

PROCEEDINGS

BOARD OF ELECTIONS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD

August 10, 2000

Present: Richard L. Coss, President
Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member
Dorothy M. Waters, Republican Alternate
Roger Schlossberg, Board Attorney
Kaye E. Robucci, Deputy Director I
Sharon C. Mackereth, Election Registrar

Richard L. Coss called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. Charles Mobley, Jr., Republican Member, James Sprecher, Democratic Alternate and Dorothy M. Kaetzel, Election Director II, were absent.

MINUTES: Marianne Schneider motioned and Dorothy Waters seconded that the minutes of July 11, 2000 meeting be approved as submitted. All were in favor.

Richard expresses thanks to Marianne Schneider and Jim Mobley for picking up the voter registrations from the MVA in his absence.

CORRESPONDENCE: Kaye informed the board of the loss of Sam Sessa, Board President of Kent County, and Helen Cassidy, the mother of Lolly Fales, of Baltimore City. Condolences have been sent from our county.

The Board went over the memo from Linda Lamone regarding the MAEO 2000 Conference Follow-Up, as a review.

The election office received a listing of candidates from the state office, showing the 2000 General Election candidates that will be on the ballot. More updates will be coming after scheduled deadlines. The local contest of School Board will also be on our ballot.

Kaye brought to the Board's attention that the Green Party has been established and they will have a presidential candidate on the general ballot.

The State Board of Elections minutes were discussed, reviewing the following items –

- Introduction of the newest state board member, Gilles Burger. Mr. Burger was at the MAEO meeting in June 2000.
- Only one response was received by the state for certification of new voting machines, we believe that one was ES & S.
- We questioned - What is meant by election results reporting down to the precinct level? Does this mean modem hook-up directly from the actual polling place to the election office? Kaye will be going to the Directors Meeting on August 10, 2000 and she will find out more information about this.

- Statewide Duplicate Checking was discussed and Kaye mentioned that a check, done by the state, resulted in a duplicate count of 22,000 possible – statewide. Kaye did a duplicate check here using Birth date, first name and resident address as criteria for checking and came up with 60 possible duplicates. These were mostly, women who had changed their last names.
- The tactile ballot overlay system was voted down. The vendors will have to develop something that is acceptable by the visually impaired community.
- The final two sections of the Code are being drafted (.13 Campaign Finance and .15 Precincts and Polling Places).

A sample the new MAEO Newsletter was reviewed. Our local office had discussed the possibility of doing something like this locally and distribute to the different county offices.

A copy of the minutes from the Regulations Procedures Meeting was reviewed. Comment was made to the prioritizing of regulations and the revising of the MVA change form. A sample of the change form was shown to the board. MAEO feels the proposed effective date should be after the general election and that the wording on the form is too “wordy” and needs to be changed. This board and staff concur.

A letter from the Office of the Attorney General to Linda Lamone, regarding the eligibility of inmates confined to Clifton T. Perkins State Hospital, was reviewed. The opinion of the Attorney General is that even though most of the inmates have been found guilty of criminal offenses, they have also been found “not criminally responsible”. Therefore, they have not been “convicted” under a strict construction of that term. But even with that fact in mind, few, if any, inmates are under a court-imposed “guardianship” for mental disability. Thus, they may register and vote. A question arose as to whether this facility is to be considered as a place of residence or do they maintain the place of residence that they possessed before commitment.

State Board of Elections agenda for August 16, 2000 was presented. The Directors Meeting is Thursday, August 10, 2000. Kaye will be attending in Dorothy Kaetzel absence.

OLD BUSINESS: Memo from Donna Duncan regarding removal of local board members was discussed. Dorothy and Kaye researched the records to get a count of actual meetings attended by Jim Sprecher, our Democratic Alternate. It was found that Mr. Sprecher had one more meeting to attend for him to remain on the board. This is the last meeting and Mr. Sprecher is not in attendance.

In reference to the July 11, 2000 Board Meeting, after some discussion on this matter, Jim Mobley made a motion that in accordance with MD State Government Code, Section 8-501; a letter will be sent to Governor Glendening, Jim Sprecher and Rick Hemphill stating that Jim Sprecher has been considered to have resigned.

The Governor is the only one who can remove a board member for nonattendance. The Board should go forth with the motion to have Mr. Sprecher replaced. We have a major election coming up and we need that fifth board member. Roger has talked with Rick Hemphill, Democratic Central Committee, about having Mr. Sprecher resign his position on our board. Richard has talked with Jim also, and requested his resignation, since he has no desire to participate on the Election Board. If Mr. Sprecher would resign it would speed up the process of getting a replacement before the General Election. Roger offered to draft a letter for us. He will give Rick Hemphill 7 days to get back, with Jim's decision.

The question is when will the Governor appoint a new board member. Roger said appointments are made on the calendar year or after January 1, 2001. Will we get a new member before the election or not until January 15, 2001?

The office picnic is set for August 28, 2000, at 6:00 pm, at the Elks Picnic grounds on the Greencastle Pike.

Roger presented a synopsis of the process of revising the code – starting with the early version of law books that was revised in the 1970's to about 20 volumes that is known as Maryland Commercial Law, covering things such as State Procurement (invitations to bid on jobs) to Election Laws. Other sources of election laws that are periodically revised are COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations) and the Maryland Register. We do have a copy of COMAR in our office and get yearly revisions and additions. Roger suggested that we also have a copy of the Maryland Register on hand.

See
Addendum A
9-12-00

NEW BUSINESS: Dorothy and Kaye have been working on getting the process of the Sample Ballot underway. We have received several quotes on the printing of the sample ballot and examples of different formats. Dorothy has budgeted \$15,000 for this process. The quote is for 68,000 copies and the lowest bid came from Cumberland Time News for \$2,895 – postage not included. This will be discussed more at the Directors Meeting on Thursday. Richard suggested having the words "SAMPLE BALLOT" printed across the front of the ballot to keep voters from thinking that this is the actual ballot.

Marianne Schneider made a motion to tentatively accept the bid from Cumberland Time News, pending the States approval and Dorothy Waters second the motion. All were in favor.

The date of the Logic and Accuracy and Public Testing is October 25, 2000 at 8:00 AM, we feel this process should go quickly and be finished by noon.

Dorothy Waters made a motion and Marianne Schneider second to adjourn the meeting at 3:12 PM.

The next Board meeting will be held September 12, 2000.

Respectfully

Sharon C. Mackereth

