



Connect 24



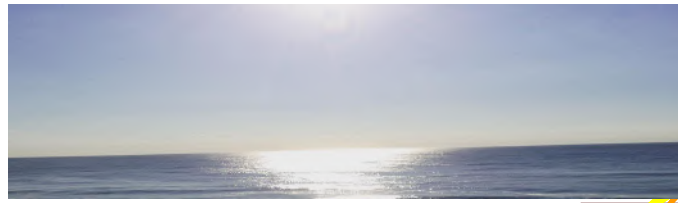
Communicate

Participate

Collaborate

Volume 1 Issue 4

July, 2017



Inside This Issue

- Conference Thoughts2-7
- Smartsheet Input Form.....5
- The NCSL Conference7
- Centerpiece Award8
- Neighbors & Partners9
- Member's Portal9
- New Hire10
- Contributors10



Special thanks to the MAEO Conference Planning Committee for doing an awesome job!!

Random Conference Thoughts from Gail Hatfield

A couple of photos from the conference. We really enjoyed having the photo booth and goofing off with our fellow co-workers. It gave us a chance after a long day of sessions to let our hair down so to speak and enjoy fellowship with each other. This is my favorite time of the conference. To spend time getting to know our election families across the state. What they do, how they do it, what works, what doesn't. There is more knowledge in getting to know each other than anything you can learn in a book!

We also enjoyed a little time on the boardwalk. This gave us some time to stretch our legs and see some of the sights! We even took in the shooting gallery to try our luck! The moon was full that night and it gave me a beautiful photo of the firemen's statue.

As you can see by one of our board members some of the meetings may have run just a little long! LOL

*Gail Hatfield
Calvert County*



Random Thoughts from Ben Frey

Although you're reading this almost two months past the MAEO Conference, I'm putting this down about a week after its conclusion. Thoughts and impressions are still fresh.

From conversations with others, Kim Hodous seems to have made the biggest positive impression. She said up front that there wasn't much in her presentation election-related. She simply moved into what she came to communicate. She had some fascinating life stories to share and really touched and amused her listeners. Her message about communication is applicable to everyone who works with other people, no matter what the project.

People were mighty captivated by Michael Karl, the mentalist who presented "Thinking Outside the Box". His talk also had little to do with elections, but the tricks were amazing and his message about looking at things from a different perspective was well received. As I was chatting with him after his talk, somebody actually came up and asked him how he did the magic. There is value beyond tightly focused topics and instruction.

As Queen Anne's County Sherriff Gary Hofmann said right at the top, who could have predicted just a few years ago that preparing for active shooters would part of our regular and essential election planning regimen. Extraordinarily useful, practical information. Somerset County had police on site during most of our Early Voting – they didn't move on until we had all left the parking lot at the end of every night.

I didn't hear a bad word from anybody about the food. And there was stuff to nosh on at most breaks. Yay for that. Although, I would suggest having coffee available during all the breaks.

The pollbook roundtable was a very useful, well-conceived session. It is a format that we should have at future conferences. I might suggest separating the vendors in the room with portable barriers so the concurrent presentations don't overlap each other as much. It could have been scheduled for an even longer block as there was a great deal of interest and much to cover.

I knew going in that it was seeing and chatting with the election folk from around the state that I was most looking forward to. *Continued on next page...*



Ben Frey cont'd

I got some good pens and notepads and stuff from the vendors. But I didn't see any magnets. I like magnets. Next conference, bring more magnets.

One of the most interesting breakouts for me was the Early Voting and Judges Committee session. Forms! We spent a fair amount of the time on forms. And it was great stuff! This is the nitty-gritty that can get overlooked when we start planning for the next election. Sometimes it takes somebody else's great ideas to spur our own improvements.

Tippy Martinez gave a cool talk about his time with the O's. Any lunchtime speaker, especially one with a rather 'loose' presentation about team-work, is kind of fighting the odds as people eat and relax during a conference break.

