

ROVAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2025

Meeting was called to order by President Chris Prue (Vernon) at 10:00 am.

Members: Chris Prue (Vernon), Annalisa Stravato (Wilton), Karen Birck (Wilton), Sue Larsen (So. Windsor), 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 Shaher (South Windsor), Frank McGarry (Thompson)

Guests – Theresa Avey, Kristen Lamber

Highlighted in yellow are those in attendance.

- I. Minutes: **A motion to accept the minutes of 12/14/24 was made by Jeff Rogers (Montville), seconded by Pennell Hamilton (Woodbridge). Annalisa Stravato (Wilton) abstained. The motion passed.**
- II. Treasurer's Report: Peter Gostin (New Britain) said Brian Smith (Norwalk) sent out his final report as treasurer. Notices had been sent out to those towns still owing on the fall conference and for any outstanding dues.

Everything has been turned over to Frank McGarry (Thompson).

Judi Beaudreau's daughter, Darci, sent in \$1000 for her mother's scholarship. MASCO will double.

All IRS notices will now go to Frank McGarry (Thompson).

III. County Reports

Fairfield – Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) reported they will hold a zoom meeting on the 27th. The meeting will center on legislation. Sue Larsen (South Windsor) will be guest speaker as legislative chair.

Hartford County – Darlene Burrell (Suffield) reported Hartford County met on January 14th. Sydney Garrison and Lindsey Seti from Sullivan & LeShane were the guest speakers.

Litchfield County – Lisa Amatruda (Woodbury) reported they met last week. There were 29 members in attendance. They updated the website and filled all vacancies. They also reviewed the schedule for the rest of the year.

Middlesex County- Tracey Ohaus (Chester) no report

New Haven – Pennell Hamilton (Woodbridge) reported they will meet on February 25th. The Deputy Secretary will be one of the speakers. Sue Larsen (South Windsor) will attend to speak on Legislation. The group discussed early voting.

New London – Jeff Rogers (Montville) reported they met in January. Barbara Konow (Franklin) reported on the education committee. Discussion on the issues with the hotel were discussed. The Deputy Secretary will be the guest speaker on February 20th. There is a vacancy on the legislative committee. Joyce Melgy is no longer an ROV and has resigned as secretary.

Tolland – Christine Psathas (Willington) said they met yesterday with 25 members in attendance. There are 7 new Registrars in the group. Most of the meeting was on general concerns.

Windham County – Lauren Olson (Ashford) reported their meeting was postponed till next week.

IV. Committee Reports:

- *Conference Committee – Lauren Olson (Ashford) reported all the rooms were sold out. The food menu will be decided next week. Make sure all conference payments are sent to Frank McGarry (Thompson)*
- *Education Committee – Barbara Konow (Franklin) said their classes are all set. SOTS will do their own presentations and ES&S will do a presentation on SOTS day.*
- *Handbook Committee- Darlene Burrell (Suffield)- reported 8 -12 members have been showing up. Voter registration, Early voting, Referenda and recanvass sections have been redone. CVRS and tabulator sections were skipped for now.*
- *Legislative Committee: Sue Larsen (South Windsor) reported the committee has been meeting every week. There were meetings with SOTS, Rep. Blumenthal and the GOP Ranking members. All were given the priority list from the committee. Reception was good. Anything we cannot get to come out of GAE will be attempted through the implementer bill.*
- *Technology Committee – Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury) reported they will meet the end of February. Dates should be coming for training by Know00ink. The project manager left and we are waiting on a replacement. ES&S will be taking back some of the tabulators. Glastonbury will be losing 5. Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) expressed concern over GEO coding the new system. There are many invalid addresses and this is a major concern.*
- *Ways & Means – Christy Shaher (South Windsor) reported she has reached out to all the members of the committee to make sure the county baskets are ready.*

IV. Old Business:

Chris Prue (Vernon) said he will be sending out an email on the Judi Beaudreau Scholarship and the April Conference.

Peter Gostin (New Britain) reported that Lou Decilio (Stratford) wanted to know the tax status for the hotel and Amazon. He believed we may be paying taxes when we don't need to. Chris Prue (Vernon) responded that we did not pay taxes on the hotel and the final invoice will reflect that. Some of Amazon does have taxes since individuals place the order so that it can be expedited.

A reminder that all reports for the annual meeting are due March 13th. No report and you will be giving the report in person.

V. New Business

A concern by the nominating committee was brought up. All 3 members are term limited out and we need a bylaw change so that it can be rotating. Possibly staggering a 1 year, 2 year and 3 yr term. This committee needs some continuity.

Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) asked if the ES&S contract could be put on the ROVAC website. Chris will forward it

Lisa Armutruda (Woodbury) expressed concern over the dates for the fall conference. It interferes with September primaries.

We lost money on the conference last year so we are going up to \$430 per person for the 3 days, No choice in the matter, we had to go up.

Annalisa Stravato (Wilton) wanted to know if we are locked into the ES&S quantity of tabulators. She expressed the concern over absentee balloting with no excuse.

The preliminary budget will be going up 2 – 3 %. Website costs and the lobbyist contract are the major contributors. Fred DeCaro (Greenwich) would like to see the budget developed with the conferences separated from the operating expenses. Dues should go up. Consensus is that we do the split budget.

Is Frank McGarry (Thompson) set up on the Portal? Chris Prue (Vernon) did it.

Frank McGarry (Thompson) brought up a few issues. All bank paperwork must now be signed in the presence of a bank officer. The hotel would not talk to him because he is not listed on the account. He has concerns over the limit of the credit card not being high enough.

Jeff Rogers (Montville) expressed his concern over the increase from \$250 to \$430 for the conference. He has exceeded his budget. Chris Prue (Vernon) replied that he is paying the same day rate as the fall conference.

Audit report was tabled.

VI. *Other Business:*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.

Next meeting will be March 13 in Newington and then April 7 in Windsor (Mariotte Hotel).

The Board went into Executive session on the topic of nominations. Peter Gostin (New Britain) was asked to attend as Nominating Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sue W. Larsen
ROVAC Secretary*