

ROVAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2024

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

Members: Chris Prue (Vernon), Annalisa Stravato (Wilton), Karen Birck (Wilton), Sue Larsen (So. Windsor), Brian Smith, (Norwalk), Peter Gostin(New Britian), Jeff Rogers (Montville), Darlene Burrell (Suffield), Tracey Ohaus (Chester), Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) Christine Psathas,(Willington),Lisa Amatruda,(Woodbury), Lauren Olson (Ashford), Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury), Sue Burnham(So. Windsor),Pennell Hamilton(Woodbridge), Barbara Konow(Franklin), Christy Shafer(South Windsor)

Highlighted in yellow are those in attendance.

- I. Minutes: **A motion to accept the minutes of 5/9/24 was made by Lauren Olson (Ashford) Seconded by Jeff Rogers (Montville). The motion passed with Lauren Olson abstaining.**
- II. Treasurer's Report: Brian Smith (Norwalk) emailed the report to the Board members. The report is put on file for audit.

July Beginning Balance	\$24,419.44
Income	20,625.61
Expenses	6,426.14
July Ending Balance	\$38,618.91

1 Registrar (Seymour) has not paid for the Spring Conference.

III. County Reports

Fairfield – Fairfield has no report.

Hartford County – Hartford County has no report.

Litchfield County – Lisa Amatruda (Woodbury) reported their next meeting will be September 10th.

Middlesex County- Tracey Ohaus (Chester) reported to Chris Prue (Vernon) that at their June meeting they appointed their committee members.

New Haven – Pennell Hamilton (Woodbridge) reported New Haven County met in June and elected their officers. The next meeting will be in September.

New London – Jeff Rogers (Montville) reported they did a general prep for the August Primary. There will be a pot luck dinner after the primary.

Windham – Lauren Olson (Ashford) reported that they did all the committee assignments. The next meeting will be September 5th in Coventry.

Tolland County – Christine Psathas (Willington) reported the next meeting will be the 2nd Thursday in September.

IV. Committee Reports:

- Conference Committee – Lauren Olson (Ashford) reported the committee is set up for the fall. There are new vendors coming although 1 vendor has dropped out. More rooms can be opened up if necessary.

- *Education Committee – Barabara Konow (Franklin) told Chris Prue (Vernon) that the agenda is set. Chris Prue (Vernon) said the spring conference was great.*
- *Handbook Committee- Darlene Burrell (Suffield)- No report.*
- *Legislative Committee: Sue Larsen (South Windsor) reported the committee met and finalized the survey. The committee will split into 2 groups in order to meet the demands of this next session being long and after a Presidential, sometimes contentious.*
- *Technology Committee – No Report. There have been no meetings. Chris Prue (Vernon) will ask why no meetings.*
- *Ways and Means – Christy Shaher (South Windsor) reported there will be a couple of raffles and the 50/50.*

IV. Old Business:

We are still looking for a new Treasurer.

V. New Business:

Lauren Olson(Ashford) moved to accept the audit report. Seconded by Lisa Armatruda (Woodbury). Jeff Rogers (Montville) stated he agreed with the report that the terms of the audit committee should be staggered. The vote was unanimous.

Fred Decaro (Greenwich) wanted more information on the overage at the Spring Conference. Chris Prue (Vernon) explained we planned a loss since the checking account was building up and it was time to give back to the membership with lower fees. Some items increased over what was anticipated. Many items such as WI FI and water were not included. Coffee after 9:00 am was \$40 per gallon. Food was our biggest expense and it is being reviewed. Maybe consider no Breakfast?

Jeff Rogers (Montville) thought the Spring Conference was great. He likes the Windsor Locks facility. Next time at Bristol, we will have the ability to use two buildings. Maybe we should consider a 2year contract. Chris Prue (Vernon) reminded us that there are very few facilities that can handle our size. He would like to go to Bristol Event Center for the 2day conference and Windsor Locks for the 3day conference. Lauren Olson (Ashford) said they are looking at grants to see if any could cover some of the costs. They determine the fee for the next conference based reviewing the last contract. Bristol Event Center will allow for a hospitality room since we will be staying at the hotel next to the center. Pennell Hamilton (Woodbridge) was looking for a spreadsheet that would outline the contract. The Board is responsible for accepting the proposal and then the contract is signed by the President of ROVAC. There is no spreadsheet.

*The Spring Proposal for 2025 will be the Mariotte in Windsor Locks. The date is April 7,8 and 9. The rooms will be \$198 per night which is the Government rate for Hartford County. Food will be a minimum of \$58,000. A discount on rental fees will be given if we go over the minimum. There will be complimentary WI FI. ROVAC can bring in its own alcohol to the hospitality room. The committee is very cautious on the food costs. The Board said no to going back the Southbury for the time being. They need major renovations. **Jeff Rogers (Montville) moved to accept the Mariotte proposal for the Spring 2025 Conference. Pennell Hamilton(Woodbridge) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.***

The Proposal for the Fall 2025 conference was tabled till next month. We will get two proposals and look at the breakdown between them.

Jeff Rogers(Montville), Lisa Armatruda(Woodbury) and Sue Larsen (South Windsor) did the survey on rank choice voting and ROV pay. The electronic survey is ready to send out. Section 1 being on Rank choice and section 2 on pay. Sullivan & LeShane will compile the answers.

Chris Prue (Vernon) said the next meeting will be September 16th at 4 p.m. in the hospitality room at the Mariotte. Bears will be providing the dinner. If anyone has a special request, let Chris Prue know.

VII. Jeff Rogers (Montville) motioned to adjourn at 11:13. Pernel Hamilton (Woodbridge) seconded the motion. It was unanimous.

Next meeting will be September 16, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sue W. Larsen
ROVAC Secretary*