Many, many (and many more) thanks are due to the conference 'gang'. The folks from Queen Anne's, Harford and Cecil were on the job and all over the conference. The session organizers and presenters did their utmost to educate and entertain. A lot of veteran vendors *and* many new vendors endured a wearying schedule (15 minutes of throngs on break, hours of sitting around, then another 15 minutes of election masses) to promote their products and find a niche in Maryland. It was great to have the chance to meet so many new contacts and companies. This was an amazing conference and the hard-work from everyone on the team really paid-off.

Ben Frey



Pollbook Roundtable

Attached to the newsletter are the notes compiled by various attendees to the Pollbook Roundtable sessions. The document primarily collects up some of the features and main points made by the various vendors. As we get farther away from the pollbook sessions, this may be useful in recalling the features of the pollbooks presented. Thank you to Paul Noranbrock in Queen Anne's County for managing this session, compiling these notes, and worrying obsessively so that everything came out just right.



MAEO Member Input Webform and Smartsheet

Here at MAEO, we are driven to succeed and one of the key components to success is effective communication. We have developed a platform that provides all members an equal opportunity to easily convey their questions, ideas, and concerns to the various MAEO committees and the Board. The platform has been adopted by the MAEO Board.

It all begins with a webform powered by Smartsheet which acts as a suggestion box.

Simply fill out and submit the webform which is located on the MAEO website in a secure portal. You may contact the following individuals for the password.

Amy Sullivan – (410) 809-6008

Stephanie Taylor – (410) 218-6305

Hassan Aslam – (410) 222-0449

Once you have submitted your suggestion an email notification will be sent to the appropriate committee chairperson and in turn, your submission will be reviewed and addressed at the next scheduled committee meeting. Committees will report on the progress of each entry into the Smartsheet for members to view.

Some of the benefits of implementing such a communication tool include:

All members having an equal voice and viewing rights to the Smartsheet;

Providing committees with various ideas to discuss;

Committees will be more informed on what other committees are addressing and it may initiate crossover projects. For example, if two committees are working on the same topic, they can collaborate and use their time and resources more effectively;

The MAEO Board of Directors and all members can track the progress of each submission; and

Members will be more engaged and this will only make our organization stronger.

Instructions to Chairpersons are simple. You will receive an email notification as soon as a member submits their suggestion. Monthly reports will be sent to the entire committee. The date the report is sent can be tailored to your committee needs. All you need to do is go into the Smartsheet and update the Status, Date Reviewed and Action Taken by Committee columns. Don't forget to save your changes as this will simultaneously update the report and sheet for all to view. Contact Amy Sullivan or Stephanie Taylor for assistance and/or customization with the Smartsheet and reports.

“It takes a village” and this is how we Make All Elections Outstanding.

NOTE: All members can participate in the program as a Smartsheet license is not required to access the webform.

Conference Thoughts by Deborah Hamer

What did you learn? **I learned that anything is possible with focus and perseverance.**

What did you contribute? **I contributed an open mind and a desire to do my part to make elections better**

Who did you meet? **I met several new people from the LBE's and saw many faces of staff that I am familiar with from the LBE's**

Funniest thing that happened? **Both myself and my supervisor bid on baskets of wine in the silent auction and we both won!**

What made this conference stand out for you? **I loved the "Thinking outside of the Box" presentation by Michael Karl. He was amazing and had a lot of wisdom to share.**

*Deborah Hamer
Montgomery County Board of Elections*

MAEO AWARD RECIPIENTS

Robert J. Antonetti, Sr. Award

Joe Torre, Director, Anne Arundel County

Shining Stars

Jennifer Bartholow, Carroll County

Dionne Church, Wicomico County

Kim Jones, Carroll County

Joshua Ramos, Anne Arundel County

Stephanie Taylor, Harford County

Hall of Fame Induction

Guy C. Mickley, Howard County - 2 Time Inductee

Gail Carter, Carroll County

Recognition of Service, Retirement

James Anderson (Charles County) - 15 years

Marjorie Belt (Harford County) - 17 years

Nancy Fleming (Harford County) - 7 years

Susan Lentz (Harford County) - 11 years

Lola Price (Kent County) - 29 years



The NCSL Conference

Frederick County Election Director Stuart Harvey attended the NCSL (National Conference of State Legislators) gathering in Williamsburg, VA this past June. He brought back this report.

