

MINUTES of the GREB WorkGroup

April 20, 2017

The GREB WorkGroup met on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 10 a.m. in Senate Room 3, The Capitol, Richmond Virginia.

Present: Co-Chair John Hager, Clara Belle Wheeler, Robin Lind, William Bell, Barbara Gunter, Charles Judd and Al Ablowich. Members of the public attending included Mary Jo White of the Virginia Municipal League, and Olga Hernandez of the League of Women Voters.

Mr. Hager called the meeting to order at 10 am. Mr. Lind read a letter of resignation from former Chesterfield County Director of Elections Larry Haake (which is hereby included in these minutes.) Mr. Lind then suggested nominating a replacement and asked Ms. Gunter to report on discussions that had been held by members of the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia. Several nominees were mentioned with a request that the WorkGroup consider two nominees from the ranks of Directors of Elections to restore a balance with Electoral Board representation.

Mr. Lind then nominated Directors of Elections Lisa Jeffers of Waynesboro, immediate past president of VRAV, and Michele White of Prince William County, now the second-most populous county in the Commonwealth; the nomination was seconded by Mr. Bell. The nominees were elected unanimously.

Discussion ensued on future meeting locations and parking difficulties. The chair asked Mr. Judd to enquire about more suitable locations for the future.

The Minutes for the January 17, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

The chair asked for a report on reaction to the GREB presentation at the VEBA annual meeting at the Homestead. Several members reported uniformly positive comments after the session and Mr. Judd added that it was thorough, prompt and not redundant. Ms. Gunter reported several specific comments from the audience, requesting a definition for “Deputy Registrar” be put into the Code, increasing funding for smaller localities, and encouraging a “reeling-in” of partisan activities of Electoral Board members close to election day.

Discussion ensued on the lack of response from the SBE and Department of Elections on the 2016 GREB WorkGroup report “A Review of Duties and Responsibilities of Electoral Boards and General Registrars.”

Mr. Ablowich asked what response was being sought; the Chair replied that SBE and the Commissioner should acknowledge receiving it and respond to the specific calls for action. On

a motion by Dr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Bell the WorkGroup voted unanimously to re-transmit the report to SBE and the Commissioner of Elections with important sections highlighted, to post the report on the GREB section of Townhall, and to distribute to GR and EB Lists.

Discussion ensued on carry-over items from 2016 for 2017 consideration. In addition to carry-over items, new Work Items will include:

- Issues raised by the Directors of Election from Fairfax and Prince William Counties on VERIS transactions and non-citizen declarations generated by DMV
- Revision of GR Annual Evaluation Form to simplify and eliminate unnecessary questions; exploration of a complementary Confirmation of Performance acknowledgement to be completed by Electoral Board members for submission to the local Clerks of Circuit Court
- Evaluation of procedures to be implemented on SB 1284, requiring audits of ballot scanning machines, which takes effect July 1, 2018
- Re-examination of structural make-up of State Board of Elections and Commissioner of Elections with research into background of original legislative intent
- Research on List maintenance and List Management with reference to signature capture, accessibility of federal databases

Discussion ensued on the interests of members of the House and Senate P&E Committees. Mr. Judd suggested that contacts should be fostered with patrons as soon as legislative proposals surface.

The WorkGroup set its next meeting for May 11 at 10 am in a location TBA. There being no further business the WorkGroup adjourned at 1:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Lind, Temporary Recording Secretary