

PROCEEDINGS

**BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS
FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
JULY 9, 1996**

Present: Richard L. Coss, President
Daris Phillips, Democrat Member
Dorothy M. Waters, Republican Alternate
Mark Brugh, Attorney
Dorothy M. Kaetzel, Election Director II
Sharon C. Mackereth, Election Registrar

Richard called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. In the absence of Charles L. Mobley, Jr., Dorothy M. Waters sat in. Roger Schlossberg, Democrat Alternate, was absent.

MINUTES: Dot motioned and Richard seconded but with one correction, the date should be June 11, 1996. The I's approved and the minutes were submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE: Memo from Ed Koogle, regarding High School registration. The individual schools will do the registration of those students old enough to vote in the November 5, 1996, General Election. The Election Board staff will do the registration of all remaining students after the November election. Mr. Koogle has asked the schools to assist us in getting these students registered.

Mark's letter to Tydings & Rosenberg, the attorneys working with the accessibility of our voting system to visually impaired voters. Mark informed us that he is sure we will be hearing more regarding the accessibility of voting systems for the blind or visually impaired.

Roger Schlossberg, Democrat Alternate, joined the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Memo from Gene M. Raynor, SABEL, dated June 13, 1996 regarding the 1997 Legislative Proposals, in which SABEL is requesting any suggestions for Article 33 be submitted to them by Monday, July 29, 1996. Dorothy stated that MAED will do what we decided at the annual meeting in June, 1996. Memo from Gene Raynor, SABEL, dated July 8, 1996 stating that SABEL will review the proposals at the July 24, 1996 SABEL Board Meeting. The deadline for suggestions from local boards is changed to July 19th. We do not have any suggestions at this time.

Constitutional Amendments and Local Referendum Questions was discussed at this time. Six (6) questions (2 from 1995 and 4 from 1996 Legislative Sessions) will appear on our ballot in the General Election. Dorothy has ordered copies of the list of questions with a description of each.

A letter from Helen L. Koss to Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools regarding students working as Election Judges for Student Service Hours. Dr. Grasmick's letter to Ms. Koss stated that it is up to the local school boards to oversee how the students fulfill the required hours. We received a letter from Julian R. Manelli, SABEL, telling us that we could pursue this further with our local Board of Education. Richard suggested that we do take this up with the School Board at the right time.

Memo from Committee on Election Judge Uniformity received and Dorothy informed us that she sent them a note that we are in agreement with all proposals. Attention was called to the fact that Washington County is one of the lowest paid counties. The Board agreed that the pay increase probably will not pass because it would be an Unfunded Mandate, and a hardship on smaller counties. The Board does agree with the pay for Substitute Judges (\$35.00), being on call up to 1:00 p.m. on election day. If the increases do pass the extra expenses for mileage (picking up supplies and travel) will no longer be given.

Memo from Helen L. Koss, SABEL, regarding cleaning of voter rolls, and Ms. Koss's suggestion as to how this should be done. Dorothy stated that it is too late to do any cleaning this year, because it would have to be done before August 6, 1996, and the Board agreed. We have not done anything to clean voter rolls this year (purging for FTV is no longer done). We will start something after the General Election.

Letter from Gene M. Raynor, SABEL, to Mr. Frederick W. Puddester, Department of Budget and Management, regarding Retirement Packages was discussed. Because of the General Election in November, losing employees, at this time, would pose a serious problem.

Letters from Tom Surock, SABEL, regarding compensation to State employees for travel and expenses was brought to the Board's attention. The county does not honor these reimbursement rules. Dorothy informed Tom Surock, SABEL, of this and Tom sent a letter to Debbie Bastian, Director of Finance, Washington County, stating the Election Board employees are considered MD State employees and are governed by these rules and regulations. Mark thinks the county will pay the amounts stated in Tom's letter.

OLD BUSINESS: Compensation for Board Members and Attorney tabled for good - no more discussion (maybe a raise to \$450 per election in the future).

Kids Voting Surveys - Daris and Dot have some to do yet, Mark has 4 or 5 to do. Richard and Jim are finished their surveys. No one has had any problems with finding locations for the Kids Voting to set-up at the polling places (hallways are good). Richard feels there might be a problem with Rohrsersville in the future, because it is an old building.