The presentation by District 17 (Montgomery County) state senator Cheryl Kagan on clean voter rolls focused on Maryland's "Freedom to Vote" Act, which was an attempt at automatic voter registration at a number of state agencies. The presentation also included Shane Hamlin from ERIC, and state representative Keith Esau from Kansas on the Interstate Crosscheck Program. Mary Wagner of the State Board explained in detail Maryland's list maintenance. It was noted that the Crosscheck program has no way to verify citizenship, whereas ERIC data is examined and scrubbed by

the state before there is an outreach to unregistered voters.

In a presentation on election technical procurement, Stan Ward of the MD legislative staff discussed procurement of MD's current voting system, its costs and implementation, accessibility, and security issues. He also noted the problems in Baltimore during the primary election with implementing a new system. Utah noted that 21 of 29 counties vote by mail.

And, looking back at the 2017 General Assembly session, Stuart reports that the following 'election-centric' bills were passed (for more detailed information, the bill number is linked to the Bill Summary Page on the General Assembly website).

[HB0073](#) - Election Law - Authorizing a minor who is at least 16 years old and who is a registered voter to be appointed and serve as an election judge.

[HB0143](#) - Elections - Repealing a specified duty of a local election director; repealing the requirement that the State Board of Elections print specified forms; changes to other miscellaneous election duties and procedures.

[HB0353](#) - Election Law - Regarding requirements for Public Notices of meetings conducted by SBE or LBEs.

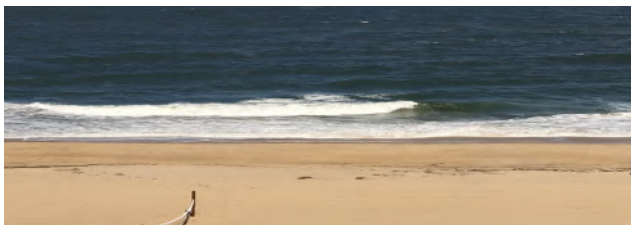
[HB0529](#) - Election Law - Regarding Candidate filing deadlines and 'nomination by petition' procedures.



Conference Thoughts by G. Hendricks & J. Stevens

It has been an interesting conference. The Epollbook breakout was not what I expected even though I got something out of it. I believe that there was a lot of unanswered questions. The guest speakers Kim Hodous and Michael Karl were amazing. You can relate them to elections (Better way to getting the points across to Voters and Election Judges).

Garrick Hendricks
Calvert County



I would like to thank everyone who helped with the election this year. Especially Wayne Burton for getting the scanner ready and getting with Chrissy Jones to make sure it got to the hotel safe and sound. I would also like to thank those who helped with the actual ballots, from checking them in, to opening the envelopes, to scanning the ballots. As usual I cannot pull off these elections every year without those who are willing to volunteer to help.

Thank You,
Jeff Stevens
Baltimore County

And sorry to all those who were disappointed that I did not get Tased! 😊

MAEO Centerpiece Award

The staff at Baltimore County has once again come home with the grand prize in the MAEO “Build a Centerpiece” competition, held in June at the annual MAEO Conference in Ocean City, MD. This year’s theme: **MAEO 2017 Driven to Succeed** was exemplified by Baltimore County’s entry, a trophy quality wooden pedestal that showcased the rich history of MAEO, Maryland’s beaches, and other American/Maryland “classics”!

The dual tiered, solid cedar pedestal was fashioned and hand crafted by former Deputy Director Rena` Waggoner’s husband, Danny. The implementation of the overall design with its various subthemes and highlights was spearheaded by Baltimore County board employee Amanda White who was assisted by David Rhinehart, and Craig Booth.

