

Ohio Association of Election Officials - January 11, 2024 Old/New Trustees Meeting was held at the Hilton Downtown, Columbus, OH in the Aminah Robinson Grand Ballroom.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by President Sherry Poland.

Roll Call: The following 2023 officers were present: President: Brian Sleeth, First Vice President: Sherry Poland, Second Vice President: Terry Burton, Treasurer; Brian Mead, Secretary; Joyce Kale-Pesta, Executive Director; Aaron Ockerman, Trustees: Paul Adams, Frank Dicarlantino, Rill Rich. Michelle Wilcox, Brian Sleeth, Deb Sneddon, Antone White, Joseph Mallory, Angela White, Jeff Rezabeck, Alicia Beeler, Bryce Miner, Henry Curtis, Marilyn Jakubec, Terry Burton, Aundrea Carpenter Colvin. Also present were former 2023 Trustees: Tony Perlatti, Lavera Scott and Faith Lyon. Present were 5 Officers, 1 Executive Director, and 20 old/new trustees.

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by Marilyn Jacobcik seconded by Bryce Miner, Ayes Carry.

Motion to approve the treasurers report by Jeff Rezabeck, seconded by Michelle Wilcox, Ayes Carry.

President Poland announced the meeting would go into a short recess so the Democrat Trustees can caucus to pick a President, 2nd Vice-President and Secretary and the Republicans can pick a 1st Vice-President and Treasurer. The meeting reconvened at 5:22 PM.

2024 Slate of Officers was presented by President Brian Sleeth as follows:

President:	Paul Adams
First Vice:	Terry Burton
Second Vice:	Lavera Scott
Past President:	Sherry Poland
Treasurer:	Brian Mead
Secretary:	Joyce Kale-Pesta

Motion by Angela White, Frank Dicarlantino, Seconds – Ayes Carry

Past President Sherry Poland turned the meeting over to incoming 2024 President, Paul Adams. President Adams stated Lavera Scott is stepping down as Legislative Co-Chair and he would appoint someone by the first meeting. Jeff Rezabeck requested Lavera Scott be present at the meeting.

Nominating Committee: 5 members; 2 each party plus a chair (same party as the President).

Legislative Committee/chairs: Jeff Rezabeck

Education Committee/chairs: Brian Sleeth and Faith Lyon – Co-Chairs

Audit Committee (President, First Vice & 1 opposite party as Treasurer)

Web-site Committee:

Conference Committee: Bronwen Evener, Aaron Ockerman
Brian Mead, Joyce Kale-Pesta

Vendor Committee/chairs: Carla Patton, Mollie Landefeld - Co-Chairs

Regional Meeting Committee: Julie Leathers Stahl, Byron Bell - Co-Chairs

CCOA: Janet Carson, Dale Fellows, Karla Herron, Joe Mallory
David Koehl, Lyn McCoy, Brian Mead, Michelle Wilcox

Title 35 Clean-Up Committee: Jeff Rezabek, Terry Burton, Bryce Miner
Grant Sims, Antone White, Lisa Boggs – Co-Chairs.

Old business:

No Old Business.

New business:

President Adams asked Executive Director Ockerman to update the trustees on the legislative advisory committee. Aaron Ockerman stated he and Megan Hastings from Ohio State University have been appointed to the National Task Force that is looking at employment issues for election officials, training and salaries for election officials. Salaries are currently evaluating some proposals from academics to bring some data to bear as far as turnover in the industry. I am receiving request from members saying the articles from the committee relating to turnover have been helpful as they lobby County Commissioners for salary increases. I will continue to inform this group as more information comes out of the committee.

President Adams requested info from Faith Lyon on the education committee. Faith stated that the Education Committee has been approached by the Secretary of State's Office to give some incentive to the mentors who are going through the election official training. There are 74 mentors. They are asking if we would be willing to provide a free class as an incentive. If granted it would be around \$7,500 dollars given in kind to our colleagues to be those mentors. Our thoughts are that if we do decide to do this we would offer online classes only because there is no cap on the class attendees and used within a certain time period. Maybe within a year and not transferable to someone else. We would just use zoom classes which typically are geared to core curriculum versus the in person skilled and graduate classes which are typically sold out and would deprive our membership of entry.

