

Harford County ROVAC Meeting

Newington, CT

10/10/2023 10:00am

58 members in attendance (23 in person, 35 via Zoom)

Chair Darlene Burrell, Suffield, opened the meeting at 10:02am. She began the meeting by thanking the Newington Registrars of Voters for hosting the meeting and Town Clerk, James Krupienski, for being our guest speaker.

Secretary Sue Larsen, South Windsor, thanked Mindy Lewis, South Windsor, for taking the notes at the June meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made with a change that the early voting for the Presidential Preference Primary was 4 not 5 days. The motion passed.

Treasurer Sue Burnham, South Windsor, thanked the ways and means committee for their hard work at conference. The Judi Beaudreau fund earned \$1,401 at the fall conference. Starting at the January meeting, she will collect the \$10 per town for the raffle basket.

Audit – No Report

Credentials – No Report

Conference - Ann Clark, Avon, reported the conference went well. There were 340 on the first day and 370 in attendance on the second day. The spring conference in April will be in Bristol. The committee is responsible for the menu and registration at the conference.

Education – Sue Larsen, South Windsor, said all went well and would start in January to prepare for the spring conference in April. With so many new registrars, ROVAC wants to make sure we are all doing the same processes. Darlene Burrell, Suffield, reminded us to read the manual and Title 9. One concern from the conference was that we didn't have time for questions after the speakers or at least to have a wrap up session to allow for questions from earlier in the day.

Legislative – Theresa Avey, Newington, reported the committee met in July and discussed the survey to be given out at the conference.

Nominating – Peter Gostin, New Britain, reminded everyone that 2024 would be county elections and committees are yearly.

Technology – Lisbeth Becker, Glastonbury, reported that the new voter registration system is a canned program with two registrars helping to modify. There will be 6 registrars involved in the testing: Tim DeCarlo, Waterbury, Stuart Wells, Norwalk, Lisbeth Becker, Glastonbury, Lois Timms, Ellington, Lauren Olson, Ashford and Anna Dickerson, Woodbridge. There are still some issues that need to be cleaned up before moving to the new system like 1800 date, prefixes. Classes will be held on the new system beginning between May and June 2024. There will be a new EMS program after the Presidential Preference Primary. Will gender remain the same? Not sure but concern about non-binary was shared. Will unknown remain an option? Not sure. All data in the system will be able to output in excel. Purging will not be an issue any longer because all data can be archived in the cloud. A directive from SOTS to do

a clean up and to set up expectations was requested. The new system will include email addresses and has the ability to send notifications to other states that a voter has moved. Does there need to be legislation to update the voter registration cards? Not sure. The old system will no longer be updated. It will be available for one year after the new system is implemented.

The Early Voting Handbook has gone back for revision. A preliminary copy was sent out to several registrars and was not satisfactory. Expectation is that the high turnout days would be first days and end days.

James Krupienski, Newington Town Clerk, came to talk about the interaction of Registrars and Town Clerks with absentee ballots. Town Clerks check with Registrars on home addresses and temporary addresses. The blank ballot is when a voter fills in the names on the ballot or yes/no on a referenda question. The town clerk should provide 2 copies per polling location of the explanatory text. This text is authorized by the local legislative body, reviewed for language by the town/city attorney and then prepared by the town clerk. James gave everyone present an application and the inner/ outer envelopes. Application: Sec. 3 allows for referenda to be held the same day as a primary. Sec. 4 added sickness as a reason for an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots can be a different color than white. The Town Clerks have a new system that prints the labels for the absentee ballots. Registrars should insure that unit # is in CVRS. Voided/ Rejected ballots should go to the Registrars to place in a depository envelope. Registrars must check off Absentee ballots on the Voter list. Remember to look for the TC stamp on the envelope. All town clerks are required to use CVRS for absentee ballots. Hartford is still doing it manually. The inner envelope does not require a date. Electronic ballots have their own form instead an envelope. Chain of custody is crucial. The town clerk sorts the ballots and can be grouped depending the registrars. For example, all ballots through Friday at 2:00 or Monday at 5:00. Registrars must make sure the voter has not voted in person for all the later Absentee ballots. Town Clerks have no responsibility for the counting of absentee ballots. It is the Registrars responsibility to have a moderator and counters. The registrars can hire for the day, people from the town clerk's office familiar with absentee ballots. The town clerk and Registrars need to agree on where the absentee ballots are to be stored after the election.

Handbook – Darlene Burrell, Suffield, reported the handbook committee has sent several questions to SOTS and are awaiting answers.

The Election Calendar for next year is being reviewed.

Darlene Burrell has asked Kristen Sullivan, LEAD, to speak at our next meeting.

DMV still has issues with voter registration. We still don't have HAVA compliance.

Gigi Feliciano, Hartford, said she just received cards from social services date in 2022.

The Early Voting Handbook is expected by Thanksgiving. It is being based on EDR.

EDR is similar to Absentee balloting in that the voter does not input the ballot into the tabulator.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue W. Larsen, Secretary