

Ohio Association of Election Officials (OAEO)

A meeting of the OAEO trustees was held on Friday, August 12, 2022 at 2:00 P.M. via teleconference.

President Sleeth requested roll call. Present were Phil Long, Lynn Mintchell, Tony Perlatti, LaVera Scott, Bill Rich, Michelle Wilcox, Sarah Greathouse, Terry Burton, Aundrea Carpenter Colvin, Brian Mead, Sherry Poland, Julie Leathers Stahl, Ranae Lentz, Faith Lyon and David Karmol.

President Brian Sleeth called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

The motion "to accept the **minutes** of the January 13, 2022 meeting as presented" was made by Phil Long, Mercer Co., seconded By Ranae Lentz, Motion carried.

President Sleeth asked if there was any old business to conduct. Being none he moved on to new business.

Brian Sleeth stated the REO classes are doing very well. He informed the trustees that several counties have asked about including part time staff in the classes. He sees the need for them to attend. It would be the in-person classes with capacity limits that might be a problem. He feels the full-time staff of the boards should be considered first.

Terry Burton made a motion to open the classes to part time employees with consideration for full time staff being the priority. Seconded by Bill Rich. Motion carries.

Brian Sleeth requested Gail Galbrandt to open discussion on redacting names and addresses of election officials from voter rolls. The legislative committee had no formal recommendation.

Aaron Ockerman, Executive Director, asked if the trustees wanted to move forward with this. He stated law enforcement and Judges have this protection.

Sherry Poland commented that Elections Officials fall under the Ohio Secretary of State and they appear on the internet voting rolls. She asked should election officials fall under the same laws as Judges and Law Enforcement.

President Sleeth asked if it was necessary to take action on this. Aaron stated yes but it doesn't have to be today.

After Discussion the trustees recommended that shielding protection should be sent back to the OAEO Legislative Committee for clearer clarification on what they propose.

President Sleeth called upon Phil Long for the annual report of Kids Voting Ohio.

Phil Long reported that the Summer Civic Leaders program has been a success. 15 Students participated this summer and activities included visiting the Ohio Supreme Court. This program will continue throughout the 2022-23 school year. Kids voting Ohio will be holding Mock Elections with school participation. 17% of the program is using resources for messaging and involving students which is the main goal. Many counties in Ohio have been using the Youth to the Booth program. Concerns have been raised about the resources used. The Board reviews each resource objectively and some resources have been removed. KV's main focus is to reach students and mock elections.

Mr. Long made a motion to continue funding of the Kids Voting Ohio for another year at a cost of \$5,000. Ranae Lentz seconds the motion.

Discussion:

Ranae Lentz referred to the program as a stepping stone to help young people understand the voting process.

Brian Mead stated his concerns about the stance their web site takes on legislation. He feels there should not be opinions posted on their site.

Julie Leathers Stahl informed the trustees that the Secretary of State has pulled out of the program.

President Sleeth said there has been lots of discussion and concerns regarding HB 616 and how it will greatly impact what the legislators can say and do. He felt because of Kids Voting Ohio's stance on Legislation regarding the Secretary of State Office would be impacted. He tried to meet with the SOS in person but was unable to. After discussion with them he stated the SOS would like to have their name removed.

Michelle Wilcox said her Board adopted Kids Voting Ohio. They have retired Teachers and use supplies the board provides them. They also pull curriculum from the Ohio Teachers Association. The Board prepares the kits they use for the program. She suggested the Kids Vote Ohio Board create the information to be used.

Dave Karmol stated he has no problem with the voting aspect of Kids Voting Ohio but has a problem with the leftwing groups involved. He would like to see a balance of information. He cannot support and is opposed to funding them.

Tony Perlatti said all were good points but felt exposing kids to voting is a good program. His youth at the booth in Cuyahoga County has been very successful. This is only the first year of the program and he would like to give it another year.

Phil Long stated he supports more balance and would like the Kids Vote Ohio Committee and trustees to meet a year from now and see how it has proceeded.

Sarah Greathouse said that Kids Voting Ohio has been very good for Montgomery County. The constant partisanship is exhausting. It encourages organizations to bring in other issues that are not relevant to Kids Voting Ohio. They need to work on language that reflects kids voting.

Aundrea Carpenter Colvin said that The Ohio Teachers Union supports and endorses left leaning ideas in their monthly magazine. She is not comfortable with Kids Voting Ohio.

Terry Burton stated any civic education for voting starts with kids. If we close education we lose. He is in favor of one more year of support.

