



Proof that Every Vote Counts!

For anyone who says “my vote won’t count”, tell them this story. They may change their tune.

As of election night, it appeared as though David Goslee, candidate for Wicomico County Board of Education’s District 3 seat, had won. However, by the time the absentee 2 canvass ended, the results were quite different. The other candidate, William Turner, had in fact won, but by only **one** vote (3,056 to 3,055). As expected, Mr. Goslee requested a recount.

The Wicomico recount took place over the course of three days, beginning on Tuesday, November 27, and concluding on Thursday, November 29. Day one started out slow, procedures had to be tested and the “kinks” worked out. Day two proved to be a much more productive day. By the end of day three, the results had changed.

After taking into account 2 votes that wouldn’t have been counted by a scanner, where voter intent had to be determined by the Board, Mr. Goslee was declared the winner, this time, by **one** vote (3,057 to 3,056).

Out of 6,113 votes for the two candidates, it all came down to **one** vote, twice. If that isn’t proof that **every vote counts**, then what is?

Jessica Noranbrock, Dorchester County

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The count goes on

Articles Referenced:

- <https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/maryland/2018/11/27/recount-wicomico-board-education-underway-willima-turner-david-goslee/2119347002>
- www.wboc.com/story/39566842/goslee-wins-wicomico-board-of-ed-seat-after-recount

“Innovations in Elections” Opportunity!

All attendees are invited to contribute a short presentation for the “Innovations in Elections” session of the upcoming conference. It can be a best practice or an in-progress improvement, touching on Voter Registration, Technology, Training, Outreach, or any other election-related innovation. Contact Ruie Lavoie by March 1 - rlavoie@baltimorecountymd.gov

Meet Liz Weber!

Liz is one of the special speakers at this year's annual MAEO Conference being held in Ocean City on May 22rd & 23th. Liz, a strategic leadership expert with over 25 years' experience, brings a common sense, no nonsense approach to relevant topics that will challenge us as election officials. As she directs her message towards MAEO and its members, Liz in her



blog, has asked questions that will inspire us to take a look inward, regardless of our respective roles in our offices.

Could you work for you? - "Would I want to work for myself?"

How do we develop employees – "Does their current position description accurately reflect the skills, knowledge, and abilities needed to effectively fulfill their current job responsibilities?"

Liz also takes a look at a subject that is happening in all of our election offices...the loss of key people in key roles, and their subsequent replacement. She offers a strategy

that will enable us to plan for the ongoing success of our offices as those 'who came before' move on.

Succession planning – "Succession planning is really determining what skills, knowledge, behaviors, and values you will need in key positions in the future to ensure your organization continues to grow and succeed according to your strategic plan."

Here's to a successful MAEO Conference in May. We look forward to what Liz will share with us as we look to the future...and beyond!



<https://www.wbsllc.com/>

Craig Booth, Baltimore County

The deadline for submitting ...

...the 2019 MAEO membership form is coming at us like a -



Make sure to get names and membership fees to Danna Williams by **Feb. 28:**
Baltimore County Board of Elections, 11112 Gilroy Road, Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD 21031

A Conference Takes a Whole Lot of Planning

"To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time."

– Leonard Bernstein

MAEO keeps itself busy ALL THE TIME. We work year-round on issues ranging from personnel to training to technology and more. But what everybody knows and counts on and looks forward to is... **The Annual Conference** (cue the trumpets and fireworks).

For this year's conference, Ruie Lavoie from Baltimore County is the Conference Planner, and the Conference Planning Committee is co-chaired by Abigail Goldman from Baltimore City.



Here are some of the items that must be addressed –a budget, a theme, host(s), an agenda that balances election-specific topics with more general and/or motivational speakers, awards, entertainment, hotels (reservations, comps), food (meals and breaks), speakers (travel, accommodations, fees), insurance, membership, registration, reservations, vendors, sponsors, gifts and gift bags, conference book, sponsor jurisdictions, election (Board every other year, questions possibly every year), coordination with SBE...so many moving parts. You get the idea.



And with so much going on you have to prioritize. Surprisingly, on the last day of the 2018 conference, Ruie met with the hotel liaison to start the process for the 2019 conference. A few weeks after, Ruie started discussing conference dates and location with the MAEO Board and membership. Due to the almost unanimous choice from the MAEO membership, it was decided that the location would be to return to Ocean City.

Ruie then started pulling in ideas for sessions, big and small, by reaching out to the Board and the general membership through surveys and conversations. This is where everybody around the state can have a say, make a suggestion, or volunteer to help organize or lead a session.

After Conference Committee members volunteer to help, subcommittees are formed, our Treasur-

er, Danna Williams, along with the Elections Committee, chaired by Stephanie Taylor from Harford County and Awards Committee, chaired by Maggie Mundle, also from Harford, get involved. Gail Hatfield from Calvert County works non-stop to bring in the vendors. Momentum starts to build.

