Connect 24

Communicate *Participate* *Collaborate*

Volume 5 Issue 2

October, 2021

Having the MAEO Conference During a Pandemic??

Wow! What can I say? The turnout at the MAEO Conference was much higher than any of us originally anticipated especially since we were meeting during the pandemic. I, and I'm sure that many of you, were very happy to see colleagues that we haven't physically seen in a year or more. Let's face it, Zoom calls, while I appreciate them, offer a different experience than actual face to face interactions.

The elections-related, media, crisis management and security workshops were very informative. I purposely attended the Wellness Session last and was grateful to have received stress management, meditation and breathing tips (we will all need them in 2022). The vendors also represented themselves very well and offered products that if purchased would increase efficiencies in our respective offices. The food throughout the duration of the conference was very good and we couldn't have asked for a better day to have a crab feast.

I'll conclude by saying that my favorite part of the conference was the entertainment. Even though I didn't win, MAEO Bingo was fun and the anticipation of winning the 50/50 Raffle kept me on edge (I didn't win that one either, LOL). Everyone was eloquently dressed in white at the *Awards Banquet* and taking pictures at the very popular photo booth. For the first time in months, we were able to get out on the dance floor and do the "Cupid Shuffle". I also enjoyed watching the brave souls play beach volleyball.

Kudos to Ruie Lavoie, Abigail Goldman, the members of the conference committee and the host counties for doing an outstanding job.

Until 2022…

Alisha Alexander, Prince George's County

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Conference Prep

Planning for a conference is a painstakingly long and grueling process. As we all know, conferences are an important part of professional development and business networking for all jurisdictions. MAEO conferences bring people together from across the state in the same industry; to learn and to share is essential for innovation. A successful conference comes in all shapes and sizes.

Every good conference needs a team of dedicated individuals to keep things running. That's just what Conference planner Ruie Lavoie and her team did this past August for the 2020 MAEO conference in Ocean City. From calling, to packing to scheduling; from meetings to visits to road trips; from sponsors to vendors to venues, and plenty more. Conference planning is a lot like Election preparation, if you're not part of the process, most don't know the hard work that goes into it. We just reap the benefits.

Special thanks to Ruie Lavoie and the MAEO Conference planning committee for putting together a very successful and rewarding conference. This one must have been especially challenging considering the safety guidelines that had to be implemented. This is not lost on the Election community. We appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Here's to you!

Shawn Larson, Baltimore City

19th Amendment Ceremony: Women's Suffrage Movement

2020 marked the 100 year anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which declared that "**The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States** or by any State on account of sex," which essentially means giving women the right to vote. The amendment was passed on August 18th, which seemed like the perfect time and opportunity to celebrate this historic event at the MAEO conference. In honor of this event, white attire was requested. For the suffrage movement, wearing white symbolized purity and solidarity. The request was well received and was on full display for the banquet and awards ceremony.

Ruie Lavoie speaks during the banquet.

On the Dance Floor

LBE's in White Attire Unison

More from the White Attire Ceremony

Conference Recap

We had the best time at the conference being able to bond with our staff and our board outside of the normal daily routine.

I have included a picture of all of us from our office at the conference if you would like to use it.

We also wanted to recognize Catherine "Maggie" Mundle for her years of service of 10 years.

Sarah Mohan, Harford County

Barry Jackson, Washington County

Congratulations to Ruie, Abigail and the Conference Committee for their tireless work leading up to and during the MAEO Conference, making it such a success! This may possibly have been the best conference yet.

But don't take my word for it. I spoke to several vendors who attend multiple local election conferences throughout the year, and they said ours was one of the best they've attended.

The conference was action packed all the way from Sunday through Thursday night. I was pleasantly surprised to see representatives from The Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) there to lead the discussion on effective websites.

It was great to have several of the decision makers on election law in the General Assembly (Speaker Adrienne Jones, Senator Paul Pinsky, Delegate Anne Kaiser, and Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins) speak at the conference, especially to hear them say that processing mail in ballots prior to Election Day will be a top priority in the 2022 General Session.

I was honored to facilitate Chazz Scott's breakout session, "Mastering Your Mind: Resilience Strategies." His message of positive thinking and mental resilience was eye opening.

We were finally able to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, albeit a year late, and it was impressive to see so many people wearing white at the SBE Biennial

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Conference recap cont'd

dinner on Wednesday night.

And of course, it's always entertaining when Guy Mickley gets behind a microphone, as he MC'd "Name that Tune" and BINGO.

But had none of those things occurred, the conference still would have been a success, in my mind, because we were finally able to see everyone, face to face, after a year and a half of Google Meets, Zooms, and Teams. That, alone, made the 2021 MAEO Conference one of my favorite ever!