Dot and Daris feel that if there are no complaints from the poll workers or the voters, then they should not have to move any place else.

The Board for Kids Voting still needs volunteers and funding.

Richard said they put in the budget an additional \$3,500 for Kids Voting T-shirts for volunteers.

Richard suggested Service Credit for students working in Kids Voting.

Roger asked if the CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee) was active in these schools. If so, maybe they could be of some help. The CAC is separate from the P.T.A.

Mark asked if candidates could campaign in schools to students before election day, as a way to get to adult voters. The general feeling was this would be up to the School Board to decide.

Dorothy stated that she was under the impression that different businesses would adopt a polling place, man and fund it.

Some of the Topics from MAEO meeting were discussed at this time.

Regarding the issue of making voting accessible to the visually impaired, Mark stated that this is not a clean issue because it is not included under the laws of the American Disabilities Act. It will be taken up in court. What they will do is go to some local court (as they did in Texas) and try to get it passed and the Attorney General will handle it. We will use whatever the State issues.

The topic of the Board Members Duties was discussed next.

Two Board Members should be here at all times during election day to issue Temporary Certificates. Mark thinks we should do this in case someone should try to question the procedures. Board Members, in this county, have never done this before. This is something that cannot be delegated by the Board. Dot asked if maybe the Temporary Certificate is being used for something other than what we do. Dorothy is going to contact someone to see if it is necessary for the Board Members to do this. Mark found it in the law book, Article 33, Section 3-15(a), that it is the responsibility of the Board Members to issue Temporary Certificates.

Dorothy informed the Board that at the MAEO meeting Bob Antonetti said he would get the Boards a copy of the Training Manual used by the MVA in training employees who do voter registration. Richard said that he does not see this as our problem and that we should not tell them how to do their jobs. It is SABEL's responsibility. Bob Antonetti wants SABEL to check with MVA about any problems there might be. Richard feels that the best way is to establish a friendship with one person in order to get required work done correctly.

Richard wanted to take this time to thank Doris James for working in the office by herself when we were away at the MAEO meeting. Thank you note will be sent.

Dorothy informed the Board that the Budget for 1997 is final. We had funds from two items removed - 413 Temporary Wages (\$6660) and 524 Contractual Services (\$5558), but we have no problems with this because these were items that we knew we might lose.

NEW BUSINESS: Dorothy informed the Board of the letter being sent to registered Democrat voters by the Maryland Republican Party. This office has been contacted by voters who were upset about their party being known. Dorothy contacted Rudy Manelli, SABEL, about this and he turned it over to Joe Torre. Dorothy sent a copy of the letter to Joe and he was going to consult Mary Lunden, AG's office. Roger consulted with someone and was told that this was a legitimate use of voter rolls for campaigning. This is legal and proper use of partisan politics. These forms are being used to change the party and if necessary update addresses. In the meantime, we are still getting complaints from voters. Richard stated that this is not an issue we should get involved with. All we do is keep the records.

At this time, August 12, 1996, at 6:00 p.m. is an acceptable date for our picnic. The picnic will be held at the Eagles picnic grounds, same as last year. Mark asked if he could fix chicken breast instead of hot dogs for a few dollars more. We all could chip in. We all agreed.

Roger Schlossberg left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Dorothy contacted John Reynolds, BRC, about taking the ballots to the polling places locked inside the bottom section of the ballot boxes. The pollworkers would remove them in the morning before the election. The Election Office staff tried removing some ballots in this manner and saw no problem with pollworkers removing them. John said, he sees no problem with delivering the ballots, locked inside the OPTECHS.

Dorothy informed the Board that we received the Pockets that would be put on the bottom section of the ballot box for identification. This is for when ballots are left inside the ballot boxes after the election, we will know what district they were from.

The Board was informed that we need seven (7) more voting booths for the next election. Dorothy has been in contact with John Reynolds, BRC, about leasing them. John said we could, at \$40.00 each (\$280.00) for the duration of the contract, paid every year as part of the contract. This amount will change as voting rolls grow.

Richard will be going on vacation and asked if Daris would pick up the registration forms from the MVA, July 22 and July 29, 1996. Daris agreed.

Motion made by Dot and seconded by Daris to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Next meeting will be held August 13, 1996.

Sincerely,



Sharon C. Mackereth
Election Registrar