



Connect 24



Communicate

Participate

Collaborate

Volume 2 Issue 2

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Elections Are...

If Genius is 1% Inspiration and 99% Perspiration, then

Elections are...

1% Inspiration

6% Perspiration

2% Consternation

1% Exclamations

12% Allocations

2% Explanations

4% Deprivation

3% Incantations

2% Relocation

8% Innovation

1% Medication

2% Meditation

6% Legislation

7% Obligations

4% Sanitation

1% Simulation

9% Tabulation

8% Transportation

3% Indignation

1% Respiration

7% Tribulations

10% Polling Stations

And 100% Verification

Your quantities and ratios may vary

This Issue

We started the newsletter back in January 2017, back when things were starting to calm down from the last election. We had a window of opportunity and we jumped through it. The off-year gave us the leeway to begin figuring out what was possible with this type of platform.

What a difference a year and a few months can make.

We didn't want to punt on this issue but we didn't want to push it either. So we have an abbreviated edition this time around.

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In the mean time, we would ask that you make note of, jot down and otherwise record some of the election adventures you go through – war stories, voter anecdotes, brilliant new ideas that worked for your office – and write 'em up to send in for the next issue (end of summer probably).

Good luck through the next month!

Baltimore City preps for the Conference



An Honorable Day's Work

Twelve odd years ago (so very odd), between jobs and needing a challenge, I was hired onto an L&A testing team. I was deployed by Diebold and mostly worked the Eastern Shore counties. A set script, repetitive tasks, one touch-screen after another. The life of an L&A tester.

But there was something more. Something I didn't expect. A thought and a realization that started to dawn just a week into the assignment. I was touching a subset of the voting equipment in various counties and certifying to the best of my knowledge and ability that these machines could be trusted on Election Day. What a statement to make. What a responsibility to take on. In one little corner of Maryland, I was suddenly part of the election team.

It came to me that this was more than just a good job with a pretty fair per diem. In fact, it was honorable and it was important. As happens with most of us who stumble into elections, the scope and the critical nature of the work caught me by surprise. After all, it was just people, working on equipment, working on systems, training other people to do things exactly, precisely, consistently the same way. It seemed an amazing amount of effort to prepare for just one day. (One day. Hah. Twelve-years-ago-me couldn't even imagine what might happen after Election Day, or a year and a half before the next one).

But what struck me right away, and what has stuck with me for 12 plus years, was how important this work really was, and is. How critical, how fundamental to the country. That's a little preachy, I know, but it's the truth. We manage an essential

process, maybe *the* essential civil process in a democracy. We manage elections.

The work itself is pretty straight-forward. Computers, hardware, paperwork, procedures, rules and regs. We support the public and we support each other, in offices and in the field. But what we enable goes beyond mere office work (not that there's anything wrong with mere office work). The process of an election doesn't exist without people who care passionately about the process, who *respect* the process and the work itself. Look at yourself in the mirror – see an Election Official. See a worker bee who has been given the gift of being a part of the 'critical infrastructure'. We handle it. We manage it. We improve it. We continue the tradition begun 229 years ago.

In spite of the cynicism that swirls around us non-stop, I respect the field I am in. I am proud to do the work of elections. The work *is honorable*. The work *is important*. Not too shabby for a day's work.

Ben Frey, Somerset County



MAEO Committees

This is how we participate with our peers and work beyond our own office walls. These committees will always welcome new members to participate in their work and help set the agenda. The two committees below found the time to re-introduce themselves.

Legislative Committee – Stuart Harvey-Frederick County & Katie Berry-Carroll County – co-chairs

The Legislative Committee to some extent is defined in the Bylaws. We track legislation throughout the session, work with legislators to introduce and/or amend legislation, and support or oppose bills of critical importance to elections. We do not take positions on constitutional amendments or campaign finance bills.

Election Committee – Stephanie Taylor-Harford County

Over the next two years, We would like the committee to review Article XIII - Elections of the MAEO bylaws and look at making recommendations to address potential issues that may arise during an election that are not currently addressed in this Article.

