Electoral Board Meeting Minutes February 3, 2018

The Electoral Board of Arlington County met at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2017, in the Office of Elections, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 320. The meeting was called to order by Charlene Bickford, Chairman and present were David Bell, Vice Chairman; W. Scott McGeary, Secretary; Linda Lindberg, General Registrar; and Gretchen Reinemeyer, Deputy Registrar. Also present were Clerk of the Circuit Court Paul Ferguson, Cragg Hines from the Arlington County Democratic Committee, and Scott McCaffrey from the Sun-Gazette.

Paul Ferguson administered the Oath of Office to Charlene Bickford, who had recently been reappointed to the Board. He then left the meeting.

The minutes from several previous meetings were approved.

Gretchen Reinemeyer presented the Board with a list of about 1,600 individuals recommended for appointment as Officers of Election for the term beginning March 1, 2018 and ending February 28, 2019. The list was approved unanimously.

Linda Lindberg presented the Board with a list of some of the election bills brought before the 2017 General Assembly and their current status. Of particular interest are bills that would reorganize the structure of the State Board of Elections (SBE), which are supported by registrars and electoral board members. The House and Senate bills were identical when introduced, but both have been amended differently.

Linda Lindberg reminded the Board of their previously-discussed plan to develop a strategic plan to outline challenges and expectations for the next few years. Staff is working on a preliminary draft, which they expect to present to the Board for review in March. Some of the concerns and challenges include the renovation of the Courthouse Plaza offices with little regard to election needs; ongoing issues at the Woodmont Center; and absentee, polling place, and workload growth challenges.

In regards to absentee voting, Linda Lindberg advised the Board that staff is planning to move in-person voting from the third to the first floor during the final in-person days in the fall, or from Oct. 27 onward. This will emulate the in-person operation utilized in Presidential years at Courthouse Plaza, allowing more space for better traffic flow.

Gretchen Reinemeyer informed the Board that staff had decided to implement an "I Voted" sticker design contest in 2019. She had conducted research in New York City, which recently had a similar contest, and also with the Treasurer's office, which runs the car decal contest. The sticker contest would be conducted similarly to the decal contest, but perhaps not limited to high school students only. The plan for 2019 was to help stimulate interest in the lowest-turnout election year.

Board members were also informed that staff plans to include funding in the FY2020 budget to replace the electronic poll books, which are now ten years old. Staff will schedule demos and solicit pricing details later this year in preparation of the budget. Board members were encouraged to look at some of the different vendor offerings for poll books at the upcoming Virginia Electoral Board Association conference.

Board members set the date of their next meeting, to elect Board officers for the next year, as Tuesday, March 20, at 4:00 p.m.

Announcements and upcoming events:

- The Annual meeting of the Virginia Electoral Board Association (VEBA) will take place March 2-4 at The Homestead. All members and Linda Lindberg are expected to attend.
- Gretchen Reinemeyer will attend the upcoming Election Center workshop and training in San Antonio.
- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Election Officials Technical Committee will present a regional workshop on April 6 in Washington, featuring speakers from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and the Center for Technology and Civic Design.
- The June 12 primary elections are expected to be a Republican Primary for U.S. Senate and a Democratic Primary for County Board.
- The potential dates for state training are June 25-26. Charlene Bickford is expected to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Charleng N. Bickford, Chairman

David A. Bell, Vice Chairman

W. Scott McGeary, Secretary