



**ROVAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2018  
CROWNE PLAZA DANBURY**

**Members Attending:** Sue Larsen (S. Windsor), Bonnie Anderson (Cromwell), Tim Beeble (Bethel), Darlene Burrell (Suffield), Tim DeCarlo (Waterbury), Bunny Lescoe (Willimantic), Anne-Marie Mastroianni (Bethlehem), Kevin McCauley (Bristol), Chris Prue (Vernon), Dianne Slopak (Norwich) & Mike Wyman (Tolland).

**Ex-Officio Member Attending:** Melissa Russell (Bethlehem)

**Non-Voting Members Attending:** Lisbeth Becker (Glastonbury)

**Guests:** Fred DeCaro (Greenwich)

Meeting was called to order by President Sue Larsen at 4:02 PM

**I. Minutes from last Meeting:** (August 2, 2018)

Tim B. moved to accept minutes as amended for August 2, 2018 / Anne-Marie M. seconded.  
Minutes approved.

(0) Abstention(s):

**II. Treasurer's Report:**

Peter G emailed the Board financial reports that reflect the ROVAC checkbook as of August 1, 2018 had a starting balance of \$69,039.03 and with income of \$23,385.00 and expenses of \$1,093.00, left us a current balance of \$91,331.03.

Total outstanding checks: \$250.00 Check #845 – Griffin Cox (JB Scholarship)

Standing Balance: \$91,581.03.

Judi Beaudreau Scholarship Fund balance: \$505.60.

Conference Checking Account: Starting Balance of \$1,704.39, with balance income / transfers of \$300.00 and expenses of \$645.14, left a balance of \$1,359.25.

ROVAC Treasurer's Fiscal Year Report for July1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 was reviewed.

Reports placed on file for auditors.

### III. County Reports:

- **Fairfield:** Tim B. reported that he'll try to schedule a meeting before election, but most likely will be after.
- **Hartford:** Darlene B. reported meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 20 after Conference classes are done.
- **Litchfield:** No Report
- **Middlesex:** No Report
- **New Haven:** No Report
- **New London:** Dianne S. reported meeting August 16<sup>th</sup> and Sue L. attended. Primary discussed. Impressed with REM JoAnn Merolla-Martin, as she has been very good in her role. Bill Giesing recognized for his tenure as County Chair. October 18<sup>th</sup> is next meeting and will discuss Provisional and Challenged Ballots. New London County will continue to meet every month.
- **Tolland:** Mike W. reported a potluck dinner meeting held in August and next scheduled for Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Will focus discussion on upcoming election. Eight local Charter Revision and the two State Constitutional questions will be on Tolland's ballot.
- **Windham:** Bunny L. reported a potluck dinner meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> in Hampton. Upcoming election, EDR, Provisional Ballots, etc. will be discussed. One local question and the two State Constitutional questions (for a total of 3) will be on Willimantic's ballot. A budget referendum is also scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> in Willimantic.

### IV. Committee Reports:

- **Conference:** Chris P. reported several items needing to be addressed, including logistical issues that are clearing up and safety issues that will be addressed (only one elevator working properly). Attendance lower than normal, although with 31 tables of 10 for a total of 310 seats in the main venue, the Crowne Plaza of Danbury couldn't accommodate many more. There are 285 Registered for Thursday and 304 for Friday, although there may be some additional attending that didn't complete the registration process properly.

Withdrawal / Refund / Credit requests for Conference(s):

1. Registrar Anne Schwaikert (Woodbury) is having health issues and her Deputy, Bob Clarke resigned, so is asking us to allow two replacements from Woodbury. They have been processed by Chris P. already – No Action.
2. Registrar Alice Kelly (Cromwell) has family medical issue and cannot attend. Chris P. motioned and Anne-Marie M. seconded to refund Cromwell for Alice Kelly. Motioned Passed.
3. Registrar Jan Larsen (Monroe) injured himself and cannot attend. Kevin M. motioned and Bonnie A. seconded to refund Monroe for Jan Larsen. Motion Passed.

The discussion moved to Spring Conference 2019 and Chris P. explained logistical difficulties with competing potential site locations, pricing, accommodations, etc. Discussion ensued. Mohegan will not be considered for 2019, but will re-consider for 2020. Cromwell Red Lion Hotel (formerly the Crowne Plaza Cromwell) has the best package at this time to consider. Multi-million dollar renovations are planned to be complete prior to an April conference and rooms will remain \$94/Night for the ROVAC group rate and another option added to the reservations is a \$10 upcharge to be upgraded to a room with a microwave and refrigerator for \$104/Night. Because of Easter Holiday scheduling, the only practical options ROVAC has will be to schedule a Monday – Wednesday conference on the dates of April 15 – 17, 2019. Good Friday is on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Bonnie A. motioned and Darlene B. seconded to contract with Red Lion Hotel for April 15, 16 & 17, 2019 for our spring conference. Motion Passed.

