

MAEO Board Meeting 11-3-17

The November MAEO board meeting convened in the Howard County LBE on November 3rd. After the preliminaries, Alysoun McLaughlin of the Committee for Modernizing Absentee Ballot Opening Procedures announced that the State Board had approved a regulation preferring a Provisional ballot when a voter has both a Provisional and Absentee ballot submitted. Alysoun also announced that Anthony Gutierrez would become the co-chair of this committee, so that its work might move forward at a brisker pace. The Connect 24 Newsletter made a request that all MAEO members respond to the upcoming survey. The Around the State feature was also announced. Both of these topics are covered in this issue.

The 2018 MAEO Conference was the next topic of discussion. Baltimore City and Worcester County will be the co-hosts. Candi Thomas of MDR Services (conference planning) attended the meeting and gave a little insight into the support she will be providing for the conference. The meal plan was read out, as was a draft agenda. Once again, cybersecurity and crisis management will have prominent places on the program. Proposed breakout session topics include process improvements, age relations in the LBE, a canvass refresher for local board members, post-election audits, and voter outreach. The final agenda will be available on the MAEO website. One further discussion ensued regarding the jackets/hoodies to be distributed to all MAEO members, attending the conference or not. Samples were shown, colors and styles were discussed.

A final topic was introduced, led by Margaret Jurgensen and Dale Livingston, focusing on whether ballot stubs should continue to be used or made optional. They reported on the discussion initially conducted by the SBE Election Judge Committee. A summary document supporting the option of not using ballot stubs is attached. It was made clear that, should the regulation be changed, LBEs would still have the option of using stubs. The pros and cons of using ballot stubs were discussed at some length. Most meeting attendees would likely choose to do away with the stubs and implement other ballot accounting and auditing procedures.