Barry Jackson, Washington County

Hello All!

It was so wonderful to see everyone at the MAEO conference! We were honored to be one of the host counties and hope you all enjoyed the goodies you received! To Ruie, Karen, Brynna, Dana, Abigail and the many others who helped make the conference fun and worry free, THANK YOU!! We truly appreciate the hard work you all put into making our MAEO Conference the success it was!

St. Mary's office staff and Board Members.

In other St. Mary's news, last year we moved into a building that houses our office and warehouse together, YAY! Now that we have the space, it has been difficult to find a home for our BMD's. My coworker Jay recently visited the Charles County Board of Elections Office where he received great storage ideas from Wade Beswick, (by the way, Thanks Wade!) Upon Jay's return to the office he shared with me the shelves used by Charles County and the rest is history as we ordered them almost the same day! [To the right] is a picture of the shelving unit with BMD's stored on it.

If you are interested in this shelving unit, follow the link from ULINE below.

https://www.uline.com/Product/Detail/H-5456BL/Wire-Carts/Black-Mobile-Shelving-72-x-24-x-78?FromOrderHistory=Y

Brandi Underwood, St. Mary's County

Conference Recap cont'd

Cecil County had a blast at the MAEO Conference! It was great to see everyone in person, not from a computer screen. We were so glad we could assist The Conference Planning committee prepare and facilitate such an amazing conference. We now know how many different moving parts it takes to plan a successful conference such as meetings, phone calls, printing, packing, stuffing, organizing, etc. That was all before we even got to the beach! It felt great to be a part of such a worthwhile and informative conference.

Ruie and The Conference Planning Committee worked tirelessly ensuring everything was covered and all participants would have the best experience possible. It was an honor to have so many influential speakers like Brigadier General Birckhead and Speaker Jones join us. We really enjoyed all the breakout sessions and took away some new ideas. We join all of our election family across the state in saying Job Well Done! We would also like to extend our Congratulations to Danna, David, Ruie, Erin, and Kimberly on their awards, great job!

Karen Perry & Cindy Remmey, Cecil County

Around the State

Calvert County

We have been extremely busy trying to fill all of our staff vacancies and hope to be fully staffed by January. Shari Moran is now a full time employee with us and we just hired Robert Jaensch as our Election system automation coordinator.

Gail Hatfield, Calvert County

Charles County

Charles County Board President Katherine O'Malley-Simpson retired August 31, 2021. Craig Renner was nominated and accepted the new seat as our Board President and Fern G. Brown our Vice President.

In 2020 we added 2 new employees to our staff. Stephanie Ramos-Santos replaced Shelby Trice and we added Charlene Yates.

Karl Richardson left the

Continued on the Next Page...

Around the State cont'd

board of elections on September 1, 2021 as our Election Program Manager. Interviews took place on September 8, 2021 for his position. Wade Beswick accepted the position effective September 22, 2021.

We are in the process of filling Wade's old position of Election IT Specialist I. The job closed on October 12th.

Tracy A. Dickerson, Charles County

Play that Funky Music!!

A good DJ knows how to read the crowd; is unflappable and has an innate ability and willingness to go with the flow. A good DJ must have the right attitude and know how to handle scenarios with pure grace. A good DJ must have great technique, creativity and taste. Most importantly, a good DJ must have a love of music.

Craig Booth checked all those boxes.

A special thanks is in order for Craig (aka The Sound Booth) for DJing and providing great music throughout the conference. Through Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Through games, ceremonies and awards, Craig did an yeoman's job keeping the party going.

MAEO members cover all genres of music. From classic oldies to the latest and greatest hits! Throughout the conference, Craig was there to keep us all entertained.

Thanks Craig for doing such a great job! We hope to acquire your services again!

Maryland Association of Election Officials

2021 Retirements

Alice Dutter

Cindy Woodward

Joe Torre

Noreen Schultz

Rena' Waggoner

Stuart Harvey

Terri Marciszewski

Paula Troxell

Wayne Burton

Vanessa Graham

You will always be remembered for your hard work.

Thank you for your dedication.

Enjoy retirement!