Ruie recently provided some insight into her job as the Conference Planner. What she enjoys the most of this whole intense experience is "the interaction that takes place working with election officials from all over Maryland and with SBE. I like meeting new people – new election staff, speakers, legislators – and learning from everyone. I always take away new ideas during the planning of the conference as well as from attending the conference."

Since the conference is a different experience for every attendee, Ruie reminds us that just as we all know very well in elections, "it is very difficult to please everyone. But I do try very hard to accomplish just that." It's a juggling act and a balancing act. "Sometimes it is difficult to fit everything in" she reminds us, "so determining what is most important and relevant to members and finding time to fit it in can be a struggle."



One thing that everybody can agree on – it's a good thing that Ruie has the energy level of 10 normal people rolled into one. She says, "There is A LOT that goes into planning the conference, many details that you may not think of... From working with the hotel for room discounts and selecting the menu to room set-up for each session and breakout as well as organizing the sound and audio visual that changes with every session." But at the end of the day, Ruie makes it clear – "I truly enjoy being the conference planner and my hope is that I meet MAEO's expectations."

Ben Frey, Somerset County

Next Issue - We will meet more of the conference's 'backstage crew' next issue. Stay tuned.

Neighbors and Partners - Come On Up to Harford County

Have you ever made a trip to Pennsylvania and wondered what you're passing through to get there? Here are some awesome things you can do in all parts of Harford County!

North: Rocks State Park and Kilgore Falls - the home to several movie sets this tourist attraction is a fun getaway and a hikers dream! See and swim in the waterfalls, scale the rock walls and hike on hundreds of trails!

South:
The Aberdeen Ironbirds - Swing in for an evening game with our AA baseball



Kilgore Falls

team for only a few bucks! You can't miss catching these guys in action. You may even see a future prospect who will fly out to join the Orioles one day!



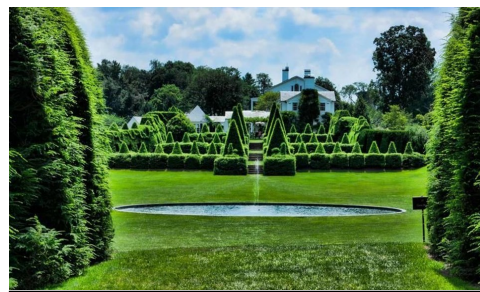
Central: Take a trip to our County Seat – Downtown Bel Air! Bel Air is the home to many fun events like the BBQ Bash, the Wine Festival, Summer Movie Nights, and the Farmer's Market!

East: The "Harbor of Grace" - Havre de Grace! There are many historic aspects to the waterfront city of Havre de Grace. Noted as one of America's 20 best small



towns to visit, you'll want to check out Bomboys Homemade Candy and Ice Cream, the Concord Point Lighthouse, the Decoy Museum, antique shops, ghost tours, concerts, First Fridays and much more! Don't miss a chance to stay in the city that was one vote away from becoming the capital of the United States (but who's counting)!

West: Ladew Topiary Gardens are 15 thematic "garden rooms" on 22 acres of the late Harvey S. Ladew's 250 acre



Ladew Topiary Gardens

Maryland property. Visit the Manor House, Butterfly House, Concert Bowl and all the gardens year round to see the beauty that Mr. Ladew, a self-taught gardener, put into his home.

*Sarah Mohan,
Harford County*



Harford County Board of Elections



Around the State



Queen Anne's County

Queen Anne's County participated in monthly team building activities prior to the 2018 election. Each month a staff member was responsible for preparing and conducting a team building activity. The process has proven very beneficial. It has helped the staff to get to know each other, has increased staff morale and allowed us to understand what makes us work together as a team. The strengths and weakness of each staff member, and building from there to be the best we can, doing our jobs working with the voters, judges, and general public.



On Facebook, Queen Anne's keeps a constant presence by posting weekly Fun Facts from the Queen Anne's County Board of Elections. Each week there is an interesting fact about the county, the state, the country, our county seat of Centreville or historic information in general about Maryland and the United States. There are also questions testing the public's

knowledge of local history or information. It has been a fun and informative way to reach out to the community. The information appears on Wednesdays as #Trivia Wednesday and Fridays as #Fun Fact Friday.

Cathy Quesenberry, Queen Anne's County

St. Mary's County

Hello All,

Here in St. Mary's County we are happy to report we made it through the 2018 Elections with little issues to report, knock on wood, and are readying ourselves for the Presidential Election. Since we are a small office of five people, we are always thinking of ways to make the next year of Elections better than the last. Therefore during this off year we will be working on ways to improve and ensure growth and integrity in our community and within our own walls. No matter what hiccups (i.e. poll books and other challenges) are thrown our way, we will do our best to be ready for them.



Currently we are working on P.E.M. and getting ourselves ready for our Manual Audit, scheduled Feb. 20, 2019. Our office has assisted with two other LBEs audits and we plan on helping out one more prior to performing ours. We are confident with the knowledge we have gained helping other offices that we will get it done with confidence and accuracy. Good luck to all in the New Year!