The central focus of the centerpiece, conceived by a committee of many contributors, was “1964”, a year when two American classics were born... MAEO, the Maryland Association of Election Officials, and the Ford Mustang convertible! Our candy apple red, top down, surf board laden, 1:24 scale Mustang is both race day and beach day ready as it sits positioned in that place it has come to call home...the “Winner’s Circle”!

Surrounding this classic “muscle” car is the “muscle” of the Maryland Election process...1:24 scale, 3D replications of



Baltimore County’s winning centerpiece!

various election equipment crafted and created by David Rhinehart. Dave utilized TinkerCAD, an online 3D Computer Aided Design (CAD) software application and then “printed” the pieces on a New Matter MOD-t 3D printer. Hand painted by Craig and his wife Daylene, the Scanner, BMD, Poll Book, and other election equipment represent the “tools of the trade” in MAEO’s tradition of election excellence!

From crabs to sand dunes, surf boards to sea shells, and beach chairs to umbrellas, the rest of the centerpiece pays homage to the jewel of Maryland...its beaches and the fun in the sun we celebrate there! Adorned with both Maryland State and American flags, the centerpiece reminds us of the ideals of MAEO and its twenty four members, while celebrating the polling place and Maryland beaches: locations where we, as election officials, both get to work and play!

Baltimore County may have created the winning centerpiece, but the process that went into its design and implementation is really just a tribute to MAEO and ALL of its members. We put into practical application what MAEO members put into every election...we brainstormed, we created, we executed!

It’s what MAEO does!

Baltimore County Board of Elections

Neighbors & Partners: Baltimore County

Situated at 11112 Gilroy Road in Hunt Valley, a staff of 32 election officials, (26 SBE and 6 Baltimore County Board employees) are awash in activity as preparations are under way for the upcoming 2018 Gubernatorial Election(s).

The office and staff relocated from their former Catonsville location on Bloomsbury Avenue to the new Hunt Valley address in October 2015. Although somewhat “off the beaten path,” the election office is centrally located within the Hunt Valley Industrial Corridor. Tucked in behind the McCormick Spice Company and adjacent to Interstate 83, our facility is also just minutes from beautiful Sagamore Hills Horse Country.

The office is led by Director Katie Brown, an elections veteran of 30 plus years, who until recently, had been assisted by Deputy Director, Rena` Waggoner. Rena`

is leaving government service and we wish her well in her new endeavors! The remaining members of the management team are Nancy Stratton and Ruie LaVoie. Following Katie’s lead and management style of “all hands on deck,” all of our administrators and subsequently, all of our staff get involved with all aspects of the operations here at Baltimore County. We ALL pull together!

With nearly 600,000 registered voters and approximately 3,750 election judges to monitor and maintain, there is never a dull moment at the Baltimore County elections office! Elections are held every other year at our 240 election day precincts, as well as at 11 Early Voting sites in the 15 election districts that encompass the entire 682 square miles of Baltimore County. During the

2016 Presidential General Election, our staff was responsible for processing over 20,000 absentee applications and approximately 9,000 provisional ballots!

When it comes to the local election process, there is a staff of highly qualified election professionals who are ready, willing, and able to assist the voters of Baltimore County!