Chris P. will be working diligently to secure a location for our fall 2019 conference.

- **Education:** Melissa R. expressed concern for the difficulty in finding qualified presenters for conferences. Suggests establishing a bank of potential and qualified presenters that we can draw from to complete our agendas. Wednesday's agenda includes Tim D. starting with EDR prep, then will move to an adjacent conference room to teach an abbreviated new registrar class while Chris P. reviews my.rovac.org & ROVAC website navigation, followed by Sue L. with CVRS Reminders Page (DMV, Tumbleweed, etc.). Facebook and Instagram media blasts from SOTS to register to vote may bring more than normal volumes of online applicants. CVRS issues with new password system is shutting many users out and hoping to address this with SOTS to make the process to get back in to be more manageable. Our guest speaker will be Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman. Melissa R. will lead an afternoon round-table discussion on a variety of issues after lunch, concentrating on elections. The Committee will be moving quickly to work on Spring Conference agendas. Hope to have more in-person meetings. Please refer any interested candidates for presenters and presentations to Melissa R. and the Education Committee. They will try to pair up on presenters. Darlene B. has offered to conduct a Moderator Re-Certification Class for Registrars only for the Spring Conference.
- **Technology:** No Report
- **Handbook:** Darlene B. reported that the committee is waiting for EMS information to add steps to handbook to help simplify. Once election is over, will work on updates.
- **Legislative:** Tim D. reported meeting in August to start formulating the legislative survey that will be handed out to registrars only at this conference. An October meeting will be scheduled to review and formulate the survey results.
- **Ways & Means:** Sue L. reported for Lou D. that there will be 3 baskets & a money/lottery tree raffle, along with a 50/50 at this conference. From here forward, all monies received from raffles will be for the Judy Beaudreau Fund.

## **V. Old Business:**

- **SOTS Candidate Invites** – Melissa R. expressed here opposition to inviting candidates to a conference function, especially without consulting with the Conference Committee first, as she feels that the Committee should be the authority over these kind of decisions. She feels that these conferences are not supposed to be political and this crosses that line. She asked that, in the future, items such as this be added to the official agenda of the board meeting and not brought to the table to discuss. She did not have the opportunity to discuss her view points because she could not attend the last board meeting and would have voted no in advance. Sue L. disagreed with her position and felt the Board had the authority to make a decision on inviting candidates to our hospitality gathering.

## **VI. New Business:**

- **EMS Reporting** – Darlene B. asked about reporting practices with hardcopies scanned and emailed. In some towns, the Town/City Clerk is completing this. Breakdown of involvement is 20% registrars, 70% clerks and the rest (10%) is the head moderator. Not definitive if the email of the scanned report is correct, although this method seems to have been accepted by some towns. The State Statute rule does say that hardcopies must be received within 48 hours of election from post office or hand-delivered.
- **REMs** – Anne-Marie M. asked that ROVAC consider restricting attendance of REMs to county meetings and conferences. Would like ROVAC to take a stronger position on this issue. REM's are becoming a distraction or deterrent to open dialogue at these venues. We should be more exclusive. Discussion ensued.
- **Maintaining / Continuing Education** – Dianne S. questioned actual hours required for continuing education and was told that 8 hours is the official number. Between SOTS and conference classes, we will reach that minimal requirement.
- **DMV Issues Reporting** – Fred D. (Greenwich) asked where or who he should direct issues experienced with DMV. The answer is the Technology Committee, who is actively pursuing meetings and communication with DMV to address some issues (ie; Non-citizens being processed at DMV and being sent to us to complete registration). DMV has made some changes that were not communicated to us or through SOTS. Opting out option no longer being used and is creating problems on our end that needs to be addressed. Form that is given at DMV is confusing to those trying to fill out.
- **Overseas Ballot Time** – Tim B. brought up an issue with some town/city clerks' interpreting status of FPCA applicants when deciphering which box was checked off. When any of the top 3 boxes are checked, they get registered, but any of the other boxes, they just get the ballot. However, the Town Clerk in Bethel is requesting all applicants, regardless of what was checked off, be registered in order to send them a ballot. That is incorrect. SOTS should be communicating same interpretation to clerks as with registrars.

- **Electronic Petitions Received** – Darlene B. discussed receiving electronic petitions with no signatures for a Board of Education race. She was asked via email to verify status of how many names were qualified, but explained that none were because there were no signatures to make it legitimate. Consensus concurs with Darlene’s position.

**VII. Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn made by Anne-Marie M. and seconded by Mike W. at 5:23 PM.  
Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin McCauley  
Secretary