Below you'll find the rest of the MAEO committees. They are *all* looking for new, active members. After we take a breather from the Primary, think hard about raising your hand and being a dynamic part of MAEO.

Committee	Chair	LBE	Co-Chair	LBE
Audit	Gail Hartfield	Calvert		
Conference Planning	TBD			
Constitution and Bylaws	Alisha Alexander	Prince George's		
Educational Grant & Continuing Education	Armstead Jones	Baltimore City		
Elections	Stephanie Taylor	Harford		
Early Voting & Election Judges	Daneen Banks	Prince George's		
Election Technology	Garrick Hendricks	Calvert		
Legislative	Stuart Harvey	Frederick	Katie Berry	Carroll
Newsletter	Ben Frey	Somerset		
Personnel	Kevin Keene	Harford		
Standards	Vacant			
State Regulation Review	Jessica White	Montgomery		
Voter Registration	Vacant			
Updating Absentee Opening Procedures	Alysoun McLaughlin	Montgomery	Barry Jackson	Washington

Thoughts and images of the 2018 MAEO Conference

Briefly, my takeaways from this year's Conference: Really good. A continued great effort, that rode "the wave of success" from last years changed format. I particularly enjoyed having the break out sessions. The content of every single one wasn't always a home run; however, the simple act of moving to different areas and being engaged in discussions keeps everyone awake and involved in the MAEO process. This, in and of itself, allows for growth and learning.

Food - comme ci, comme ça.

Gwen Dales – Dorchester County

Random Conference Thoughts

My feelings about MAEO in general, and the conference in particular – It's better to meet and work together and to share knowledge, than to work separately and hope for the best.

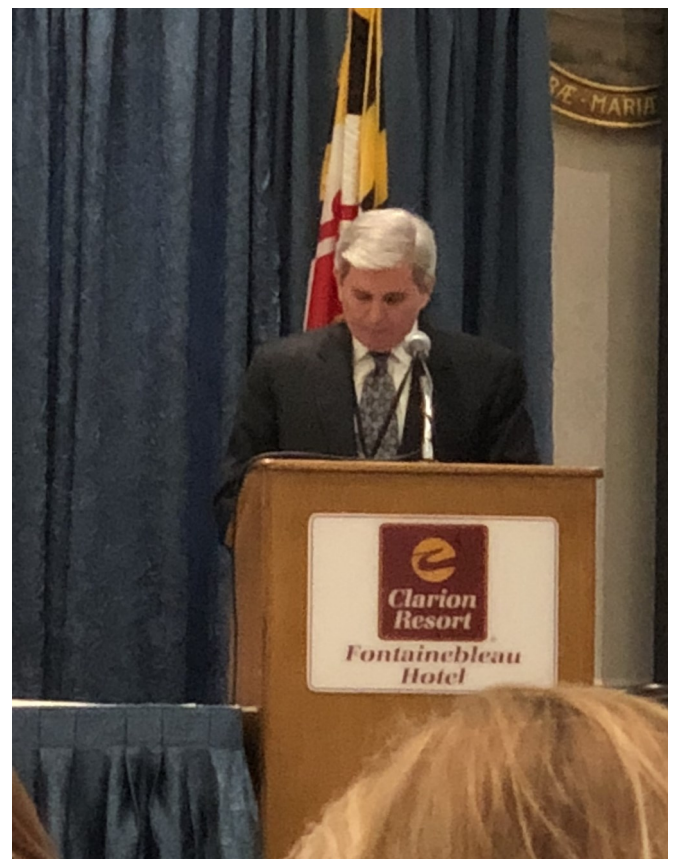
It's also useful to look back. It helps us look forward. So, I'm looking back to the MAEO Conference. I honestly can't say much negative about this edition of our annual get-together. The MAEO Board acted as the conference planner and the planning committee rolled into one – a diligent assemblage if there ever was one.