Motion by Frank Dicarlantino to approve the recommendation of the Education Committee for a period of two years for years 2024 and 2025 to be reevaluated yearly after 2025, Seconded by Jeff Rezabeck.

Discussion: Angel White asked if a certificate will be issued and is good for a two year period or is good for longer until they decide to use it or is it going to follow them indefinitely. Aaron Ockerman stated he would work with Brian and Faith on the details

Frank Dicarlantino amended the motion that the scholarships be issued for two years and the certificate must be used the year of or the year after. Jeff Rezabeck approved the change to the motion. President Adams called for the vote - Ayes Carry.

Brian Sleeth, Co-Chair of the Education Committee stated that some counties do not have the funds to attend the REO classes and wondered if there could be some type of grant fund to allow them to attend. Could the ticket price be raised minimally by \$5 to create a reserve fund yearly. Again, we are paying OSU for the classes and reevaluation of the courses.

Brian Mead stated that all the Education Committee needs to do is put money in an earmarked fund for REO.

Brian's thoughts are that if \$5 is the increase the program could be opened up to the Director and Deputy of the counties in question. The committee would set the program parameters. There is a list of counties that have never participated.

Marilyn Jacobcik stated she would like to see it be limited to the Director and Deputy and stipulate that.

President Adams stated he would like the Education Committee to put together a proposal for our next meeting,

President Adams moved on to the next item on the agenda, stipends for Officers of the OAEO. He called upon Treasurer Brian Mead. Brian stated that with the success of the REO classes it was possible to give stipends to the officers and chairs of committees. His recommendation is to continue the stipends as they are but to increase the REO Chairs to \$3,000 dollars a year since they are doing so much more every year.

Motion by Deb Sneddon to accept the recommendation of Treasurer Mead proposal to provide the same compensation as last year with the exception of \$3000 dollars to the REO Chairs and to Terry Burton who will get his owed compensation, seconded by Andrea Carpenter Colvin, Ayes Carry.

Treasurer Mead began discussion on Executive Director Aaron Ockermans salary. He is paid \$6,000 dollars a month. I would recommend a 5% raise which would bring his salary to \$6,300 dollars monthly which I feel is appropriate. We have also given Aaron bonus's through out the years. I would suggest a \$3,000 dollar bonus because of the three elections last year and all the election legislation brought before us.

Motion by Marilyn Jacobcik, seconded by Antone White, Ayes Carry.

Next on the agenda was Kids Voting Ohio. Phil Long could not attend the meeting but Michelle Wilcox and Bill Rich spoke for Kids Voting Ohio. She stated the concerns of the trustees have been addressed on the web site. There are now 33 counties in Ohio using Vote Ohio and over 200 students. They have an anticipated budget with a total revenue of \$60,000 dollars and will give 5 scholarships to 5 student in different counties. Bill Rich echoed what was said and stated it is a well worthy program that should be supported by the OAEO.

President Adams requested a motion to provide Kids Voting Ohio with continued support of \$5,000 dollars for 2024. Motion by Joe Mallory, seconded by Terry Burton, Ayes Carry.

President Adams asked Executive Director Aaron Ockerman if there are any positions on legislation to discuss. Aaron said that traditionally we have tabled that until the Legislative Committee can review it which will be at tomorrow's meeting. Rank choice voting who are attending this conference will be making a presentation for feed back. They will not be presenting tomorrow although they are attending as a vendor. We will only be discussing legislative matters. Jeff Rezabeck stated there was a zoom meeting with them where they presented the idea of it, the logistical problems, or benefits to it and that is what the presentation is going to be. We are focused on implementation first and not the policy part of it. President Adams stated this issue would be held over to the Legislative Committee.

President Adams stated that he and Past-President Sherry Poland had discussed bringing back the Title 35 Clean Up committee. Upon the recommendation of Sherry Poland and working with Terry Burton to set up a committee for communication with the BMV and Sherry has agreed to continue to serve. Finally, after a brief conversation with the Secretary of State about the number of people going to the polls this November and the new ID Requirements. I suggested we partner with the Ready 2024 Program and doing a push for National Voter Registration Day providing updated information. I would like to do it as a coordinated effort with Boards of Elections, the Association and the Secretary of State Office.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Rich, seconded by Terry Burton, motion carries.

Respectively submitted by,
Joyce Kale-Pesta, Secretary

Approved: _____