

ROVAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President Chris Prue (Vernon) at 4:02pm.

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

Highlighted in yellow are those in attendance.

- I. Minutes: **A motion to accept the minutes of 8/8/24 as amended was made by Pennell Hamilton (Woodbridge). Seconded by Darlene Burrell (Suffield). The motion passed.**
- II. Treasurer's Report: Brian Smith (Norwalk) emailed the report to the Board members. The report is put on file for audit.

August Beginning Balance	\$38,618.91
Income	47,218.39
Expenses	23,350.00
August Ending Balance	\$62,487.30

Brian Smith (Norwalk) discussed the checking account looked large but once the conference fees were paid, the checkbook would be much lower.

III. County Reports

Fairfield – Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) said they were meeting in December.

Hartford County – Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reported Hartford County met on Tuesday. There were over 60 in attendance including the Tech Committee. Online would be turned off on Oct. 18th, but Chris Prue (Vernon) reported to the group that there would be no shut down. Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reported on the problem in CVRS with Permanent AB status. It does not carry over from the previous town and CVRS will not allow the new town to input it. The Voter Registration cards have the wrong dates on them.

Litchfield County – Lisa Amatruda (Woodbury) reported they met on the 10th. Jackie Kozin was supposed to be their speaker but she was ill. They had their county elections. They held an active shooter training. There was a concern on how the 2nd round of money from the State was allocated. SOTS sent out an email that explained the process.

Middlesex County- Tracey Ohaus (Chester) reported they were meeting next week. They have many new registrars.

New Haven – Pennell Hamilton (Woodbridge) reported New Haven County will meet after Nov. 15th.

New London – Jeff Rogers (Montville) reported New London County held a picnic on August 22nd and they discussed the August primary.

Tolland – Christine Psathas (Willington) reported that they met on the 5th with a pot luck. There are concerns over the early voting ballots. LHS changed their order form which has made it more difficult. Call John Hurley (LHS) with any questions.

Windham County – Lauren Olson (Ashford) reported they met on the 22nd. There were 22 in attendance. They discussed early voting and how to talk to municipal leaders by using state statutes.

IV. Committee Reports:

- *Conference Committee – Lauren Olson (Ashford) reported the committee is ready to go. We received a \$10,000 civic grant to offset the cost.*
- *Education Committee – Barabara Konow (Franklin) reported that they too were all set. EAC will be coming and all presentations are on the ROVAC website.*
- *Handbook Committee- Darlene Burrell (Suffield)- reported 17 members of the committee. 14 have sections and 3 she has not heard from. The county chairs will check on Shannel (New Haven) and Michelle Kacy (Marlborough). Claudia Sweeney has retired.*
- *Legislative Committee: Sue Larsen (South Windsor) reported the survey is ready to be handed out. It was requested that the salary/ rank choice survey be sent out again to get better data. The salary portion was lacking.*
- *Technology Committee – Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury) reported the committee attended the Hartford County meeting. The rollout of the new system is planned for 2025. There is testing of the town clerks' section of EMS being done. There will be training in person and by video. The official voter list will have the S for SDR on it. Oct. 18th will be the stress test date since we are all in on that date. We will continue to use IVS. The new tabulators will have a different ballot weight and we can no longer use markers. We should use blue or black pens (no gel pens). Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) asked that no changes to CVRS be made before the election. Also, before the election, run the tally sheets and the moderator return off EMS. Call Marl Severance (SOTS) if you have any questions. The SOTS website should be upgraded by 2026.*
- *Ways and Means – Christy Shaher (South Windsor) reported there are raffle prizes and the 50/50 raffle for conference. Chris Prue (Vernon) said there are 2 or 3 tables available.*

IV. Old Business:

Fight Voter Fraud is a major issue. They do not understand that we canvass those who have not voted in 4 years and then if no response, they are put on inactive. They interpret the law that they are removed. Tracy Ohaus (Chester) saw an article in the NYTimes about this issue. It will be illegal for a Registrar to hold an election if they are not certified. Jeff Rogers (Montville) said we need to police our own and get the ROVs certified. Maybe we should send out a ROVAC letter to those not certified. While SOTS should be doing this, they are not currently.

V. New Business:

Lauren Olson (Ashford) visited the Bristol Event Center. We are at max capacity here at Windsor Mariotte. Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) suggested waiting till after this conference to see the costs before we accept the proposal. Chris Prue (Vernon) wanted to remove the conferences from the budget and let them stand alone.

Lauren Olson (Ashford) moved to accept the proposal from the Bristol Event Center. Jeff Rogers (Montville) seconded the motion. Peter Gostin (New Britain) would like to see a budget comparison. Chris Prue (Vernon) reminded everyone that our contracts now are post covid. Lisa Armatruda (Woodbury) wants to see proposals earlier with food estimates included so she could send them to the registrars to see. The vote was: Yes 10 No 1 .They would like to have the costs sent out so Registrars could put it in their budgets.

There are no conference refunds.

VII. Jeff Rogers (Montville) motioned to adjourn at 5:07pm. Lisa Armatruda (Woodbury) seconded the motion. It was unanimous.

Next meeting will be October 10, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sue W. Larsen
ROVAC Secretary*