

State Administrative Board of Election Laws (SABEL)

Meeting with new Board Members and Substitute Members  
June 25, 1985 - 1:30 P.M.

In House of Delegates Building, Room 140, Committee on Constitutional and Administrative Law (16 of 28 new appointees present)

Chairman James W. Johnson, Baltimore City, welcomed new board members and substitute members. He advised that this was the very first time such a meeting was held and felt it was a good idea and should be continued. Chairman Johnson introduced the speakers.

Marie Gerber, SABEL Administrator advised that SABEL was formed in 1969 and told what SABEL does. She also explained the relationship between SABEL and local boards.

Jack Schwartz, Asst. Attorney General and Counsel to SABEL gave a brief summary of what local board members do. He supplied us with a list of the main duties of Election Board Members as required in Election Code, Article 33 of the Maryland Code.

Carol Evans, SABEL Deputy Administrator introduced each member of the SABEL Staff and gave a description of their duties and responsibilities. It was an All-Woman Staff and she advised that between the 13 members of the SABEL Staff there was 127 years of experience.

Senator Norman Stone, Baltimore County, Chairman, Senate Committee on Economic and Environmental Affairs, discussed the relationship between the legislative committee and executive branch agency.

Delegate Helen Koss, Montgomery County, Chairman, House Committee on Constitutional and Administrative Law, told of the role of local board personnel in formulating and enacting legislation.

In the question and answer period, one question of considerable interest was from Bess Gladhill, new board member from Frederick County. She stated that she was Vice President of a local New Market District Central Committee. She said it was not the Central Committee only a local club. Must she resign? Jack Schwartz, Asst. Attorney General and Counsel to SABEL replied "yes", she must resign. She stated that her local board attorney had discovered an amendment on page 19 of the Registration and Election Laws of Maryland which reads, "This section does not prevent a member of a board of supervisors of elections from being a candidate for or holding an office in a political club". Jack Schwartz will investigate this amendment and we will be hearing from him in our local office.

The question was also asked as to whether a person could be a member of 2 boards, for example, The Zoning Board and the Board of Election Supervisors. We will also be hearing from Jack Schwartz about that question.

All SABEL dignitaries, Staff, guest speakers and new board members adjourned to the SABEL offices across the street at 11 Bladen St. for refreshments and getting acquainted.