

CTCA Executive Committee
Monday, August 17, 2020
3:30 p.m. Emergency Conference Call

ATTENDANCE

CTCA Executive Committee: Anna Posniak, President; Patty Riley, First Vice President; Kate Wall, Second Vice President; Dawn Rees Mooney, Secretary; Katie Sandberg, Assistant Secretary; Antoinette Pancaro, Assistant Treasurer (Absent: Betsy Barrett, Treasurer)

County Vice Presidents: Debbie Halsted, Fairfield County; James Krupienski, Hartford County; Carol Anderson, Litchfield County; Ryan Curley, Middlesex County; Marc Garofalo, New Haven County; Debra Patrick, New London County; Lori Tollmann, Tolland County; Sherri Mutch, Windham County

Invited Guests: Mark Bernacki, New Britain City Clerk; Chic Spinelli, Waterbury City Clerk; Lisa Valenti, North Branford Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Conference Call was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by President Posniak.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION

President Posniak informed the board that she participated in an SOTS implementation call, which also included the ROVAC President and invitees Chic Spinelli and Lisa Valenti, to discuss the November 3 presidential election. She shared that during the call SOTS announced that a mailing house will not be used for November's ballots, detailing barcoded applications with postage-paid, non-windowed envelopes will be mailed to all active CT voters by SOTS with town clerks responsible for mailing all ballots. She elaborated that CVRS will be enhanced to increase bandwidth and to print mailing labels based on the scanned barcodes, but noted that CVRS can be slow with heavy use and shared her concern that the state could be in another lockdown by November. President Posniak strongly suggested that town clerks must immediately establish a plan with their municipal CEO's to ensure additional staffing and computer/scanner/label printer needs will be met. She further noted that SOTS is promising better publicity to educate CT's voters. The group then discussed the many issues and questions left unanswered, including:

- when will the data be pulled from CVRS for the application mailing
- when will applications be mailed; will there be delays as with primary
- will applications allow voters to provide a mailing address
- will town clerks be responsible to put postage on envelopes to mail the ballots and/or for ballot return envelopes; if so, will postage costs be reimbursed
- will ballot availability date and timeframe to mail ballot to voter be altered
- will easy-to-read instructions be provided for first-time AB voters
- how will SN#'s on envelopes be used, or voter ID#'s, for tracking
- how will CVRS handle the enormous demand that will be placed on it
- will label printers be required or can clerks print directly on envelopes
- will town clerks receive sufficient supplies and when will supplies arrive
- can town clerks stop participating in SOTS calls where misinformation is being spread and, instead, get all communications from SOTS in writing
- will SOTS clarify their role in this process in writing

The board then discussed its frustrations and serious concerns with SOTS's handling of the PPP, specifically the manner in which town clerks were not informed - or worse misinformed – of SOTS's plans, were blamed for SOTS's mistakes and were used as SOTS's scapegoats. The group agreed that CTCA should use the media and the press to inform the voters of CT of the truth. The board also agreed that a targeted message must be sent to the Governor and CT's legislators, and Deb Patrick agreed to draft a letter.

***A motion was made by Kate Wall and seconded by Ryan Curley to authorize CTCA President Anna Posniak to expend up to \$5000 to research and hire a PR firm to represent CTCA's best interests; motion passed unanimously.**

President Posniak advised that she will email CTCA's general membership of this development later today. She further recommended that town clerks provide a link to SOTS website where an absentee ballot application offering COVID-19 as a qualifying reason should soon be available. James Krupienski agreed to work on a fillable application to distribute to the membership. President Posniak stressed that voters must not be disenfranchised.

***A motion was made by James Krupienski and seconded by Ryan Curley to adjourn the conference call at 4:44 p.m.; motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Rees Mooney
CTCA Secretary