

Hartford County ROVAC

January 10, 2023

Windsor Town Hall

Attending: 26 via zoom and 27 in person.

Chair Darlene Burrell opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Thank you to Anita Mips and Victoria Virgo-Christie for hosting the meeting.

Kevin McCauley from Bristol explained how the meeting would go with zoom. To address the Chair put your questions in the Q&A box if you are on a mobile device. Raise the hand if on the computer. Once you are selected, please unmute. If on a mobile device, \*9 and then give your name and town. \*6 will unmute you.

Chair Darlene reminded everyone that March and June will be zoom meetings but there will be another vote in June whether to continue with zoom or go back to in person.

The new Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas has been sworn in.

Chair Darlene introduced the new Registrars and some that were returning.

Chair Darlene asked for a moment of silence for the passing of a former Hartford County Chair and Registrar of Voters in Newington, Marie Fox.

Peter Gostin, New Britain, reported that as ROVAC treasurer there were 2 towns that still owe dues and 1 town that still owes the conference fees from the fall.

The minutes were accepted as amended for name spelling errors.

ROVAC President Chris Prue was our featured guest. He joined us by zoom. He reported that he met with SOTS Thomas and it was a good meeting. They discussed early voting which she is proposing 7-8 days. This is the longest legislative session in history. The spring conference is in the works and registrations will be ready shortly. Please send any ideas for classes to him or Melissa Russell, Education Chair, Bethlehem. The conference committee will be looking for a new location for the fall conference.

Early voting will probably start in 2024 but there is a chance that the legislature could implement it in 2023. Training will be the issue for early implementation. The legislative committee will keep on top of this. Lou Fiori wanted to rely the issues that face us such a staffing challenges and storage. President Chris replied that there is one more year on the existing contract for the current equipment so the initial phase of early voting will be with the tabulators. A new survey will come out at the spring conference. Are new pollbooks being approved? President Chris said it was brought up at the meeting along with using municipal buildings which are more secure and possibly using EDR procedures and scanning the ballot envelopes into CVRS. Gigi Feliciano, Hartford, asked if EDR could be eliminated now. President Chris did not think so.

It was brought up that there is a \$75 million grant proposed by Sen. Blumenthal for new equipment. President Chris will look into it.

Chair Darlene asked if we should budget for a possible initiation of early voting in 2023. President Chris was not sure but if you think you might want to increase your budget maybe \$3,000 would be appropriate.

Lou Fiori, Enfield, wanted to know if the Presidential Preference Primary could be the first attempt at early voting. President Chris didn't think so. Lou also reiterated Gigi's concern for funding.

Lots going on so get your moderator training scheduled.

Matt Wagner from Fairfield was our next speaker. In Hartford there are two National Citizenship Ceremonies every Monday through Thursday. At 10:00am and 2:00 pm on Main Street near the library. Matt would like to see representation from the Registrars at this ceremony. Matt will send the link for more detail if anyone is interested. Lisbeth Becker, Glastonbury, asked about parking. Matt will check if free parking is available but for now you need to pay.

Theresa Avey, Newington, spoke on behalf of the Fox family. All of the concern and condolences were very much appreciated.

Treasurer Sue Burnham, South Windsor, reminded everyone that the money from Ways & Means goes to the Judi Beaudreau scholarship fund. She will be accepting the \$10 per town for the county baskets.

Audit: Donna Rusgrove, Burlington, reported that the audit took place on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. They reviewed the 5 Certificates of Deposit and random selection of entries in the primary checking, scholarship fund and conference checking. They also recommended that the treasurer should not be a part time ROV, all reimbursements must have a receipt, consolidate the primary checking and the conference checking. All financial statements are in order. Chair Darlene asked how much money we have. Peter Gostin, New Britain, said over \$103,000. Chair Darlene said most of the money was for the lobbyists and Conference which provides the 8 hours of training we need.

Conference: Anne Clark, Avon, reported the conference would be April 4,5, and 6. We will be back at the Wyndham in Southbury. Will zoom be considered? Not at this point in time.

Credentials: Anita Mips, Windsor, had no report.

Education; Sue Larsen, South Windsor, reported there has been no meeting of the committee. Chair Darlene reminded the new registrars to review Title 9 and make sure everything is in writing.

Handbook: Darlene Burrell, Suffield, reported that Ted Bromley is reviewing the new section on duplicate voters. The new section will be emailed to everyone when it is completed.

Legislative: Theresa Avey reported that the committee met and discussed 4 possible plans for early voting. The GAE chairs will be Sen. Flexer and Rep. Blumenthal. We have great representation from Sullivan & LeShane. Every Friday a bill tracking report will be sent out. Gigi Feliciano, Hartford, was worried about cities not being represented in the discussions on early voting. Tim DeCarlo, Waterbury, is the legislative chair and is from a large city so cities are well represented. When are all bills due? Will check on the date. (February 8<sup>th</sup>). Simsbury wanted to know if we could participate in the public hearings. Darlene reminded us that if we do participate, we need to be a team and not impact ROVAC's position.

Technology – Lisbeth Becker, Glastonbury, reported the committee will be meeting at the end of January. The RFP for the new CVRS was issued and 7 submissions were reviewed and one was selected. The contract is in the hands of the Attorney General's office. In the meantime, we should be cleaning up the data by looking at periods and commas and Units numbers. Cycles are getting tight to implement a new system because of September primaries, November election, April Presidential Preference Primary, August primaries and the Presidential in November 2023. UCONN is pushing for new tabulators.

Nominating: Peter Gostin, New Britain, reported that currently the following people have said they would run. Chris Prue, Vernon, President

Annalisa Stravato, Wilton, Executive Vice President

Karen Burke, Wilton, Vice President

Lauren Olsen, Ashford, is term limited so she cannot run again. This does not limit anyone from running. Send your resume to Peter if you are interested. There is also Secretary, Treasurer and 3 auditors. The County will fill committee positions in June.

The next meeting will be March 14, 2023 in Newington.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17.

Submitted by,

Sue W. Larsen

County Secretary