

ROVAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Newington Town Hall

May 9, 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)

Highlighted in yellow are those in attendance.

I. Minutes: **A motion to accept the minutes of 4/9/24 was made by Darlene Burrell, Suffield. Seconded by Brian Smith (Norwalk). The motion passed unanimously.**

II. Treasurer's Report: Reported by Brian Smith (Norwalk)

Beginning Balance: \$43,879.35
Income: 38,401.86
Expenses: 56,674.73
Ending Balance: \$25,606.48

Judi Beaudreau Scholarship \$10,021.06 We received \$500 from Kevin White for the scholarship.

Report put on file for audit.

III. County Reports

Fairfield – No Report

Hartford County – Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reported the next meeting will be June 11th in Windsor.

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

Middlesex County- Tracey Ohaus (Chester) reported they will meet on June 18th in Old Saybrook.

New Haven – Purnell Hamilton (Woodbridge) reported he sent out a survey to get a date for the next meeting.

New London – Jeff Rogers (Montville) reported they will meet next week.

Tolland – Chris Prue (Vernon) reported that they will meet in June in Willington.

Windham County – No Report.

IV. Committee Reports:

- Conference Committee – Chris Prue (Vernon) reported that the conference went well. He reviewed the ideas in the suggestion box and will turn them over to the education and conference committees. One idea was to do poll worker training in skit format. Another was to do a moderator certification class. Thank you to Brenda Falusi (Tolland) for donating the bottles of wine for the suggestion box. Chris Prue (Vernon) said one luncheon will have assigned seating. The fall conference will be September 17

and 18 at the Hartford/Windsor Mariotte. New Registrars class will be done outside the conference. Jeff Rogers (Montville) said the overall opinion in New London County was positive.

- Education Committee – No report. The information was included in the conference report.
- Handbook Committee- Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reported the group will meet on May 13, 22 and June 5th. Zoom will no longer be available. Early voting will be included in the manual but not in the June update.
- Legislative Committee: Sue Larsen (South Windsor) reported the session just ended. Information on the session will come out shortly.
- Technology Committee – No Report. Know Ink will not be ready in June.
- Ways and Means – Sue Burnham (South Windsor) reported the raffle brought in \$2,282 and the 50/50 brought in \$1,259 for a total of \$3,541. Sue thanked everyone for all their help over the years with a special thank you for Lou DeCilio (50/50 raffle), Len Bak, Bernice Dickson, Christy Shaher and Cindy martin.

IV. Old Business:

The Judi Beaudreau scholarship was discussed. It will remain a lottery pulled by the President. There was a discussion about counties that do not participate in the fund raising and whether they should get a scholarship. The other discussion was whether an additional scholarship be given out at large if a county has no applicants. The current rules will continue. 2 scholarships will be given out per county.

Refund Requests:

Daniel Lonagan (Woodbury) – unable to attend 2 days

Anita LaChance (Burlington) – family emergency

Jeff Rogers (Montville) moved to refund the money. Purnell Hamilton (Woodbridge) seconded the motion. Jeff Rogers believes the counties are getting smarter on how to get the refund. Cost of business is going up and we are paying for those that are requesting the refund now. Substitutions should be allowed at the last minute. The policy should be a discussion for the June meeting. Currently the cut off is one week. We may want to know if the town is paying or the individual is paying. The vote on the refund was unanimous.

The error on the Moderator Calendar will be corrected.

V. New Business:

There was a situation at the conference where a SOTS representative and a Registrar were agitated with each other. Chris Prue (Vernon) stepped in as President of ROVAC. The Board felt that if anyone acts unprofessionally, the President has the due diligence to handle situation. This type of situation has happened before and we cannot allow this. We have a good relationship with SOTS and we don't want to lose it. The Board supports President Chris Prue.

Brian Smith (Norwalk) will be resigning as Treasurer as of Jan. 1. Peter Gostin (New Britain) will resign as Deputy Treasurer and the new person will become the Deputy Treasurer till Jan. 1 and move up to the Treasurer position. Peter Gostin will take a position on the audit committee. The announcement will be made next month.

Chris Prue (Vernon) along with Stuart Wells (Norwalk) and Essie Labrot (Former West Hartford Town Clerk) will become the new Bridgeport Monitors. Annalisa Stravato (Wilton) has been made aware of the position. Essie will handle election day so Chris Prue and Stuart Wells can do their duties as Registrars.

Peter Gostin (New Britain) brought up the error in the budget for the Conference Chair stipend in the budget. Jeff Rogers (Montville) motioned to correct the typo error. Darlene Burrell(Suffield) seconded the motioned. The vote was unanimous and Chris Prue(Vernon) will send out the wording.

VII. Jeff Rogers (Montville) motioned to adjourn at 11:21. Purnell Hamilton (Woodbridge) seconded the motion. It was unanimous.

Next meeting will be June 13, 2024 in Newington.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sue W. Larsen
ROVAC Secretary*