

Hartford County ROVAC

March 12, 2024

Newington Town Hall

Attending: 41 via zoom and 24 in person.

Chair Darlene Burrell (Suffield) opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Darlene Burrell (Suffield) opened the meeting by introducing our guests Executive Director of SEEC Michael Brandi and Legal Investigator Sherilyn Laqueux. Michael Brandi explained they are a watch dog commission overseeing campaign finance and election complaints. There are currently 4 legal investigators and 4 attorneys available to assist in questions. They are currently watching legislation. They are aware of HB 5448 which would suppress the addresses of Registrars and poll workers 90 days before and after an election. Misinformation is a current problem they are reviewing along with cybersecurity. Michael Brandi spoke about Sharpie gate and Pencil gate both involving the marking of ballots during elections in which complaints were made that the tabulators could not read the ballots. There are currently 35 complaints about Bridgeport primary and election. They are in the interview stage. Michael Brandi said Registrars did not have to use the complaint form. Simply forward a letter to them and it will be investigated. SEEC has more resources to investigate a complaint than the Registrars do. When writing the letter, make sure that you give them all the information you can. One issue is the double registration leading to double voting. SEEC will have a hot line for early voting questions.

Darlene Burrell (Suffield) introduced Chris Prue, ROVAC President. She thanked Chris Prue for doing the video on early voting which helped a lot. Chris Prue said emails were an issue for him when he was sending the video out. Please update your email or check if your town is blocking the email from getting through. A quick reminder in how early voting works is: voter to checker (Label maker) to getting envelope and ballot to privacy booth to placing ballot in envelope to bar coding the envelope and placing in ballot box. Please don't wait to barcode till the end of the day. A suggestion is to print two labels – one for the envelope and one for the ballot log sheet. At the end of the day, reconcile the ballots to the log sheet. New envelopes are coming due to errors on the old ones. If a person comes in and is not registered properly to vote, remember to hold their card till the next day if they come in before noon and the day after if they come in after noon. Chris Prue will find out why DMV is not cutting off registration during early voting. The new label maker can use the larger labels but they must be DYMO. The 550 model is more expensive but the 450 model must use the network. Your IT should be able to assist. It will only work with Internet Explorer and Edge. You cannot use the official voter list to barcode. It was not designed for this. Don't forget to put the time in the first time you bar code and it should populate from there on. SOTS would like tally by the hour. Steve Mason will be inputting all the early voting locations.

Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury) has palm cards for early voting information to share. Ann Kilby (Marlborough) put the information in with the tax bills. Sullivan & LeShane are doing an infographic for us. It will leave a block area open to allow us to add our names and contact information.

A motion was made by Anita Mips (Windsor) to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Lisbeth Becker, (Glastonbury) the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer, Sue Burnham (South Windsor) reminded everyone about the \$10 per town for the county baskets. She gave her address in case you wanted to send a check to her.

Audit: Donna Rusgrove (Burlington) reported that the audit committee met yesterday and starting the review of the books.

Conference: April 10-12 will be the spring conference at the Bristol Event Center. The fall conference will be September 17 and 18 at the Hartford/Windsor Mariotte.

Credentials: Anita Mips (Windsor) had no report.

Education; Sue Larsen (South Windsor) reported the committee will meet in two weeks.

Handbook: Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reported key sections are being worked on.

Legislative: Theresa Avey (Newington) reported that the committee meets every two weeks. She reported the Berlin concern over Halloween was conveyed to the committee. The bills we are concerned with are SB 352 and 368. SB 368 would give the municipality control over polling locations and 352 would fine poll workers \$500 if they had a complaint that the observers at a recanvass weren't allowed to see the ballot. The bill tracking report will come out every Friday from Sullivan and LeShane. CCM sent out a survey to try to get more money for early voting.

Nominating: Peter Gostin (New Britain) said this year was the county elections. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are up this year. Committees are every year.

Technology – Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury) reported there were no meetings. The new data base should be ready by June. A payroll function will not work because each town pays them differently. Total Vote does not have DMV integrated yet. They are cleaning up inactive voters. Gigi Feliciano (Hartford) said the number of vendors for the tabulators has been narrowed down. The ballots will have to be white,

Old Business: None

New Business:

If there are any suggestions for speakers, please let Theresa Avey know.

There were a couple of questions:

How do most ROVs do suppressed addresses? Just click DO NOT USE ADDRESS. Do not use zz as a street. As far as filing, you can use a separate file, a plastic sleeve or some marking that distinguishes the card.

How are overseas registration cards handled. It is the last known address in the US.

Will a moderator training class be held at the fall conference? Yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07.

The next meeting will be June 11, 2024 in Windsor.

Submitted by,

Sue W. Larsen

Hartford County Secretary