



Standards Board Newsletter

June 2015

Volume 2, Issue 1

Executive Board of the Standards Board

Brad King, IN State, *Chair*

Sandi Wesolowski, WI Local, *Vice-Chair*

Edgardo Cortes, VA State, *Secretary*

Mark Goins, TN State

Paul Lux, FL Local

Peggy Nighswonger, WY State

Gary Poser, MN State

Jerry Schwarting, SD Local

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U.S. Election Assistance Commission

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Letter from the Chair

“The Standards Board is Alive and Well!”

Eighty-seven of the 110 members of the Standards Board gathered on April 28 and 29 in historic Williamsburg, Virginia to reorganize the Board and move forward with the Board’s important work under the Help America Vote Act. We elected new Executive Board members and chose new Standards Board officers to carry on the day-to-day tasks of the Board as we plan for our next full meeting.

Dozens of members responded enthusiastically to the invitation to serve on committees responsible for completing some of the Board’s most immediate tasks (such as the US EAC Executive Director Search Committee) or on committees whose long-term work is the heart of the reason for the Board’s existence (the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines Committee). Other members cheerfully volunteered to serve on committees necessary for the stable, orderly work of the Board (such as the Bylaws Committee and the Nominating Committee). The Executive Board thanks everyone who expressed an interest in serving on one or more of these committees, and hopes that you will continue to show a lively interest in helping the Board accomplish its important work.

I hope that this e-newsletter will keep all of the Board members up-to-date on the activities of the Executive Board and the various Committees. I am certain that the momentum we began in Williamsburg will continue in the weeks and months ahead.

Brad King, *Chair*

Executive Board Meets

On June 18, the Executive Board conducted its first meeting since we gathered in Williamsburg. During its conference call, the Executive Board received reports from committees (set forth in this newsletter), and decided to send a letter to NIST regarding the work of the Standards Board on the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines. The letter to NIST will emphasize the need to have a systematic plan for reviewing and revising the individual components of the Guidelines, rather than attempting to digest and make recommendations for changing the entire 600+ page document “all at one sitting.” The Executive Board also decided that publishing this newsletter on a monthly basis was desirable at this time to keep all Standards Board members up-to-speed with

rapidly changing developments. Now that the EAC, Standards Board, Board of Advisors, (and soon, the TGDC) are fully functioning, there will be lots of news to share.

Committee Reports

Search Committee for EAC Executive Director

The Standards Board Search Committee for the EAC Executive Director has done its duty.

On May 29, Peggy Nighswonger, Chair of the Search Committee, notified the EAC Commissioners that the Committee had conducted an in-person meeting in Williamsburg, and several conference calls among its members, and was forwarding at least three names to the EAC for consideration as candidates for the EAC Executive Director's position. Now that the EAC has received the names of these candidates, the process will continue with the EAC taking these names (and those submitted by the Board of Advisors) into consideration as the EAC Commissioners make their final decision regarding the appointment of a person to serve as EAC Executive Director. Many thanks go out to the members of the Search Committee who took the time to review lengthy applications and resumes and then conduct a thoughtful process to make these recommendations.

Committee Members:

- Peggy Nighswonger (WY), State, *Chair*
- Edgardo Cortes (VA), State
- Gail Fenumiai (AK), State
- Mark Goins (TN), State
- Steve Harsman (OH), Local
- Lisa Kimmet (MT), State
- Jim Silrum (ND), State

Bylaws Committee

Wednesday, July 15, 2015 Deadline for Amendment Submissions!

The Bylaws Committee has begun the task of reviewing the Bylaws of the Standards Board. If you attended the Williamsburg meeting, you may recall that the Committee recommended that the membership re-adopt the Bylaws, as last amended on July 27, 2010. This recommendation was approved. Now the Committee is asking for your suggestions regarding any amendments which the full membership of the Board should consider.

The Bylaws Amendment Submission form, attached to this e-newsletter, is short and we hope easy to complete. **Please note that the form must be received by EAC Chairwoman Christy McCormick, the Designated Federal Officer for the Standards Board, by July 15, 2015.**

Over the years, the Bylaws have been amended to help the Standards Board implement new and more efficient procedures for conducting its meetings and its Executive Board elections. Your own “bright idea” may be the next step in improving the way we carry out our work together.

Committee Members:

- Sandi Wesolowski (WI), Local, Chair
- Maryellen Allen (KY), State
- Lynn Bailey (GA), Local
- Jackie Gonzales (WY), Local
- John Merrill (AL), State
- Gary Poser (MN), State
- Howard Sholl, Jr. (DE), Local

Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines (VVSG) Committee

The VVSG Committee will meet by conference call on Wednesday, June 24 from 1-2 p.m. EDT to discuss the topics assigned to working groups, such as accessibility and usability of voting systems; the broad-ranging goals of NASS and NASED concerning voting systems; and software independence. A detailed report regarding the Committee’s meeting will appear in the next edition of this newsletter.

Committee members:

- Paul Lux (FL), Local, Chair
- Nikki Baines Charlson (MD), State
- Robert Dezmelyk (NH), Local
- Lance Gough (IL), Local
- Keith Ingram (TX), State
- Brandon Johnson (SD), State
- Marian Schneider (PA), State
- A.J. Starling (TN), Local
- Reynaldo Valenzuela Jr. (AZ), Local

Next Standards Board Meeting Date

Several members have asked when (and where) the next meeting of the full membership of the Standards Board will take place. Although the exact answer will depend on factors such as when the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) is fully functioning again, and what work that the various Standards Board committees can accomplish during the next weeks and months, the Executive Board has preliminarily considered this question. We recognize that 2016 will be a busy year for all of us, but not all of us will be busy at the same times. The lengthy and constantly changing primary and caucus schedules will make it impossible to select a date for the next meeting that will permit every member to attend (or to do so conveniently). Because of the large number of Standards Board members, we also need to make certain that we will have a quorum of members who can attend.

In our initial discussion, we identified three windows of opportunity for our next meeting (some more optimistic than others). They are, in chronological order, the days around October 1, 2015, after January 1, 2016, and around April 15, 2016. EAC staff is researching certain critical information, such as hotel room availability, government rates, and other costs which will be important to consider regardless of whether one of these dates, or another date, is ultimately selected. Since a new federal fiscal year will begin on October 1, 2015, we will have to take into consideration whether federal funding is

available at that time to conduct our next meeting. We will also take the effect of winter weather on air travel into account.

Your feedback is welcome, as always, in this process.

Announcements

Executive Board Conference Call

- Thursday, July 16, 2015, 3 p.m. EDT

Technical Guidelines Development Committee meeting

- Monday and Tuesday, July 20-21, 2015
- “Portrait Room”, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 1000, Gaithersburg, MD.
- For agenda and more information, see <http://www.nist.gov/itl/vote/tgdc-july-20-21-2015.cfm>

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