The most consistently positive feedback I heard about the speakers was for Lt. Keith Runk of the Maryland State Police.

We've heard similar lectures addressing Active Shooters at many of our local offices over the past year or two, but Lt. Runk's presentation was direct, engrossing, and full of practical information.

It's becoming clear that Security (upper-case S), in all its variations, will be emphasized as never before at every conference and biennial going forward. David Johnston, a Protective Security Advisor for DHS, gave a straight-forward roundup of the free services and support offered by his agency. When useful tools are free, there really is no excuse not to avail ourselves of them. Mr. Johnston covered the Risk & Vulnerability Assessment program, which many local offices have completed or will complete this year. He also mentioned the various functional and full-scale Table-Top Exercises and simulations available to us. I certainly would like to participate in one of these exercises.

Continued on the next page...



Random Conference Thoughts cont'd

The Media Roundup was useful to a point – “No comment” is actually a counter-productive reply to a reporter’s questions. Be honest, forthright and responsive was the consensus from the panel. The best course of action may be to act pro-actively and prevent the issues and problems that would cause media coverage in the first place. I also noticed that a little bit of personal bias poked through the panelists’ remarks. Whether or not one agrees with their points of view, I expect strictly straight-down-the-middle professional statements.

I love the ‘double breakouts’. Makes it easier to get to more of the sessions I want.

The most useful breakout covered Post-Election Audits. It had practical information, and answered a lot of the questions we have about these processes. Especially useful was having two local Directors giving insight into their experience.

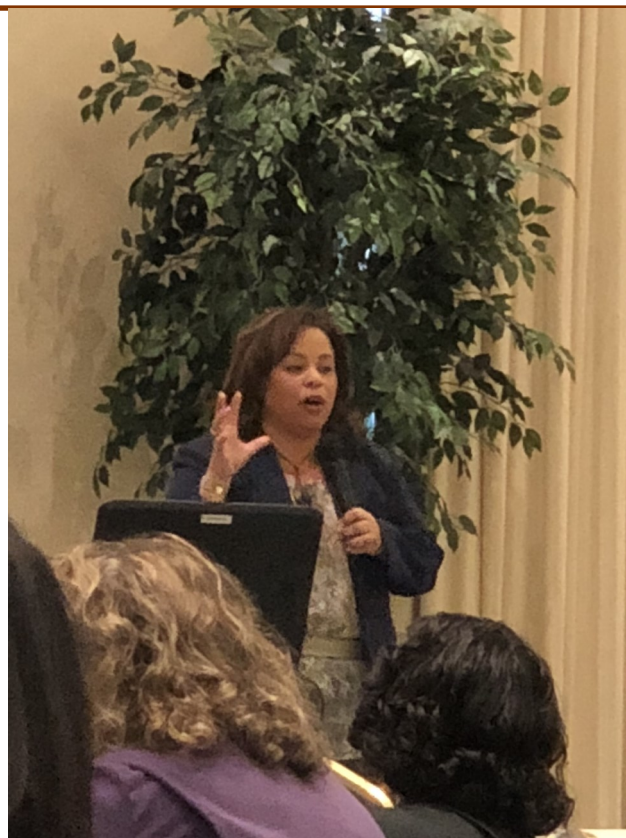
Speaking of panels, it was an excellent idea to include local staff on all breakouts and some general sessions. The more points of view and ‘war stories’, the better. I would encourage an even broader outreach to the local offices next conference.

It was entertaining to get one person’s insights and opinions into the various generations we all work with. I’m not sure how practical the guidance will be going forward. Strangely enough, people rarely follow the generalizations that are imposed upon their particular age-group. Very inconvenient.

I’m sorry that the SDR session didn’t go as planned. It was a useful and on-point topic, but those darn gremlins just couldn’t leave it alone.

I hope I’m quoting this accurately – “When the numbers don’t match, pray for an election where the numbers aren’t close.”

