The Patriot

Poll Workers of Okaloosa County WINTER 2014

Patriot Poll Workers,

Let me start by thanking you for the job well done this past year. We had a few challenges having implemented some new equipment and procedures, but thanks to all of your hard work and dedication, we came through it all with flying colors! When we have the caliber of poll workers that we are blessed with, it's almost a foregone conclusion, but it is also nice to hear what a great job you've done!

This coming year's Municipal Elections will require fewer poll workers because we will be using EViDs (Electronic Voter Identification equipment) in many polling places that have never used them before. That means more training for those who will work, so please be sure to read the training schedule carefully and make time for classes next year if you are called to work.

Speaking of EViDs, we used them in more precincts this past year, and hope to soon convince our County Commissioners to purchase enough for all of our polling places. Be on the lookout for more information from Jane and Karen about how you can help us accomplish this goal.

We even faced, for the first time since 2000, a countywide recount (that R-word I don't like to use!). I am pleased to report that we handled over 60,000 ballots for the machine recount and over 8,000 ballots for the manual recount and accomplished both in just 10 hours! It was a nice test of our procedures in the post-2000 environment, and everything went smoothly.

In September, many of you helped us conduct a countywide outreach effort for National Voter Registration Day. We manned tables in front of each Walmart in Okaloosa County and helped 67 voters register or update information. Thank you to all who participated; we can't do it without your help!

One of my goals last year – fully enfranchising military voters who use "last chance" ballots to vote – died in committee. I already have a new version filed in the Senate and am currently looking for a House sponsor. I also have another bill proposal to protect the addresses of our military Special Operations personnel.

I want to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year! Enjoy this holiday season!

Patriot Support Team:

Supervisor of Elections
Paul Lux

Poll Worker Coordinator
Jane Linihan

Election Services Manager
Karen Nennig

Voter Education and
PR Coordinator
Bridget Richard Krebs

Elections Warehouse Foreman
Alan Freiberg

Voting Machine Technician
Dustin Ball

Voting Machine Technician
Matt Cunningham

Jane's Corner

It is a joy to work with Okaloosa County Poll Workers! Once again, your positive attitude, willingness to serve wherever you're needed, and your work ethic have resulted in another successful election. I couldn't be more proud.

Working with two different types of voter sign-in procedures in our county is a bit of a challenge. Many counties in Florida have already replaced the ancient PR/PLs with electronic sign-in equipment. Anticipating that our County Commissioners will realize that both our voters and our Patriot Poll Workers deserve updated equipment, we plan to use EViDs (Electronic Voter Identification equipment) in all participating Crestview precincts as well as Precincts 19, 22/41, 27/28, 32, and 48 in Fort Walton Beach for the March Municipal Elections. In addition to the regular scheduled classes, there will be EViD workshops to get you up close and personal with the new equipment.

I know everyone was slammed on General Election Day. Poll workers initiated 1,671 changes that day, most of which were address changes or reinstatements. During early voting and on Election Day, 940 absentee ballots were blocked. Most of those calls to the office will be eliminated when we get the new equipment for all precincts.

There were 123,712 Okaloosa County voters eligible to vote in the General Election. Here are the numbers for how our voters took advantage of the numerous ways provided for them to vote:

Total Turnout 61,672 (49.9%)	Absentee Voters	13,038	10.5% of Registered Voters
	Early Voters	14,877	12.0% of Registered Voters
	Election Day Precinct Voters	33,757	27.3% of Registered Voters

We are looking forward to a challenging year. We know that, as usual, you will rise to the occasion. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jane

P.S. Our SOE family continues to grow. Congratulations to both families!

This year, we welcomed Bridget's new baby girl, Katherine.

Next year, we will welcome Dustin's new baby boy, Riley.

2015 Election-Specific Training Classes

Your Clerk will call you to confirm your availability to work before class letters are mailed.

Day	Date	Times	Location	Who
March 10, 2015 Municipal Election Classes (Cinco Bayou, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Laurel Hill and Shalimar)				
Tues.	Feb. 10	9:00 am	Former Ag Building 5479 Old Bethel Rd, Crestview	Clerks/Asst Clerks of EViD Precincts North County Pcts: 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 45, 52 South County Pcts: 19, 22/41, 27/28, 32, 48
Tues.	Feb. 24	9:00 am	Woodlawn Baptist Church 824 Ferdon Blvd N, Crestview	All Poll Workers Who are Contacted by Clerk
Wed.	Feb. 25	9:00 am	Trinity United Methodist Church 403 Racetrack Rd NW, FWB	All Poll Workers Who are Contacted by Clerk

Poll Worker Laptop Training

Poll Worker Training Class

National Voter Registration Day
Crestview Walmart

National Voter Registration Day
Niceville Walmart

Paul Lux, Supervisor of Elections
Okaloosa County
302 Wilson Street N, Ste 102
Crestview, FL 32536

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We will be honoring our poll workers at two Patriot Poll Worker Appreciation events in the spring.

The North County Appreciation Event will be held on April 14, 2015, in Baker; the South County Appreciation Event will be held on April 17, 2015, in Fort Walton Beach! More details will follow as we get closer to April.

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