



ROVAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2015
Newington Town Hall

Members Attending: Melissa Russell, Pete Gostin, Sue Larsen, Suzanne Woodward, Darlene Burrell, Tim DeCarlo, Fred DeCaro, Karen Cheyney, Anne Marie Mastroianni, Lou DeCilio, Kevin McCauley

Non-Members Attending: Sharon Krawiecki, Linda Cultera, Paddi LeShane

Ex-Officio Attending: Tony Esposito

Meeting was called to order by President Melissa Russell at 10:00 am

I. Minutes from last meeting: (April 23, 2015)

Melissa reported that minutes not available as yet to approve and will try to have available at next meeting.

II. Treasurer's Report:

Pete Gostin (w/ input from Sue Larsen) reported that checkbook had a starting balance of \$50,278.60 and with income of \$3,560 and expenses of \$13,673, left us a current balance of \$40,165.60. Expenses breakdown discussed and clarified.

Note: See attached PDF of Financial Report

III. County Reports:

- **Fairfield:**
Fred DeCaro reported no meeting, but via email, unanimous consent of members about who would serve on the various ROVAC committees.

- **Hartford:**
No Report
Note: A meeting was held on June 9th.

- Litchfield:
Anne Marie Mastroianni reported 26 members attended meeting held on June 25th in New Hartford. Certification & legislation discussed. Consensus that members are upset that ERIC reporting was not explained well. Certification presentation scheduled in Goshen on July 22nd.
- Middlesex:
No Report
- New Haven:
No Report
- New London:
No Report
- Tolland:
No Report
- Windham:
Suzanne Woodward reported that a meeting held on June 18th. Same information was discussed as in Litchfield report. Concerns about ERIC reporting and if all ROV offices complied with finishing reports. Melissa shared that Ted gave an informative explanation and wished all members were able to hear it. Discussion ensued on the subject.

IV. Committee Reports:

- Conference:
Melissa reported for Chris Prue, who was unavailable. Melissa is very impressed with Chris and how well he handles the issues that arise with reserving conference sites. Complications arose concerning 2016 Spring Conference logistics and pricing for booking at Marriott in Groton that led to re-negotiation with Cromwell Crowne Plaza. Conference has been reserved there for April 13, 14 & 15 of 2016 with conference fees remaining close to 2015 rates. Chris's negotiation skills has saved ROVAC a lot of money for conference costs by booking Cromwell. The Southbury Crowne Plaza has also given reasonable rates for the fall conference Sept. 10th & 11th.
Discussion ensued on merits of bringing in a legislator, but a consensus determined that it is not a good idea.
- Education :
No report
Meeting scheduled for July 13, 10am – noon in Hartford.

- Technology:
No report
- Handbook:
No Report
- Legislative:
Sue Larsen reported that a wrap-up meeting was held for the season. Governor signed 1051 and implementer bill passed. There was discussion of the need for a more cohesive relationship with SOTS – reality vs. fantasy, as Paddi LeShane puts it. Different tone of press release looking as if improvements being made. Look at 1051 implementation implications, ROVAC needs to stay involved in association with SOTS. Paddi commented that Senator Cassano and other legislators are weary of continuing conversation, may not be receptive to her (SOTS). Tim DeCarlo added that if there is a poor handling of this year’s election by any of the ROVAC members to warrant discussion, we’ll continue to battle.
Note: Paddi shared that strategy of Legislative Committee looking this summer to meet with respective state democratic and republican chairs to impress upon them the importance of bi-partisan participation in the election process and contact respective town chairs. Merits of a two registrar system, as compared to one.
- Ways & Means:
Pete reported (as his final duty as outgoing chair) that all was wrapped up from annual conference. The committee did a great job. Goal of \$2000 was surpassed by \$631.47. Raffle prize discussion for fall conference. The merchandise store is cleared out and in continuing, an “online” store is possible. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28th in New Britain. Lou DeCilio is the new chair as vice-president of ROVAC. Still awaiting list of new appointees to committee. Appreciation given to Pete for a job well done.
Note: See attached Word File of Minutes from June 16th meeting.

V. Old Business:

A. Certification update -- Special County Meetings:

Anne Marie Mastoianni reported that a power point presentation is available now on the SEEC site. That info was shared with county chairs to disseminate to respective members. Grumbling among members over mandate. Kevin Ahern is well prepared for the sessions’ questions and answers. Attending sessions are highly recommended. Assumption of 2 hour time frame for sessions. Paddi will attend one of the sessions.

B. By-Laws review:

Appreciation to Sharon Krawiecki for handling this task and keeping cool under pressure at annual meeting. Pete suggested cleaning up Article VIII, Section 1 and discussion ensued. Consensus from Board that Subsection B be reconfigured into

one paragraph. Melissa asked once Board has read thru (with the cleanup) and is comfortable, please submit to her.

VI. New Business:

A. Public Relations - Paddi LeShane

Melissa shared that since our budget for Sullivan & LeShane (SLPR) was increased from \$15,000 to \$18,000, Paddi was here to explain how we are benefitting from the additional \$3,000 which is being earmarked for public relations.

Paddi handed out a strategic communications outline (attached) to review and discuss, which came out of a brainstorming session with SLPR and the Legislative Committee on how best to be proactive in our messaging. Plan for the worst and prepare to respond as a whole. Good to finally get well organized to prepare for and benefit from a systematic approach.

Tim mentioned the inclusion of presidential ballot vs. EDR in 2016 to educate registrars and voting public about the change from past presidential elections to next one as dictated by state statute. A proactive approach is essential in order to reflect professionalism.

A survey may be introduced depending on feedback from board once they have read through the handout more thoroughly.

Note: See attached PDF of handout.

B. Budget Implementer Language – Election Monitors

Melissa introduced and discussion of language ensued.

Language modified from original that Speaker Brendan Sharkey was driving for his regionalization agenda. He wanted separate bill/language from our SB1051.

It's imperative to establish that ROVAC is united.

Discussion ensued on the viability of a ROVAC ethics panel for our members.

9 monitors will be hired with a Mar – Nov time frame. Monitors training prerequisite must have 4-year election cycle field experience and be certified moderators.

Moderator module training errors will be brought to SOTS attention for corrections, as well as moderator and poll worker training manuals.

Question/Answer sheet will most likely be established regarding certification.

C. ROVAC Hard drive – Pete Gostin

Pete explained that a hard drive that is used exclusively for ROVAC is in need of specialized service from IT to retrieve vital financial information. Fees most likely to be attached to that service.

Motion made by Anne Marie Mastroianni and seconded by Suzanne Woodward to have retrieval service done and fees associated capped at \$1,000. Motion was unanimously approved.

D. Deputy Treasurer – Pete Gostin

Pete motioned to nominate Sue Larsen as Deputy Treasurer and seconded by Kevin McCauley. Motion was unanimously approved.

E. ROVAC Dues – Pete Gostin

Discussion of eligibility of members-in-good standing will be clarified. Stress time frames of when payments are due to be eligible to vote at conferences, etc.

F. Conference Information

Melissa assured board that reservation details for the September 10 & 11 fall conference at the Southbury Crowne Plaza will be sent out very soon.

G. Miscellaneous

Discussion on FOIA restrictions of releasing voter information. Consensus that voter files are public information and may be given out. “May” being the operative word. Discussion on legality of multi-town, multi-state property owners voting rights. Electors presenting out of state ID at the polling location of their CT home can vote.

VII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Anne Marie Mastroianni at **11:45** am and seconded by Tim DeCarlo.

Approved Unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin McCauley
Secretary