

VAAC Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2011
Thurston County Courthouse Room 280

In attendance: Denise Colley (Berl was home ill), Patty McDonald, Matthew Annal, Tom Allman, SOS Accessibility Coordinator, Auditor Kim Wyman, Deputy Auditor, Ken Raske, Asst. Elections Manager, Lynnette Thornton and Sandy Baxter, Voter Outreach Coordinator.

Prior to the official start of the meeting Denise was read the memo of the April 20, 2010 meeting which was not included in the agenda and minutes. The April 20 and March 9 minutes were approved as corrected.

The meeting started at 5:30.

Sandy noted there was an article in Election Administration Reports about the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) not having a quorum and that this would affect future HAVA funding. Auditor Wyman noted the EAC funding mostly applies to equipment purchases and not outreach projects.

Lynnette and Sandy asked for feedback on the Public Service Announcements (PSA's) and both Denise and Patty said they had received many comments from persons who had seen the PSA during the fall election cycle. Matt Annal suggested it might be good to have the PSA's on U-Tube. Elections staff will look into posting the PSA's/videos (particularly the demonstration of the use of the AutoMARK™ video) on U-tube. Denise also brought up the use of radio spots as a different type of outreach.

Matt also asked if we would be updating our PSA's this year. If we did so, he suggested we use ARC of WA state as an audience. Lynnette noted we did not know if we would change the PSA's or use the same ones from last year due to the HAVA budget. She also noted we are very happy with the production crew and felt they had done an excellent job.

Sandy presented the AutoMARK™ usage from 2010 and Auditor Wyman noted she also had given a speech to the People First group in mid-October which meant over 100 people had exposure/use of the AutoMARK™ during the General Election. This is a big increase over 2009.

The following web usage stats were provided to the committee: The American Sign Language (ASL) web pamphlet went from 2 hits in the Primary Election to 40 in the General. The PDF pamphlet had 1,182 hits and the audio pamphlet had 57 hits.

Lynnette noted we had \$11,000 left from our HAVA grant for ASL, PSA. The VAAC committee granted approval to use the money for ASL for the Primary and General Election voter pamphlet (approximately \$7,000) and the rest for PSA's.

Auditor Wyman brought up a recent meeting she had with vendors and their development of a video voter guide and other software to meet MOVE (Military

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Overseas Voter Empowerment) Act. She noted Kitsap County had the vendor do the video pamphlet and they then sent the video to a local community college in Kitsap who did the close captioning.

Kim also brought up the idea of instead of taking the heavy AutoMARK™ to various locations we would take a laptop and printer. The voter could then vote their ballot in their home. Sandy asked about the computer being touch screen since this type of technology seemed to be accepted by the people who use the AutoMARK™. Denise and Patty McDonald mentioned the computer/software would have to be JAWS or Windowize friendly for voters with visual impairments.

Kim also mentioned this technology could be used by the overseas voters under the MOVE Act so they could return their ballot via email and we would then process their ballot without waiting for their paper ballot. General discussion about the security of eballots followed.

Lynnette noted there was a HAVA grant proposal due date of April 1. It was decided that more research was needed on whether to continue the ASL and PSA in 2012 and if we wanted to include these two programs in our April 1 HAVA proposal to SOS, along with the video guide and online voting proposed by Auditor Wyman. It was decided the Elections staff would do additional research on the Auditor Wyman's suggested video guide and voting via email; radio spots, ASL and PSA's and then present this information to the VAAC committee for a meeting the week of February 14.

Denise also brought up concerns about the future of the VAAC membership. She encouraged us to recruit additional staff and she also expressed concerns about the loss of Steve Peck, representing persons with hearing impairments. Sandy mentioned Jim Masters was the newest member of the VAAC and it was unfortunate he wasn't at the meeting. The VAAC will be sent a copy of the VAAC application form for them to use to recruit new members.

Denise and Patty asked about statewide use of the accessibility voting and Tom Allman noted the Secretary of State's office was currently in the process of compiling the statistics on usage in 2010. He also noted Thurston may want to contact Rob Workman, Student at Evergreen State College Barrier Breakers group as a potential member of the VAAC committee.

Sandy noted she will contact St. Martins, SPSCC and Evergreen disability groups about their involvement in the VAAC committee and as a way to expand outreach to younger voters who may have a disability.

Patty McDonald mentioned it might be good to have a poster for display at various VocRehab locations and also other groups that worked with persons who had disabilities. Sandy said she will work on a design for such a poster.

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Matt noted on March 30 there was an Independent Living Day Rally at the Capitol and urged the group attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.