Sherry Poland said that last year she voted in support of Kids Voting Ohio. When it came up this year she has great concerns for their website. Seems kids voting is more than it should be. Concerns about stands for or against a person or an issue. Kids Voting Ohio should not take a stand. She has concerns about the optics and concerns on donating to a nonprofit. She asked if the OAEO has ever given to a nonprofit?

Phil Long said he appreciates all the comments from the group and understands the need for change. The comments provide information that will help with a solution and said he would take the concerns back to the Board.

Terry Burton stated he would like to continue the pilot for Central Ohio, see how it will work and then move out to other parts of the state. Earmark the program for certain educational issues then roll out. The whole state needs to look to the future.

Bill Rich said he doubted if it is illegal for this organization to donate to a nonprofit. Concerns being raised have been received and noted. He suggested support for one more year. In a year address the concerns brought up and possibly trade off for non-support in necessary.

Terry Burton said that next year support should be earmarked for just education and voting materials.

Brian Mead made a motion to table the vote until the next trustee's meeting, seconded by Sherry Poland.

President Sleeth asked for a roll call vote: Yes - Terry Burton, Aundrea Carpenter Colvin, Brian Mead, Sherry Poland, Julie Leathers Stahl, Faith Lyons.

No - Phil Long, Lynn Mintchell, Tony Perlatti, Bill Rich, Michelle Wilcox, Sarah Greathouse, Ranae Lentz.

Vote – 6 Yes's, 7 No's. Motion does not carry.

President Sleeth calls for a roll call vote on the original motion to grant the Kids Voting Ohio \$5,000 for the 2022-23 year.

Yes - Phil Long, Lynn Mintchell, Tony Perlatti, Bill Rich, Michelle Wilcox, Ranae Lentz.

No - Terry Burton, Aundrea Carpenter Colvin, Brian Mead, Sherry Poland, Julie Leathers Stahl.

Abstentions - Sarah Greathouse and Faith Lyon

Vote – 6 Yes's, 5 No's. 2 Abstentions. Motion carries.

Phil Long stated he definitely heard what everyone was saying and will put all concerns on the next meeting agenda of the committee. He asked to be contacted with any other concerns anyone may have.

Michelle Wilcox thanked Phil for taking concerns back to the committee and for all he does.

Brian Mead thanks everyone for the discussion from both sides. It is healthy to have discussions and for Phil to understand concerns on the website.

President Sleeth moved on the next item on the agenda the Round Table. He called on Executive Director Aaron Ockerman for details.

Aaron Ockerman stated that he was approached by the Roundtable Group wanting to create a committee and a collaboration tool for Election Officials to share best practices and opinions. Aaron asked Brian and Sherry to take a look at the product. The idea behind the product is to share information with other election officials creating a thread of information between them. The approach would be to start with small groups and expand into larger groups.

Sherry Poland said it is an easy way to share high or low level stuff. It is a great way of doing it. She expressed concerns that sharing information would create public records.

Aaron Ockerman offered that it is used now in 3 or 4 states.

President Sleeth asked if it would be intrastate?

Aaron Ockerman said it would be only Ohio for now. They have offered a proposal with a fee of \$12,000 but no action has to be taken today.

Bill Rich stated that's not chump change. It is a big enough cost that we should try it out before committing. Have beta testing.

Aaron Ockerman said that they are willing to do demonstrations for us.

Bill Rich said it should be in a board meeting but would be willing to take a look.

Sarah Greathouse asked Sherry Poland and Brian Sleeth if it is compliant with the SOS security measures and the SOS team and does it create a public record?

Sherry Poland stated that this occurred before the new SOS security directive came out. The thread does describe step by step procedures so it could be a public record.

Aaron Ockerman said the public record is a valid concern. The OAEO is a private entity and may not fall under public records. We need to find out if use of the Roundtable product would create a public record. Board of Elections emails are public record.

Terry Burton said that their prosecutor does not concur with that and this is similar. It might be used as free conversations. We need to find out.

Bill Rich asked how well designed is it? If the product is good we should go for it.

Aaron Ockerman said we need to circle back to the Roundtable. The EAC is developing a similar product. Mississippi is one of the States in beta testing now. The product is fantastic if used as a dedicated product. The question is will people use it?

President Sleeth stated the EAC is free. Even though they are still in development I think we should reach out to them first.

Brian Sleeth asked if there was any other new business?

Brian Mead gave an update on the financials. He said the financials have dropped a bit and that only 2/3 of the Counties dues have been received but we are still financially sound. The REO program is in really good shape.

Brian Sleeth asked if there was any other new business? There being none he asked for a motion to adjourn,

Terry Burton made the motion, seconded by Brian Mead. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jocye Kale-Pesta, Secretary

Approved: _____