Brandi Underwood, St. Mary's County





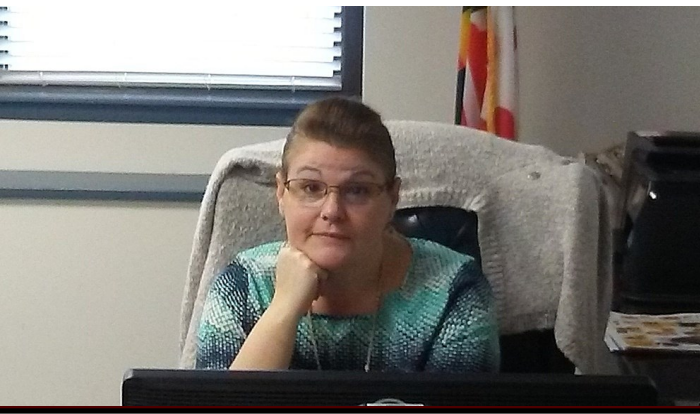
Around the State, continued



A New Face in Somerset County

Somerset County brought in a new Administrative Assistant last September, right at the most hectic time and she did a great job. She slid right in and fit right in. Brenda Powell came to us from the Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI), just a few miles up the road in Westover. She spent 10 years there as the Administrative Aide to the Warden and Assistant Warden. Now that we're past the whirlwind, Brenda confidently says, "So far, I enjoy my job." She's getting the hang of MDVoters and welcoming all who come to our office. Her husband Matthew also works at ECI as a Correctional Officer Sergeant. But Brenda must clarify - "we did not meet in prison". She also has two future election judges in the house – Benjamin, 13, and Wyatt, 11. Welcome, Brenda, to the world of Maryland elections.

Ben Frey, Somerset County



Brenda has her Game Face on



Washington County

For years, our goal has been to consolidate our office, warehouse, early voting, and election judge training center into one facility. In 2014 and 2016, all but our office was in one location, and we were thankful to have that; but it was not ideal, and we continued to work with our county commissioners to come up with a solution that brought all four components together.

Unfortunately, the situation got worse, as we lost our early voting and training center and had to find new ones for 2018. When it was apparent that we would not be moving into a consolidated facility before the 2018 election season, we spent much of the latter half of 2017 and early 2018 trying to find suitable facilities for early voting and training. The result was that now, the four components are spread out to four different facilities in the county.

The constant moving of equipment and personnel from one facility to another made administering the primary and general elections so much more difficult. On top of that, since we don't own the properties we used for early voting and election judge training, there's no guarantee we'll be back there for 2020.

One silver lining that came out of our situation in 2018 was that the candidates for county

(Continued on page 7)



Around the State, continued



Washington County (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

commissioner witnessed it to some extent, and every one of them agreed that finding us a consolidated facility should be a priority for 2019.

Well, it's 2019. The new county commissioners have been sworn in, and our goal for this year is to work with the commissioners to secure a consolidated facility and be moved in in time for the 2020 elections.

We know that many of you have experienced what we're going through and some still are. We appreciate your input and encouragement, and we'll keep you posted on our progress.

Barry Jackson, Washington County



Baltimore County

We want to welcome the newest members of our Election Family. Lisa Nash, Erika Penman and Marteen Majinnasolla have joined us with a wealth of experience as former Baltimore County Election Judges. They now have insight into all the things we do behind the scenes when running an Election. All three worked the Early Election as LBE's, each overseeing one of our eleven EV sites. Their experience as Election Judges has proven invaluable in successfully running these sites. Finally, our office was very fortunate, adding Jessica Fleming to our team. Jess comes to us from the Cecil County Board of Elections, bringing eleven years of valuable election experience to our office. These additions to our Election Family have made our office even better than before!

Mary-Frances Vavra-Alcoser, Baltimore County



Job Openings in the LBEs - Deadline to apply is 2/15

Election Director I –Cecil County: Attached is the job announcement for the Election Director I position in Cecil County. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 15th. Copy and paste the link below into your web browser if you, or anyone you know, is interested in applying.

<https://www.jobapscloud.com/MD/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=19&R2=001494&R3=0001>

Election Director II –Harford County: Attached is the job announcement for the Election Director II position in Harford County. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 15th. Copy and paste the link below into your web browser if you, or anyone you know, is interested in applying.

<https://www.jobapscloud.com/MD/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=19&R2=001496&R3=0001>

The 2019 MAEO Conference is Coming!

May 21st - May 24th, 2019

Clarion Resort

10100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842

Deadlines

Membership registration - February 28

"Innovations in Elections" submissions - March 1

*Conference and Hotel registration forms - *available**

*Final AGENDA - *coming soon**

All forms and conference info are available at:

<https://maeo.net/annual-conference/>



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