

GENESEEE COUNTY CLERK'S/TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION  
MARCH 4, 1998/12:00 P.M.  
WALLI'S SUPPER CLUB, G-4160 W. PIERSON ROAD, FLINT, MI

ATTENDANCE: 28

Jeff Cyphert called the meeting to order at 12:45 P.M.

Mr. Cyphert introduced the guest speaker, Rob Coffman, Genesee County Election Supervisor.

Mr. Coffman said he appreciates being asked to speak before this group. He said he would like to update the group regarding the Secretary of State's Office concerning the Qualified Voter File and other legislative changes about elections.

Mr. Coffman gave a brief history on the QVF, stating that Secretary of State Candice Miller ran on the premises of developing a new voter registration system. He said most of Genesee County is computerized and the State wanted to have all data in one pot. About 85% to 90% of the voter registrations are taken by the Secretary of State Office. At the present time we have a paper system, whereby the Secretary of State's Office takes the registration and then forwards it to the correct municipality. We have multiple registrations in the system. We compared the 1990 Census to the registered voters last November, and found 108% registered voters voted in the County.

Mr. Coffman said the QVF is a central depository for the data. Most of the Clerks will have computers in their office that connects to the QVF so the registrations can be put on the system and transmitted up to the State system. We have had some difficulties with the system and it may another year before it is totally operational. We were supposed to have the system installed in Genesee County last September, but there was a problem with the company and they bailed out. Since then, another company has taken over the process. The initial testing found several problems and the test sites that received the software had to have the software loaded. We will start to get our equipment in Genesee County sometime next week. There is a one month window period to get all of the equipment installed. The City of Burton and Grand Blanc Township are scheduled to receive their equipment on March 13<sup>th</sup> and the County is scheduled last, with the date of April 17<sup>th</sup>.

We have had several inquiries about training, since it was last fall when the main training program occurred. There will be some type of retraining, but we are not certain just how this will be done. When the equipment is delivered to the Clerks, you can contact the Help Desk in Lansing and they will help initialize the system. UPS will be delivering the system and you do the connecting. If there is no one in-house to connect the system, contact the County Clerk's Office and arrangements will be made for assistance. Mr. Coffman said he has spoken with the Help Desk and they only have four people to assist the entire State. They will be installing 45 systems per day, so you may not get through to the Help Desk immediately.

Pat Drozdowski commented the instruction manuals are written very well, but the Help Desk isn't a lot of help.

Janet Johnston said everyone in Genesee County had been asked to send the data disk, but she was never contacted about sending the updated version. She said she sent the disk in two days prior to this meeting.

Mr. Coffman said the first year will not be easy and no one will be able to operate the system for this year's elections. It is important that you keep the current system you have updated, as well as the new one, at least until the end of the year. He said once the system is installed, get the officials involved with it.

Pat Drozdowski asked about the need for a card file.

Mr. Coffman said there will always be a need to keep the card file because of the signatures.

Richard Saathoff said he understood we should be able to go into the State's system and download into our old system.

Mr. Coffman said they are trying to make sure we get the information from them in a timely fashion. So much still depends on what we do at the local level.

Mr. Coffman reported a change has been made in the filing of the precinct delegates. They are no longer required to circulate petitions for precinct delegates, only file an Affidavit of Identity. They can file either at the County or at the local Clerk's Office. Also, the requirement of at least three votes has been removed and a delegate only needs one vote to be elected. We have copies of the Affidavit of Identity if anyone needs them. Discussion continued regarding the filing of the precinct delegates. Another major change that has been approved is that 16 and 17 year olds are now allowed to be appointed as election inspectors. It's up to the local election official whether or not they are allowed to work. There is a special application for them to fill out and a special permission slip from the school is required for them to work.

To be a Write-in candidate, an Intent form must be filed by the Friday preceding the election. If this form is not filed with the County or Local Clerk and the person is written in at the polls, the write-in will not be counted. A County Delegate can file a Write-in Declaration until the close of polls on election day, but it has to be notarized and we will not be obligated to provide a notary at the polls.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ginger Spencer gave a report from the Treasurer's Meeting held on March 3, 1998. (See Attached Minutes).

Janet Johnston said the Governmental Clerk's attended a Seminar on February 26<sup>th</sup> with Wells Cook, Professor from CMU. The next quarterly meeting will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Weekdays.

Mr. Cyphert stated a joint committee has been formed between the Treasurer's and Financial Officers. The Committee's goal is to get information out re PA 20 regarding investments. We have had three meetings and we are putting together a comprehensive work package. There will be workshops in the near future and each Treasurer and Finance Director will receive information about the workshops. I have spoken with Dan Kildee about the workshops in Genesee County and he is in favor and will try to come up with a date and location. We are leaning to holding it at the Sloan Museum. We want to make sure our workshop is the same as the others held around the State.

Mr. Cyphert said next month is the annual election of officers. He asked Ida Reed, Marty Donnelly and Richard Saathoff to be on the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Cyphert said because of time restraints, he does not want to be considered for an office. Anyone who is interested in one of the positions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

The next meeting will be held April 1, 1998 at 12:00 P.M., Walli's Supper Club, G-4160 W. Pierson Rd.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE  
Secretary