

ROVAC – LITCHFIELD COUNTY GROUP

Meeting Minutes Goshen Community Center, Goshen Ct Monday, February 26, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Blackburn, Karen Martin & Lila Tuxbury of Barkhamsted; Christine Reisel & Karen Pfluger of Bethlehem; Denise Valeri of Bridgewater; Susan Kelsey of Canaan Falls Village; Sherri Gray and Karen O'Dell of Colebrook; Nanci Joan Howard and Dawn Wilkes of Goshen; Karen Chase, Therese Duncan & Sal Stephen of Kent; Barbara Putnam, James Duncan & Lynette Kyasky of Litchfield; Saquana Seltzer & Catherine Farmer-McCann of New Hartford; Debra Brown, Barbara Galvin (Vice-Chair), Julie Gianesini Flammia & Cathleen Paskus of Plymouth; Jenny Law of Salisbury; Patricia Chamberlain, Barbara Coords & Marel Rogers of Sharon; Lydia Kalat & Joyce Pichette of Thomaston; Melissa Russell, Fred Jury & Jacques Williams of Torrington; Rick Valine of Warren; Cindy Blanchard & Christine Shields of Watertown; Lisa Amatruda (Chair), Rose Manzi-Platt, Daniel Lonigan & Kathy Doyle of Woodbury.

Call to Order: Chairman Amatruda called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. Supper was delayed as the turnout was greater than expected and a call was made for additional food. She asked if members were ok with starting the meeting portion and then taking a break when food arrives. All agreed.

Minutes: Chairman Amatruda asked if there were any corrections or additions to the November 13, 2023 minutes. There were none. She asked for a motion of approval as written. Motion made by Patricia Chamberlain of Sharon and seconded by Dawn Wilkes of Goshen. Vote was Unanimous.

Chairman's Update: Chairman Amatruda indicated there were two resignations since the last meeting – Board Secretary and Board Treasurer. She asked if any member present was interested in assuming one of the positions. Dawn Wilkes of Goshen agreed to serve as Secretary. No one came forward as Treasurer. She asked members to consider it and let her know.

Old Business

Dues: Chairman Amatruda raised the matter of dues. The members agreed at the November meeting to assess annual dues of \$25.00 per town. In hindsight she shared that it probably should have been \$25.00 per registrar (including the deputy). She asked for feedback from the membership. Suggestions included having a meeting without a meal; pot-luck supper; bringing a sandwich or increasing the dues to \$50.00 for the year. A few members felt the increase to \$50.00 was too much for a Town on top of the other dues (ROVAC). Other members felt it was reasonable. After discussion ended, the Chairman called for a motion.

Motion was made by Debra Brown of Plymouth to increase the annual dues to \$50.00 (\$25.00 per Registrar). Motion seconded by Barbara Galvin of Plymouth. Vote was taken by a show of hands. 35 members in favor. 5 members in opposition. Motion Passes.

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COMMITTEES

Committee Membership: Chairman Amatruda indicated that the County still has vacancies on the ROVAC Committees. She felt that it is important to have representation as there is much going on this year. There was a brief description given of each of the committees where a vacancy existed.

Conference: Barbara Galvin

Credentials: Debra Brown, Plymouth, agreed to serve on the Credentials Committee

Education: Therese Duncan, Kent, agreed to serve on the Education Committee

Handbook: Kathy Doyle

Legislative: Lisa Amatruda./Jacques Williams, Torrington, agreed to serve on the Legislative Committee

Nominating: This committee does not have representation. It will be needed in 2025.

Technology: Dan Lonagan/Rose Manzi-Platt

Ways & Means: Christine Reisel, Bethlehem, agreed to serve on Ways & Means Committee.

Chairman Amatruda thanked members for agreeing to serve. She will forward the names to the ROVAC Board of Directors and the respective ROVAC Committee chairmen.

Committee Updates: Members on the various committees provided updates.

Conference: Barbara Galvin shared that she had not heard from the Conference Chairman so there was no update.

Credentials: None, committee vacancy just filled

Education: None, committee vacancy just filled

Handbook: Kathy Doyle shared that she had been assigned Chapter 12 – Primaries in the ROVAC Handbook. She received feedback and was working on the changes to resubmit to Committee Chairman Darlene Burrell. She asked members for any comments or suggestions for the ROVAC Handbook and she would forward them to the committee.

Legislative: Lisa Amatruda. – Chairman Amatruda shared the committee meets a few times a month. There are bills with minimal impact unlike last year's session. SOTS will be making a submission but it has not been received by the legislature.

Nominating: This committee does not have representation. It will be needed in 2025.

Technology: Dan Lonagan/Rose Manzi-Platt: Dan reported the Technology committee has not met for a few months. The committee chairman, Lisbeth Becker, reported that there is committee representation participating in the testing of the new CVRS/EMS system. There was a mock election conducted to ensure the new system met the statutes and CT requirements. Testing and Training on the current CVRS/EMS module will be held in the next two weeks.

Sherri Gray from Colebrook raised a concern about the label printers to be used for EV. It was shared that an email sent out today by SOTS indicated that the printer suggestion is DYMO 550. It is not required to be used. Group interest in confirming it can be used with the new CVRS Software program.

Ways & Means: Christine Reisel, Bethlehem, agreed to serve on Ways & Means Committee.

At this point, there was a short dinner break.

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New Business

One member congratulated Canaan/Falls Village for having the Town highest voter turnout at the November 2023 election.

Early Voting Discussions/Sharing. Chairman Amatruda opened the meeting up for fellow Registrars to share their plans and/or concerns about Early Voting. By a show of hands, many of the Towns had submitted their plans but not heard back from SOTS. Members shared how they were going to handle the check in process. It was understood that CVRS had to be online and running during the Early Voting Period. There was a discussion of when the voter list is produced for EV and when is it needed. One member shared that they were going to use different color highlighters for each day of EV. Another was going to use different color pens.

With respect to identifying the ballot as being for the Democratic Party or Republican Party, one Town is going to have a “D” ballot box and an “R” ballot box. Another town was going to mark the envelope with a “D” or “R”. Another town is going to mark the book with the EV and the date when the voter came.

With respect to CVRS, one member suggested talking to neighboring towns to have a backup plan if CVRS goes down for an extended period. Their suggestion was to call another town, see if their system is up and ask to use their system to update CVRS so the information gets updated daily. Members also reaffirmed the need to keep a paper list to check off voters.

County Scholarships Chairman Amatruda shared that there are two scholarships available per county for high school students and older furthering their education. Nomination forms will be on ROVAC website. There are two scholarships, \$400.00 each, per county.

Issues of Concern: One member asked if anyone had been taking the ROV certification program and could share how to print out the slide presentation. It was shared that the icon can be found on the bottom of the home page.

Another member raised a question that came up on the moderator exam. The question is - What is the one item the Checker does not have at their work station? Reply is the inactive list. A discussion followed as some towns do allow the inactive list to be in the Checker book. The voter is referred to the AROV to complete a registration card before being allowed to vote.

Next Meeting: Chairman Amatruda asked members when they would like to have the next meeting. The general agreement was sometime in May. She then asked if someone would like to host the meeting. There was no response. She asked members to consider serving as host and let her know. If no one is able to host, Woodbury is willing to do it.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 @6:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m

Respectfully submitted subject to membership approval,

Kathy Doyle

Kathy Doyle, acting clerk/Town of Woodbury – Deputy ROV

Minutes Approved unanimously on Sept 10th 2024.