

**OAE0 Legislative Meeting Minutes**  
**January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Columbus Downtown Hilton**  
**8:00 am**

LaVera Scott, Legislative Committee Co-chair called the meeting to order shortly after 8 am

Secretary Deb Sneddon took attendance by roll call. Present were Shane Breckel, Luke Burton, Eric Corbin, Diana Duhlebohn, Gail Garbrandt, Marlee Gibson, Beth A. Goldenfield, Joyce Kale-Pesta, Ben Kline, Dee Keister-Smith, Mollie Landefeld, Alex Linser, Carol Perry, Bill Rich, Lavera Scott, Brian Sleeth, Deb Sneddon, Alisha Beeler, Cecilia Blevins, Chris Burnett, Terry Burton, Jane Hanley, Charlie Hardman, Karla Herron, David Koehl, Nicole Mickley, Bryce Miner, AJ Nowaczyk, Carla Patton, Jeff Rezabek, Jamie Snider, and Tonya Wichman. A quorum was present.

Absent from the meeting were: Judith Craig, Ross McDonald, Brett Riffle, Bill Freytag, Ron Knight, Jeff Matthews, Stephanie Penrose, and Kirsten Ross.

Aaron opened the meeting by thanking the members of the committee, especially LaVera and Terry for their hard work and heavy involvement throughout the year. He summed up the changes in HB 458 and HB 487 that were signed into law recently. They have been the topic of many conference discussions. Even though HB 458 did not go as we hoped, the bill did contain a few good outcomes.

Co-Chair LaVera asked each of us to continue to reach out to our legislators. She maintains that we can and do make a difference. She added that we work hard as an association but sometimes we need to make compromises. She stated that if we needed support, we should reach out to the association. She announced that Terry Burton was selected as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president of the Association and Jeff Rezabek was appointed co-chair of the legislative committee. LaVera welcomed Jeff on behalf of the committee. She looks forward to working together for the association. She also added that it is always humbling to be appointed and thanked everyone for placing their confidence in them.

Terry Burton was brief and thanked everyone for examining the proposed legislation throughout the year. He thanked Bill Rich for providing great insight. He feels that It does take time, and it does matter. He asks, "Where do we go from here?"

2023 Association President Sherry Poland informed the legislative committee of the plan to clean-up various sections of the revised code that are impossible to comply with. She cited ORC 3513.31 as an example. None of those sections should be controversial. As the trustee's work through those wording issues, the legislative committee will have time to review other, more important legislation.

New Business-possible items for the 135th General Assembly. Tonya Wichman asked us to address when a liquor option is allowed to be on the ballot even if, due to recent law changes, there does not need to be candidates on the ballot to hold the election. Currently the township is responsible for the costs of the election without any regard to whether or when the issue appears on the ballot. There was a consensus to investigate how to handle this process.

This led to a discussion on when entities need to prepay the 65% of an election. The committee agreed that prepay was only for August special elections.

Joyce Kale-Pesta asked Aaron what the impasse of online absentee applications was during deliberations of HB 458. Aaron answered that there was a broad consensus for this idea in both chambers but feels it may have just fallen through the cracks in the deal making process.

A discussion about Smart Drop boxes also occurred. There are vendors who have the technology that will scan a barcode when the ballot is dropped in the box. This could be a bargaining chip against the current live stream rules.

Jane Hanley wished us all a Merry Christmas in 2023 as we will be certifying petitions in the week between Christmas and New Year's. January 2, 2024 is the current deadline for the board to certify petitions. There was a consensus to push forward to move the March Primary date in presidential years to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May.

A brief conversation about Ohio politics and the dangers of opening Chapter 35 to more changes occurred before LaVera adjourned the meeting around 9:15 am.

Respectfully prepared on February 8, 2023, by Deb Sneddon Secretary

Submitted on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_