Ocean City, MD

MAEO 2021 Conference

Years of Service (2021)

35 Years	
Antonio Bazemore	Abigail Goldman
Ann “Nancy” Stratton	Patricia Jackson
Joanna Emely	Susan Kreutter (38)
Kimberly K. Jones (31)	Gail Hatfield (36)
25 Years	
Claire Mower	Nicole “Nikki” Charlson
Kaye Robucci (29)	
20 Years	
Mary McDougal	Mary Wagner
Deborah Hill-Floyd	Wendy Adkins
Cheemoandia Blake	Allison Murphy
Vincent Omenka	Alisha Alexander
Michael Colbert (21)	Denise Gillum-Carmena (23)
Diane Loibel (22)	
15 Years	
Sherri Jackson	Tracey Chapman
Jerod Fauntleroy (16)	Danna Archie-Williams
Ronald Thomas	David Garreis
Jeffrey Stevens	Chrissy Sharpless
Kimberly Slusar	Walter Maddox
Val Patterson	Susan Julian
Julia Cox	Tamara Derr
Jared DeMarinis	Anthony Gutierrez
Jeri Cook	Christine Jones
Phyllis Edney (18)	Pamela Gaines
Lorvette Hall (17)	Sherice Harrison (19)

Years of Service (2021) cont'd

15 Years

Michelle Johnson-Bah	Mary Ann Mogavero (18)
Dexter Sellman (19)	Antoinette Thorpe
Patricia Thorpe	Kristen Scott
Melissa Smith (17)	

10 Years

Keith Ross	Erin Dennis
John Wales	Sally Nelson
Lisa Stanley	Teresa Womble
Christine Winer	Robert "Ben" Frey
Andrew Johnson	Ruie Lavoie
Daneen Banks (13)	Catherine "Maggie" Mundle

5 Years

Fred Brechbiel, Jr.	Daniel Oltman	Marc Welch
Cheyenne Richards	Shermaine Malcolm	Zsaime Williams
Lisa Hanzook	Jessica Perkins	Marcus Maddox
Karen Benecewicz	Kevin Norrington	Justin Maddox
Phyllis Morgan	Kenneth Moore	Barry Jackson
Darlene Lee	Sabrina Graves	Linda Miller
La Von Brown	Roy Smith	Hassan Aslam
Jose Morales	Jordan Cipolla	Ronghui Pan
Paul Noranbrock	Crystal McGinn	Denise McHale
Teresa Morningstar	Carl Dayley	Zachary Howe
Terron Pinder	Jennifer Bartholow	Shekia Harding-Bey
Eduardo Delima	Debra Brohawn	Anna Zajac-Ferenc
Daniel Beswick	Jessica Noranbrock	Rose Johnson
Samantha Logsdon (8)	Brandy Gordon (7)	

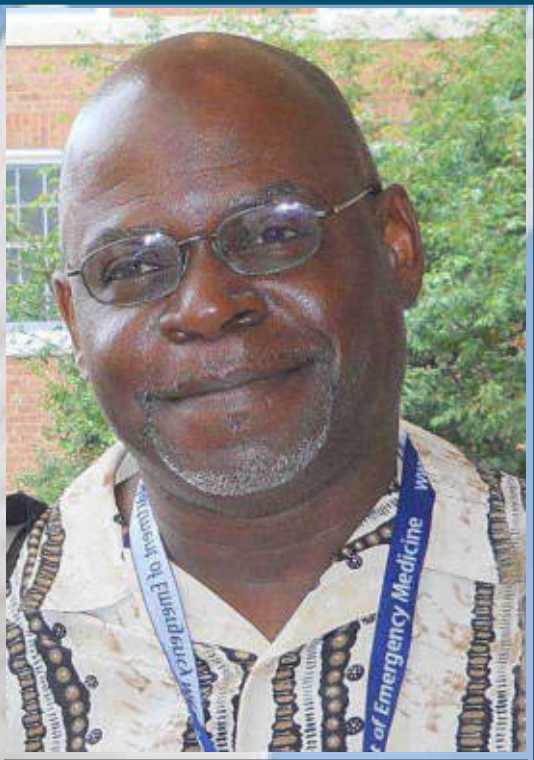
Thank you to Ruie Lavoie for providing the list of names mentioned during the Biennial. She was also able to acquire County employees' years of service, so that they can be recognized. We'd also like to thank the LBEs that submitted employees' years of service that may have been missed during the Biennial. Congratulations to all!

Hall of Fame Worthy

2021 would have marked 16 years of service for Garrick “Gee” Hendricks. Sadly, we lost Garrick earlier this year. But his spirit lives on. At this year’s conference, following a beautiful and heartwarming tribute from Gail Hatfield, Gee was voted unanimously to the MAEO Hall of Fame. This honor was certainly well-deserved and shines a light on the many years we were all graced to work with such a gifted and well-loved individual such as Garrick. We will all miss you Gee, you will always be remembered for your hard work, dedication and overall great spirit.

Rest in Heaven

Maryland Association of Elections Officials



Garrick “Gee” Hendricks

June 27, 1958— February 5, 2021

Sights from the MAEO Conference

David Collins, WBAL-TV, speaking during "Elections and the Media: It Starts with Us"

Harford Co. Executive Barry Glassman with Cecil Co. Election Director and Conference Planner Ruie Lavoie.

