

MINUTES

Arizona County Clerks Association (ACCA)

November 19, 2003 1:00 p.m.

Embassy Suites, Phoenix, Arizona (in conjunction with AACo)

Present: Steve Peru, President, Coconino County
Beth Bond, Apache County
Marian Shepard, Gila County
Kay Gale, Greenlee County
Donna Hale, La Paz County
Judy Jones, Navajo County
Melinda Meek, Treasurer, Santa Cruz County
Bev Staddon, Yavapai County
Carolyn Dicus, Yavapai County

Special Guest: Sally Bender, Assistant Director, County Supervisors' Association

Minutes Publication Requirement

Sally Bender indicated that she and Bev Staddon had been discussing ways to approach proposed legislation to eliminate the requirement for publishing minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

She noted that this year is not the year to submit proposed legislation regarding this matter; however she did have discussions with John Fearing, Executive Director of the ANA. She explained that she discussed several issues with him such as how many newspapers are not complying with the statutory requirements of putting minutes on their websites and how Greenlee's newspaper was charging the public library.

Sally stated that Mr. Fearing checked into these issues and the charging of the Greenlee library stopped immediately. She also stated that Mr. Fearing suggested a link on the ANA website (www.ananews.com) for all Counties agendas and minutes which would serve as a single location on the internet for access to Board minutes.

Sally also noted that this could grow to be a possible access for all minutes, besides counties, such as towns, special districts, school districts, etc.

Sally explained that Mr. Fearing would like to try a pilot project with two counties relating to posting of their agendas. Kay, from Greenlee, and Bev, from Yavapai, volunteered to work on the pilot program with the newspaper association.

Sally also mentioned that Phil MacDonnell is the hired lobbyist for the newspaper association

Bev Staddon, Yavapai, mentioned that this gave the Clerks an opportunity to build a positive relationship with the newspaper association, showing that the counties are about providing information to the public.

Legislative Issues

Steve asked Sally if there was any legislation that would affect the Clerks' this year?

Sally stated that it was going to be an ugly session, and there was probably going to be legislation impacting the Clerks. She also mentioned that Graham County has a bill in requesting clarification of the Truth-in-Taxation Notice that goes to the papers. She further noted that ATRA is opposed to this proposed legislation, although they do not mind clarifying what is there.

CSA

Sally stated that Al Ecker left CSA to work as the head lobbyist of the Department of Administration and that Nicole Waldron was coming to work for CSA. She mentioned that Nicole was the former Assistant Director of the Department of Agriculture and their legislative liaison and has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from ASU. They are hopeful that Nicole will be setting up grant writing programs through CSA that will be of help to the counties.

Sally announced that CSA's webpage was going to be redone, with a \$5,000 check provided by APS to CSA. Sally also noted that CSA needs more staff to better provide services to the counties and that she recognizes the need to improve CSA's newsletter. She proposed an idea about a rotation among the counties to be spotlighted in the newsletter, articles relating to each county and its supervisors.

Open Forum

Discussion ensued about the various supervisors who plan to run for office in 2004 and those who are not, as well as any department head vacancies.

Judy, Navajo, declared that she will be retiring in December, 2004. Everyone present was thrilled for her (and a bit envious!).

Bev, Yavapai, stated that they have a Jail District election on March 9, 2004, to raise the sales tax one-quarter cent. She noted that when the Jail District was originally formed in 1999, they only asked for one-quarter instead of the full one-half cent tax. Steve, Coconino, stated that their Jail District will be doing the same thing some time in the future.

Issues briefly discussed included: County assigned vehicles and the need for annual Board action; county budgets; HURF funded employees; special district tax rates.

Marian, Gila, stated that Steve Besich is back from his job with the State and is now Gila County's Deputy County Manager (a position he preferred rather than his former job of County Manager).

Bev stated that the School Superintendent's Office changed their title to ESA, Education Service Agency

Winter Retreat

Santa Cruz County will be hosting the Winter Retreat on March 25, 26, 27, 2004 at Rex Ranch, off of the I-19, south of Tucson. Melinda noted that this location is on the Santa Cruz/Pima border.

Preliminary agenda items:

- Consent Agenda Items (requested by Beth, Apache)
- Mail processing, incoming and outgoing (requested by Judy, Navajo)
- Board travel authorization

2004 Summer Retreat

Judy indicated that because 2004 will be her last year as Clerk, she would like to again host the retreat at Sierra Springs Ranch in Pinetop/Lakeside. Several dates in July were discussed (due to elections, July was felt to be better than August or September). The dates of July 15-17; 22-24 and 29-31 were discussed. Tentatively, July 15-17, 2004 was set to be the date for the summer retreat. (Since the meeting, however, it was learned that this date may be in direct conflict with NACO that is going to take place in Phoenix.) Judy will be contacting everyone on the availability of the Sierra Springs Ranch.

2005 Joint Retreat

Apache and Gila Counties will host a joint retreat in 2005. Further details will be discussed during the 2004 retreats.

Adjournment

President Peru adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

/s/ Donna J. Hale, Acting Secretary