



Wednesday, 16 December 2020

MINUTES

A meeting of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) was held, virtually, on the 16th day of December 2020. Notice of the meeting and the agenda were properly provided.

Officers and Board Members Present:

David Garreis, President (Anne Arundel County)
Ruie Marie Lavoie, Vice President (Cecil County)
Monica Fields, Secretary (Howard County)
Alisha Alexander, Board Member (Prince George's County)
Ben Frey, Board Member (Somerset County)
Chrissy Jones, Board Member (Queen Anne's County)
Alysoun McLaughlin, Board Member (Montgomery County)
Kimberly Phillips, Board Member (Howard County)

Office and Board Members Absent:

Danna Archie-Williams, Treasurer (Baltimore County)

CALL TO ORDER

President David Garreis called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. A quorum was established with eight (8) Board Members present. Introductions were made and a roll call of those in attendance was recorded.

AGENDA

After having no changes or additions to the Agenda, the Board accepted the agenda as written.

MINUTES

There were no Minutes to approve.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Garreis took this time to "present" the Shining Star Award to Baltimore City LBE Director Armstead Jones and Deputy Director Abigail Goldman for their service to MAEO. He acknowledged Katie Berry (not present at the time) will now be a part of the MAEO Hall of Fame. Gave the floor to Ms. Kimberly Phillips to give Ruie Lavoie the Antonetti Award.

The floor was opened for discussion of the MAEO Election. Alisha Alexander requested an overview of ballots voted by which counties. Re: mail delays and ballots not received. Kimberly Phillips added a caveat saying that members also contacted her about the validity of the MAEO Election. Mr. Garreis made note that there wasn't anything present

in the current Bylaws to instruct the organization in regard to mail-in MAEO elections. Suggested to amend the Bylaws with verbiage about Mail-in/Absentee protocol and Voter History Reports.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Democracy Fund Virtual Conference:
 - a. Mr. Ben Frey discussed his experience attending the conference. Made a note that the Chairman of EAC is available for the next MAEO Conference to speak. Pam Anderson (Election Official in Colorado) offered to help MD with incorporating efficient mail-in ballot procedures.
2. 2021 MAEO Dues
 - a. Dues are due by the end of February. \$30/member
 - i. Wants to still charge counties for dues re County Budget Line Items
 1. MOTION: Alysoun McLoughlin motioned to maintain the dues at the same level as years' past.
SECOND: Ruie Lavoie
 - ii. ACTION: Favorable and unanimous, Motion carried.
 - b. A question was raised on the use of dues for training during the conference and not allotted for training elsewhere. Also asked for the Continuing Education and Grants Committee (CE/G) to come up with virtual training, for example, that everyone can benefit from. Especially those that cannot afford to attend the Annual Conference and training/conferences like IAGO (International Association of Government Officials) and CERA (Certified Elections Registration Administrator).
 - i. Those ideas were brought up with the CE/G committee to have exactly that but the pandemic put a halt on those ideas.
3. 2021 MAEO Action Item
 - a. 2021 Legislative Session:
 - i. Opening ballots before ED
 - ii. Use of Vote Centers
 - iii. Use of VBM
 1. Stuart Harvey: notes (spoke with Kevin Canali, MACO) that there will probably be an Omnibus Bill to include the aforementioned topics and making Maryland a total VBM state.
 2. Wants State to stop pushing the costs to the LBEs.
 3. May be legislation relating to Dropboxes (making them a permanent fixture in the election process)
 4. Bill relating to incarceration/detainees and voter registration may come back in the discussion
 5. Katie Berry: Spoke to Senator Hester re: extending comp time from one (1) year to two (2) years
 - a. Anthony... brings up receiving extra Administrative Leave for working during Early Voting/Election Day hours
 6. Reminded LBEs re: email requesting "fiscal numbers"



- iv. Personnel Projects
 1. Revision of Directors/Deputy Director position descriptions re: Project Management series
- b. Electronic Pollbooks
 - i. Seems SBE will include LBE in the process
 - ii. Ruie Lavoie inquired about the cost of pollbooks because that has to be inputted into budget line items.
 1. Ben Frey: RFP will be decided on 1 February 2021.
 2. There is also an issue of space to store current pollbooks and newly acquired ones. LBEs pollbooks will be housed in State Warehouse (David).
4. 2021 iGo Update
 - a. Conference in mid-Winter may be held virtually; would have been in Arizona.
 - b. Summer Annual conference 15 – 21 July 2021 in New York City at Sheraton New York Times Square
 - c. 2022 Conferences, both mid-Winter and Summer will be in Palm Springs at the Hyatt Regency, Indian Wells, California.
 - d. No information on the 2023 conference as of yet.
 - e. Reminder for current IAGO members to sign up for the Certification of Public Leadership (CPL) classes that will commence in this mid-Winter session (it may be available virtually). There may be a Spring online course given.
 - f. To find any more information www.IAGO.org and click on the Attend tab.

OPEN FORUM

- Education and Grant Committee funded some of the speakers for the 2020 Annual Conference.
- Mary Wagner (SBE): “SBE is proud to collaborate with MAEO to bring on a fabulous conference.”
 - Main concern with SBE leadership is redistricting and GIS(?); maybe a huge part of the State’s agenda for the conference.
- Biennial will be added to the Annual Conference’s agenda, therefore, adding a day to the conference.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 10 am on Tuesday, 12 January 2021; to be held virtually. Proper notice and the agenda will be provided.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made by Alisha Alexander and a second by Kimberly Phillips, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am.

Monica Fields
Secretary