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House, Maryland House of Delegates

Lieutenant Kenneth Runk, Retired, Maryland State Police Tactical Unit, speaking during "It Takes a Village: Polling Place and Voter Safety"

More from the MAEO Conference

Transformational Speaker Manifest Ra has the group practice stress reduction techniques.

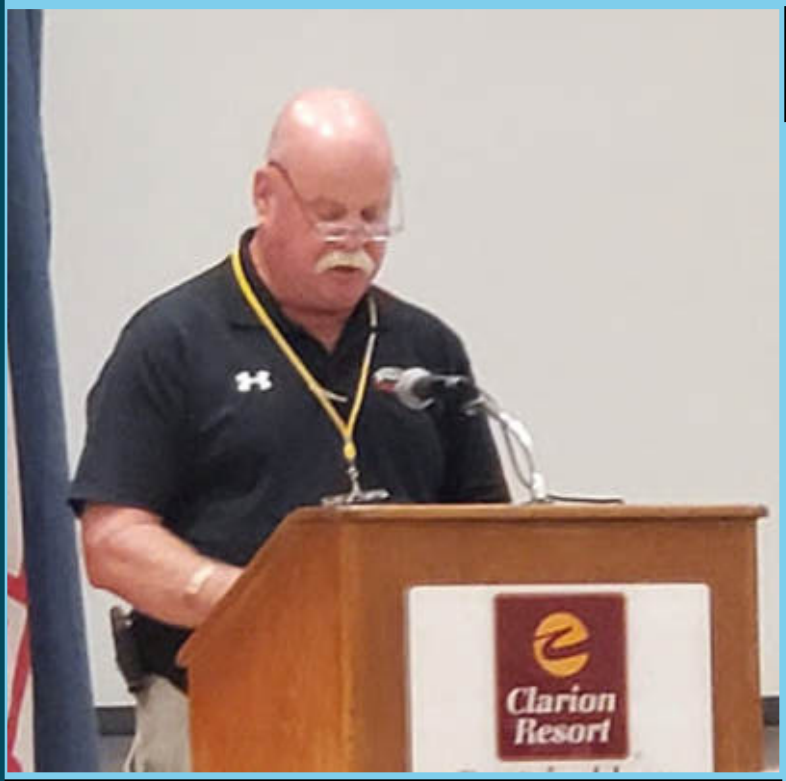
L-R, Dan Oltman, Guy Mickley and David Black discuss Redistricting at MAEO.

Charles "Chazz" Scott discusses having a positive mindset into the 2022 Election

Speakers at MAEO

State Senator Mary Beth Carozza speaks during MAEO.

Radio Media Personality Konan presents gift baskets to the MAEO members.



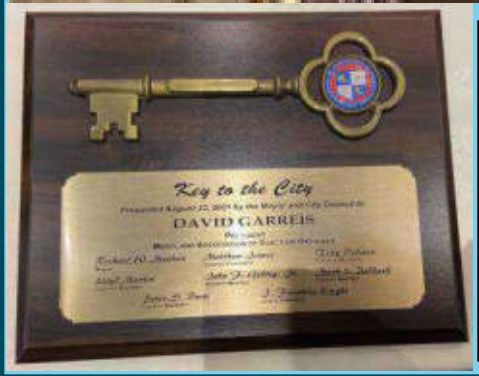
Richard Brooks, Chief, Cecil County Emergency Management

Brigadier General Janeen Birckhead, Member of the Maryland National Guard.

Posing for MAEO

Fishing and Beach Time!

Key to the City



Congratulations to MAEO President David Garreis for being presented with a Key to the City by Ocean City Mayor Richard "Rick" Meehan!!

Contributors:

Articles – Shawn Larson – Baltimore City ·

Gail Hatfield – Calvert County · Cindy Remmey & Karen Perry – Cecil County ·

Tracy A. Dickerson – Charles County · Jessica Noranbrock – Dorchester County ·

Sarah Mohan – Harford County · Alisha Alexander – Prince George's County ·

Brandi Underwood – St. Mary's County · Barry Jackson – Washington County

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Photos (taken or provided by) – Gail Hatfield – Calvert County · Nathan Reynolds – Cecil County ·

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Brandi Underwood – St. Mary's County

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***Connect 24* layout and design** – Shawn Larson – Baltimore City

MAEO Officers & Board Members

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Ruie Marie Lavoie, Cecil County, Vice President
Abigail Goldman, Baltimore City, Secretary
Danna Archie-Williams, Baltimore County, Treasurer

Alisha Alexander, Prince George's County, Board Member
Ben Frey, Somerset County, Board Member
Chrissy Jones, Queen Anne's County, Board Member
Alysoun McLaughlin, Montgomery County, Board Member
Kimberly Phillips, Howard County, Board Member