Craig Booth
Baltimore County Board of Elections



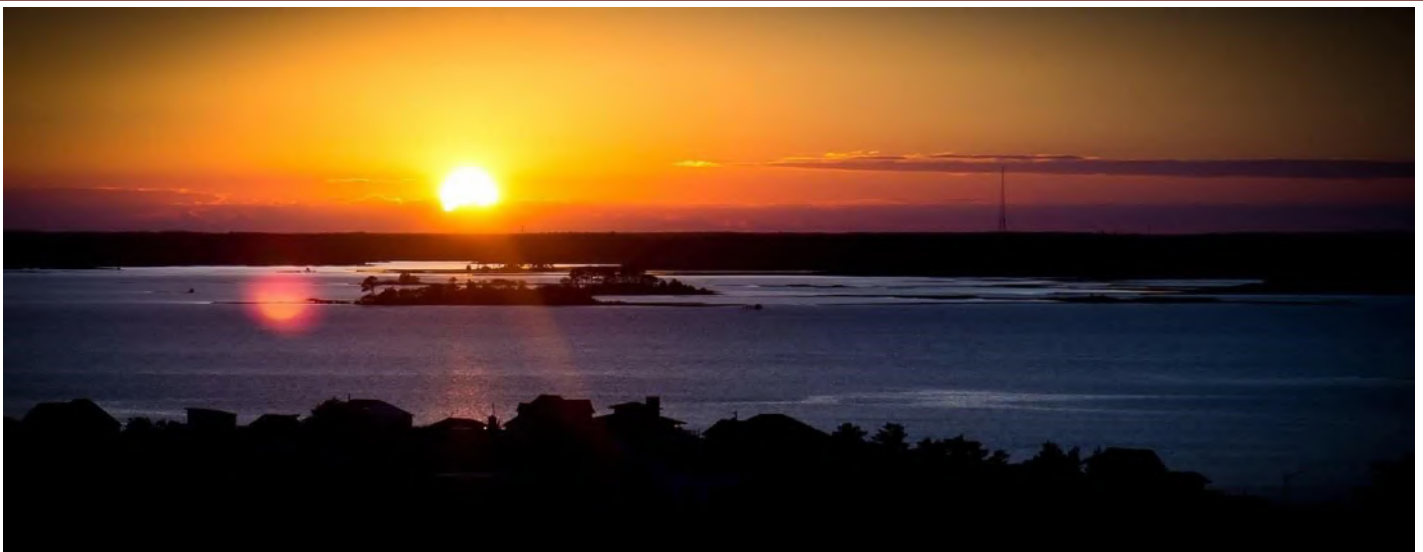
Member's Portal

Earlier in the newsletter, you saw the article referring to the MAEO Member Input Webform (or the MAEO Suggestion Box). But the Box is hidden behind a ‘wall’ on the MAEO website. The portal to access the Webform, is at <http://maeo.net/members-resources/>. First time in you’ll need a password. If your computer is set to save cookies, you shouldn’t need to re-enter the password each time you enter. To get the password, you’ll need to contact:

Amy Sullivan – (410) 809-6008

Stephanie Taylor – (410) 218-6305

Hassan Aslam – (410) 222-0449



New Hire!

Please welcome Sabrina Graves to the Baltimore City Board of Elections! She brings 4 years 11 months of experience as an Election Judge Training Manager from Anne Arundel County. Sabrina started as a Voting Unit Judge Trainer in the 2012 Presidential General Election. While working as a trainer she worked in the various capacities; canvassing, in the warehouse performing logic and accuracy, and post-election maintenance on the voting equipment. Assisted in Absentee

and Voter Registration Departments, before being promoted into a supervisory role to oversee Train the Trainer Program in 2014. The responsibilities included but were not limited to: training the trainers for the Train the Trainer Program, writing the Training Curriculum, Orientation, and assisting with the editing of Election Judges Manual, Outreach, ensuring several thousand election judges were scheduled and attended training. She is currently a member of the Election Judges Workgroup. As well as supervised



Sabrina Graves is the Election Supervisor II for Baltimore City.

Contributors:

Photos – Sarah Formy-Duval – Calvert County • Gail Hatfield – Calvert County • Garrick Hendricks – Calvert County • Jessica Fleming – Cecil County • Sarah Mohan – Harford County • Ben Frey – Somerset County

Articles – Sabrina Graves – Baltimore City • Craig Booth – Baltimore County • Jeff Stevens – Baltimore County • Gail Hatfield – Calvert County • Garrick Hendricks – Calvert County • Stuart Harvey – Frederick County • Amy Sullivan – Harford County • Chrissie Jones – Queen Anne’s County • Paul Noranbrock – Queen Anne’s County • Deborah Hamer – Montgomery County • Ben Frey – Somerset County

Assistance – Ruie Lavoie – Baltimore County

Newsletter layout and design – Shawn Larson – Baltimore City