

## PROCEEDINGS

### **BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY July 13, 1999**

Present: Richard L. Coss, President  
Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member  
Dorothy M. Waters, Republican Alternate  
Roger Schlossberg, Democratic Alternate  
Dorothy M. Kaetzel, Election Director II  
Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Director I

Richard called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM. Charles Mobley, Republican Member, was absent. Dorothy Waters sat in due to his absence.

**MINUTES:** Dot motioned and Marianne seconded that the minutes of the June 8, 1999 meeting be approved as submitted. All were in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Letter from Senator Paul Sarbanes regarding Bill S.511.

Minutes of the State Board Meeting held April 28, 1999 were discussed. The communications line for the new state wide voter registration system has been installed. The Department of Budget and Management is conducting a reclassification study. They visited our office on June 30 and interviewed the staff. The polling place accessibility committee will be developing an ADA compliant survey form for the polling places. A group of individuals qualified to determine ADA compliance will be surveying all polling places by November 2000.

Resolutions from the Maryland Republican State Central Committee were discussed. The Central Committee has decided to allow any voter who is not affiliated with any political party to vote in the 2000 Republican primary. Three National Convention Delegates will be elected from each Congressional District, Seven at-large Delegates will be selected by the State Central Committee and each Delegate will select one Alternate Delegate. Dorothy and Kaye will be attending a meeting on July 23, 1999 at the State Board to discuss the impact of the resolutions.

Letter from Kathleen Hoke Dacheille to Richard Bennett, Chairman Maryland Republican Party, regarding the Republican Primary Election.

The 1999 Legislative Changes were distributed.

Report on the June 17 & 18 meeting of the National Task Force on Election Accessibility. The meeting dealt with S.511 and the adoption of "Preliminary Goals and Principles".

Report on the June 19 meeting of the Joint Election Officials Liaison Committee. This meeting also dealt with S.511. Several concerns were noted: the voting equipment that the vendors are currently developing would only serve the visually impaired voters, the secrecy of the ballot and the cost of complying with S.511.

Report from Linda Lamone regarding the NASED Summer Conference. Each state reported their current and future plans for the election process.

Memo from MAEO regarding the adoption of a resolution acknowledging the commitment and cooperation of election officials to ensure accessibility to the voting process by all voters.

Letter from Linda Lamone to Senator Mikulski regarding the impact and cost of S.511. The cost of replacing all the voting equipment in Maryland would cost over \$80 million.

Memo from Kathleen Hoke Dachille regarding the use of the FPCA to register to vote. In the past we were not allowed to use the FPCA as a registration form but we can now accept them.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Board discussed District 20 (Downsville Ruritan) and District 18-1 (Chewsville Community Center). Dot made a motion to keep the District 20 polling place at the Downsville Ruritan Building through the 2000 Primary and General Elections, and to revisit the issues at that time to determine whether the improvements to the polling place promised by the Ruritan have been satisfactorily completed. Richard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Dot made a motion to continue to use the Chewsville Community Center (District 18-1) as a polling place through the 2000 Primary and General Elections. Marianne seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Roger reported that the voter registration application received from the individual who was convicted and served time in North Carolina may be accepted. The individual had also sent his Certificate of Restoration from the State of North Carolina.

Roger reported on the Attorney's Round Table from the MAEO meetings. They discussed the following items:

- State wide voter registration system - The state will be evaluating each counties' voting system contract.
- Liability Insurance - Who pays for liability insurance for the polling places? According to Article 33, 2-203(2), each county is responsible for all operational expenses related to each polling place, which would include liability insurance. Roger suggested that Dorothy talk with the County and find out if covered. He also suggested that we ask for a rider from the insurance companies to keep on file.
- Freedom of Information Act - Our office has already adopted procedures for requested information.
- Open Meeting Law - Only executive sessions may be closed.

- Substitute Board Members - Discussed the rights of substitute board members to participate in meetings.
- Election Staff - How election staff are treated is not uniform across the state. Our county pays our Workman's Compensation but we carry our own policy.
- Challengers and Watchers - Roger will report on this at the August meeting.
- Political Activity of Board Counsel - The Board Attorney cannot participate in political activities nor run for office.
- Compensation for Board Attorney - Many attorneys submit a bill for their time spent attending board meetings and anything else election related. Roger suggested that Dorothy put \$2,500 in the FY2001 budget for legal fees.

Richard thanked Roger for his willingness to assist with any legal questions over the past several months.

Dorothy will send a letter to Mr. Melvin Hirschman, Attorney Grievance Commission, asking if Mark has filed the application for reinstatement and if he has been reinstated. She will request a response in time for the August 10 Board Meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The office picnic will be held Monday, August 30 at 6:30 PM, at the Elk's Picnic Grounds. Menu will be finalized for the August meeting.

On September 1 & 3 the staff will be attending Excel and Access classes at HCC. Doris and Audrey will work in the office those days.

Directors meeting July 23 in Annapolis. Dorothy and Kaye will attend.

Next meeting August 10, 1999.

Dot made a motion to adjourn at 3:36 PM; Marianne seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kaye E. Robucci

*Kaye E. Robucci*

Election Deputy Director I