

MAEO Board Meeting – Baltimore County LBE – 3/28/17

After previous Minutes were approved (posted on MAEO website), Treasurer Danna Archie-Williams covered a number of topics, including tax-exempt status of MAEO and Liability insurance for the conference. Two quotes have been received for the insurance.

Committees then gave summaries of their recent meetings and work.

Awards – Ruie Lavoie said that the committee revised Awards policies, timelines and procedures regarding nominations and retirement recognition.

Continuing Education – Armstead Jones convened a meeting after the Board meeting.

Legislative – Stuart Harvey reported on actions in the General Assembly from the last the last month, including legislation that would allow up to 2 scanners, as needed, at any polling place.

Election Technology – Garrick Hendricks announce the next ETC meeting at the Central Warehouse.

Personnel – Kevin Keene reported on discussion with SBE and DBM regarding job classification revisions and doing comparisons with other Maryland state agencies.

Standards/Voter Registration – Dale Livingston and Jessica White reported on proposed training for Critical Data Audits, addressing Spirit issues.

State Regulations – Alysoun McLaughlin mentioned two issues in Montgomery County that she will discuss with other local boards – types of election observers, and pre-processing of Absentee ballots.

The Board read out all proposed names for the newsletter and voted to select “Connect 24”, submitted by Chrissy Sharpless from Garrett County. She has been awarded a \$15 gift card.

The topic of pre-processing Absentee ballots was discussed in more detail. It was reported that Maryland is the only state that does not have any processes in place to open and securely store Absentee ballots prior to a post-election canvass. Alysoun McLaughlin volunteered to chair a special committee (**Special Committee for Modernizing Absentee Ballot Opening Procedures**) to look into the logistics and legislative requirements for implementing a program of pre-election processing of Absentee ballots. All who are interested in participating may contact her at the Montgomery County election office.

A new smartsheet form will be shortly available on the MAEO website for members to submit questions and ideas for MAEO’s work directly to the MAEO Board.

The issue of using only BMDs during Early Voting was discussed. ExpressPass printers, electrical requirements, space requirements, Write-In procedures and more were all mentioned as barriers to implementing a BMD-only polling place. Drastically reducing the amount of full-size ballots and ballot styles needed on hand was a definite incentive to consider the change.