Ben Frey, Somerset County



Many smiles from the Conference





Around the State



Worcester County

Our office and warehouse are now moved. Our new address is 201 Belt St., Suite C, Snow Hill, MD 21863. We will have an open house, but will probably wait until after Primary since everyone is so busy right now. Photos next issue...

Patti Jackson, Worcester County

Somerset County

Somerset has a new Election Supervisor – Julia Cox has been in the office for 12 years. She now has the title more in line with the tremendous work she's been doing for the past decade plus.

Ben Frey, Somerset County

In lieu of updates from the rest of the state (busy busy busy), here's a rundown of the county fairs coming up this summer and fall.

Wicomico Farm & Home Show

August 17-19, 2018
Winterplace Park
Salisbury
[More info...](#)

The Maryland State Fair

August 23 - September 3, 2018
Maryland State Fairgrounds
Timonium
[More info...](#)

Prince George's County Fair

September 6-9, 2018
Show Place Arena
Upper Marlboro
[More info...](#)

Anne Arundel County Fair

September 12-16, 2018
Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds
Crownsville
[More info...](#)

The Great Frederick Fair

September 14-22, 2018
Great Frederick Fair Fairgrounds
Frederick
[More info...](#)

St. Mary's County Fair

September 20-23, 2018
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
Leonardtown
[More info...](#)

Calvert County Fair

September 24-30, 2018
County Fairgrounds
Prince Frederick
[More info...](#)

Worcester County Fair

June 21-24, 2018
Byrd Park
Snow Hill
[More info...](#)

Cecil County Fair

July 20-28, 2018
Fair Hill Fairgrounds
Elkton
[More info...](#)

Harford County Farm Fair

July 23-28, 2018
The Equestrian Center
Bel Air
[More info...](#)

Somerset County Fair

July 27-July 29, 2018
Somerset County Agricultural
and Civic Center
Princess Anne
[More info...](#)

Carroll County 4-H Fair

July 28-August 3, 2018
Agricultural Center
Westminster
[More info...](#)

Garrett County Agriculture Fair

July 28-August 4, 2018
Garrett County Fairgrounds
McHenry
[More info...](#)

Caroline-Dorchester County Fair

August 1-August 4
4-H Park
Denton
[More info...](#)

Howard County Fair

August 4-11, 2018
Howard County Fairgrounds
West Friendship
[More info...](#)

Queen Anne's County Fair

August 6-11, 2018
4-H Park
Centreville
[More info...](#)

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

August 10-18, 2018
Montgomery County Agricultural Center
Gaithersburg
[More info...](#)



A few more Conference photos



Don't forget...

The MAEO website - <https://maeo.net/> - Everything about MAEO. Conference news, meeting news, committees, Connect 24 and more. *On the site, you'll find...*

The Members' Portal - Password protected. Contact Stephanie Taylor, Amy Sullivan or Hassan Aslam for access. *In the portal, you'll find...*

The MAEO Suggestion Box - A direct line to the MAEO Board. Questions, suggestions, brilliant ideas, this is the place to submit them.



The ETC Troubleshooting Guide - Accumulated advice and assistance for the voting systems, hardware and software. Always open for additional submissions.



Contributors:

Articles - Gwen Dales - Dorchester County · Stuart Harvey - Frederick County · Stephanie Taylor - Harford County · Ben Frey - Somerset County · Patti Jackson - Worcester County

Photos - Abigail Goldman - Baltimore City · Shawn Larson - Baltimore City · Lisa Stanley - Baltimore City · Ruie Lavoie - Baltimore County · Garrick Hendricks - Calvert County · Cathy Quesenberry - Queen Anne's County · Ben Frey - Somerset County

Assistance - David Garreis - Anne Arundel County · Katie Brown - Baltimore County · Jessica Noranbrock - Dorchester County · Vanessa Graham - Harford County · Cathy Quesenberry - Queen Anne's County

Connect 24 layout and design - Shawn Larson - Baltimore City · Ben Frey - Somerset County