping up to fill all of the positions.

Q. Can you tell us who they are, we haven't gotten the notices?

A. The list of endorsed people has not been sent yet to everyone perhaps, just the nomination paperwork. I thought it had been sent. I'll read them but if I mispronounce everybody's names, please forgive me. For President Sue Larsen, Executive Vice-President, Chris Prue, Vice-President Lou DeCilio, Treasurer Peter Gostin who is doing it now, and Secretary Kevin McCauley who is also doing it now. That is pretty outstanding. Those were the only resumes that were submitted to the nominating committee at this time. We are very fortunate to have so many good people that are involved from this county. Hartford County is the most active in ROVAC, so be proud of yourselves. Darlene will send out this list when she gets it.

Hrtf Cnty Chair, Darlene Burrell

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 13, 2017 and we will be nominating....

The June meeting is where we will be appointing our county representatives to the ROVAC committees. Also, even if you are not a voting member, you can still attend the meetings and help keep us keep up to date on what is going on. If you have any interest in any of the committees or board, please let us know.

Ways & Means Report by Darlene Burrell for Sue Burnham , We need \$6 per town to purchase materials needed for our county basket at the conference.

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Darlene introduced our guest speaker, Carole Mulready, Hartford Regional Election Monitor, noted also in attendance, Naugatuck Valley Regional Election Monitor Jon FitzGerald

Carole asked everyone to take a card and write down their evaluation of their Regional Election Monitor. Please write down what you heard of, and what you thought of the Regional Election Monitor position. Also, write suggests of anything you would like as a role for your Regional Election Monitor to help with. This is sort of my evaluation and I have already heard at your meeting today and previously, you didn't really need me or a lot of help in this region. There were a couple of things that happened during the voting period, preparations for the voting period from July onward. I sent out messages, I met a few of you, and I communicated by email to let you know what the legislation said. This region did very well and way you responded to all of the things that were asked of you during the course of the Election. I was very interested to hear a comment today that mentioned the fact you had so many things to do and really need two months lead time for something new. And I had thought during the process where this was all happening that I was scrambling too, to try to keep up with what all of you were learning. That intensity, it is sort of like taking exams, remember when you did that. You were rushing at the end and you sort of get everything done because you are under such pressure. You don't feel comfortable about it but you all seem to do a good job. I know that were a few folks who had some problems. Just a review of what the highlights of my job were, which were very general, going with statutes. The Secretary of State's office didn't know about the role, it was House Speaker Sharkey who found the money to have these nine people help schedule classes. I worked with Darlene and talked to all of you, you didn't need help, you had loads of classes. We were supposed to hold one but that was redundant, for sure. There were other regions of the state that needed them, but not here. We were supposed to pass on information, the Secretary of State's office passes on plenty, your own organization passes it on. I did a couple of reminders and I filled out some. I sent some information out, that were kind of like cheat sheets for Election Day that have been used in some towns. But your own booklet, that you had a lot to do with, also had those summary sheets which you could have pulled out to use. Finally, we were supposed to be available to help with Election preparations, anything you thought you needed. I asked you to put on the lined side of the card your opinion of the Regional Election Monitors, if you knew anything about it, and on the unlined side if there is anything that would help you. We are supposed to be a resource and I will tell you that in at least three regions they did do a lot, especially with new Registrars. They just didn't seem to be a lot for Hartford County. So, if you have any recommendations, please write them down on the blank side of the card. You can leave them on this table, I am pleased to have been able to learn some of what you do. I knew some of

it, but certainly didn't know all of it and now I am a Certified Moderator and can help my hometown or where there is a hole in any other community, anywhere in the state. It is an advantage to me to just know what is going on, because this has been an interest of mine for a very long time. How we serve our voters and how we make our country a good place.

Q. We have some brand-new Registrars here today that may not be aware of what a Regional Election Monitor is, could you explain a little bit more about your position?

A. Most of Hartford County is covered by Carol, but there are a couple of towns on the Western side, like Bristol, that are covered by Jon. We have a very confusing way of gathering people in this state. It is by county or it is by Councils of Government - there are so many. They did reduce it a little bit when they changed it to only nine councils now. Hartford or Capitol Region is the largest with 38 towns. So, for this position, ideally the best way for former Speaker Sharkey's idea of putting money and to have resources to help make sure that everybody who was going to be a Moderator got certified. And to provide assistance in having that happen. The state had no research, that they could share with us, on their names. Darlene gave me the nice sheets where I could at least talk to people if some need was presented. The whole position came about because of problems in a very small number of places around the state. Like Bridgeport a few years ago and Hartford. There was an awareness that not all Election officials on Election Day were certified. And so that was the intention, of making sure there were enough classes that would allow access to getting everybody certified. When the Secretary of State's office calls on those of us who were hired for this, I think it was unknown by some of the people who put this legislation through that Regional Election Monitors were not necessarily going to be able to teach and do a lot. Statutes say that you have to be a Certified Registrar of Voters in order to teach Moderator Certification classes. And there are only four in the state. So, where problems arose there were a lot of small towns and poor access to classes because the towns weren't able to get together easily to support a class. One of the Regional Election Monitors worked very hard at it. I advertised in my emails to all of the Registrars in the Capitol Region Council of Governments area where they were. There was one being done in Scotland, so if anyone on the Eastern side of our region, then that class would be much more accessible than the centrally held classes in Farmington for example. The Secretary of State's office, which didn't support this position, and didn't know what to do with it, now is in favor of it. But there is a piece of legislation to eliminate this position. The last I checked, nothing has happened with it, it has not moved out of committee and it hasn't had a hearing. If that continues to be the case then the legislation will stay in place, but it is a two-year piece. I tried to find out if there is money in the government's budget for this program, but I haven't gotten an answer. But the second year, if the legislation stands, there is a possibility that the Councils of Government will have to fund it anyway. So, I am in the process of writing my critique of what happened to me and how much time spent, learning what you do with all of the information you have to deal with and what are the upsides, and downsides of a position like this. Can it be valuable? As I said, there were a few people who found it very valuable. So, I don't want to take up a lot of your time, but if you could write down what you think. You don't need to write your name or anything on it. Just let me know your thoughts.

