



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

MAEO Meeting highlights

Here are a few highlights from the latest MAEO Board meeting, held in the Anne Arundel County LBE on 7/19.

David Garreis thanked all involved with organizing, producing, and managing the recent MAEO Conference.

Mary Wagner from SBE made mention of a few voter registration items, including the Safe At Home address confidentiality program, and also inquired whether there were any LBEs participating in National Disability Voter Registration Week.

There were a couple of reports regarding attendance at other conferences – Stephanie Taylor from Harford spoke about the IGO (International Association of Government Officials) Conference she attended last week in Orlando. There were sessions on Polling Place Best Practices, technology innovations, and a particularly interesting presentation of voting in South Korea. Stuart Harvey from Frederick and Mary Wagner spoke of the NCSL (National Conference of State Legislators) meeting held in Williamsburg, VA last month. More details of this assemblage are contained in the body of the newsletter.

Chrissie Jones of Queen Anne's County presented the results of the conference survey as a PowerPoint (attached). Over 100 responses were received. Reviews of the Clarion Hotel were overwhelmingly positive. A number of suggestions for future conferences were extracted from the responses. It was proposed to look into hiring a Certified Government Meeting Planner (CGMP). This would be a cost-free resource that could significantly reduce the cost of all hotel-related arrangements. Another suggestion was to revise the conference schedule to a 1-day meeting in an election year and a 2-day conference in the off-years. This change would, however, require the MAEO bylaws to be amended by membership voting. There were also ideas presented regarding a restructuring of the Conference Planning Committee.

Gail Hatfield from Calvert County presented a number of recommendations accumulated from the Audit Committee's annual audit of MAEO. These include granting the MAEO Treasurer online access to our bank accounts; the suggestion that conference budgets must be closely monitored; comp rooms for conference guests and speakers must be approved by the Board; membership dues are targeted to administrative and operational expenses and must not be used for conference expenses.

Stephanie Taylor spoke about the MAEO website Members Portal and the MAEO Member Input Webform. This is covered in more detail in a separate article.

The dates of the 2018 Conference was discussed – March and September were both mentioned. As many counties would be doing judges refresher training in September, March was settled on, with either 3/13-3/16 or 3/20-3/23 as probable dates. Ocean City will be the likely destination once again.