Q. One of the immediate problems was that all nine Monitors were supposed to hold a Moderator Certification class in their region, but the trainers don't provide the election equipment for classes. So, the Monitors weren't really able to do that. It would be difficult to ask a participant or Registrar to provide the equipment. It was difficult to work this out in the East because with all of the very small polling places, it was hard to find someone to come forward and host a class. So, if no one is willing to host the class than it is mostly a travel issue. The Monitor had to convince a town to hold a group class and to provide the election equipment for it.

A. So, it wasn't really necessary here but they did have to work to get some of the classes done, mostly in the East but also in the Northwest section. Ideally this legislation would have provided enough money to allow the monitor to drive to every Registrar of Voters office. Just to say hello and find out if you have any issues and you could be prepared ahead of time. We didn't get a list to find out who was new. I found out accidentally in a couple of occasions. I am a resource. This law was just put in place in 2016, it was supposed to start in March and continue until December 31st and now we are in a new Election cycle. We don't know what is going to happen. It is a Municipal Election so you are going to have a different ballot, multiple candidate races, more than in a Presidential Election. So some think it

might be worthwhile to keep this position to assist in whatever way and help you prepare for this Election. Making sure all of your Moderators get trained.

Q. I would think if you had a little bit more power, at this point your role is almost benign, that you can't really do anything except make sure that everyone is taking the classes?

A. That is the reason I asked on the unlined side of the card to if you, as Registrars know there is an area that you want help in, I can at least report that. What is it that is missing from the Secretary of State's offices that you could use? That is really what that second thing is, so that there is some evaluation. I do not know if the other Regional Monitors are doing that kind of evaluation. There is a lot of anecdotal story telling but this is for you anonymously or put your name down if you want to. Ask me to call you, if you want. I will look these cards over and tying up my information for the Capital Regional Council of Government, so that the people who will be talking to their legislators, know what they are going to do to support or not this role. They are the overseers of this quote resource person or consultant. We are not employees of the Secretary of the State's office. As has been mentioned, they don't have any money to hire anybody. You heard the numbers that Scott mentioned, that 70 funded positions is down from well over 100 a few years ago. So, they don't have a lot of staff to do, not just voting issues, but business and all the other stuff they do. Please drop your slips in a pile on this table.

ROVAC Treasurer Pete Gostin asked to speak briefly on payment issues. Yesterday I sent out individual notices to towns within each county, and I copied the county chairs on it. Those were for those who had not paid their dues or in arrears for last fall's conference fees. I am very happy to say that Hartford County only had two towns, one that hadn't paid dues and another that had an issue. You have all done an excellent job of paying when we get that information to you. But there are a handful of counties that are not forwarding information and things are not paid. So, it is incumbent upon me to send the information to each of those towns, so I am in the process of doing that. And in fact, we extended the time frame. I know many of you have counterparts that you share information with, please know if the dues come up in a conversation they have until the Friday before the Conference to submit their dues and fees by mail, to me, so I can apply it to their town. Our bylaws rules were relaxed by the board a few weeks ago, so they have some extra time. The checks need to be in by the Friday, April 14th, so they can actually vote at the conference. Also, any who are in arrears on payments from the fall if they don't pay those, they won't be allowed to attend the Spring Conference.

Q. Where is our fall conference going to be?

A. It is going to be in Southbury.

Q. Is there any chance that a formal invoice can be sent for these expenses? When you get the conference information it is three pages of information, and most of it our billing department doesn't need.

A. I will bring it up with Chris Prue.

Q. I have already asked Chris, he said no, he doesn't have the capability.

A. Then I don't know, it probably would require rewriting on the registration program that Chris and Coastal Technologies work on. I don't have invoices that I share, I am just writing letters.

Q. Since it is three pages, couldn't the last page be directed to the billing department?

A. It should be sufficient, but sending them all of the pages works, the information is there.

I send information to county chairs who are then supposed to send the information to their county members. I follow up in December and February with other informational pieces to share, but not all of the counties are getting that information. Hartford county is doing great, but I wanted you to all be aware.

Next Meeting - Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Motion to adjourn unanimously accepted at 11:53 am.