**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Administrative Offices’ Meeting Room**

**203 W. Broughton Street**

**Bainbridge, GA 39819**

**June 9, 2015**

**Call To Order**

**Administrative Notes**

The monthly meeting of the Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Wendell Cofer at 6:30 p.m. and stated that the meeting has been duly advertised in the newspaper and on the buildings properly identifying meeting date, time and location as required by governing laws.

**Board Members present: Staff Present:**

Burke, Gina White, Doris (Chief Election Official)

Chairman Cofer, Wendell Heard, Carol (Clerk of Voter Registration)

Holmes, Beverly W. Walton, Linda (Ethics Technician)

Vice Chairman Lamb, Willie, Jr.

Sellars, Keith

Guests were Fannie Boutwell, who was honored with 60 years of service; Anna Ray Washington, Janelle Nelson and Mary Jacobs, who were honored for 40 years of service; Frances Gray and Bobby Davis, who were honored for 30 years of service; Ethel Fuller, who was honored for 25 years of service; Sammie Battle and Jean Givens, who was honored for 15 years of service; Georgette Burke, Margaret Bryant, Wanda Matthews, Lois Rowan, Betty Jackson and Janet Mitchell, who were honored for 10 years of service. Those unable to attend but were honored are the following: A.E. Hester for 35 years of service; Danny R. Harrell for 25 years of service; Susie McCroan for 20 years of service; Maxine Medley for 15 years of service; and Zack Calhoun, Alvada Chandler and Larry Stubbs for 10 years of service.

**Approve Minutes**

The minutes of the May 12, 2015, regular meeting was unanimously approved as presented.

**Old Business**

1. Voter Information Brochure and Budget items on the agenda were tabled. No new information on the Fairgrounds Security System was available, but Chairman Cofer said Roy Reynolds has been out of town, and Cofer said he would follow-up with Reynolds when he sees him and then follow-up with an email to the board members.
2. Poll Worker Recognition Awards. Chairman Cofer said the poll workers are the essential core of the election system in Decatur County. The Board of Elections and Voter Registration and its staff are very appreciative of all the hard work and years of dedicated service the poll workers being recognized tonight have offered to the county and to the election system. Cofer said the Board wanted to officially say “thank you” in the best way it knows how and within the budget constraints.

Board member Sellars said he was amazed by the length of service some of the poll workers have reported. Board member Holmes said she used to work as a poll worker, and she knows what they all go through on election days.

Cofer said he is trying to have precinct managers attend (and get compensated for attending) the Board’s monthly meetings so they can stay in the loop on Board deliberations.

Poll Manager Janelle Nelson said she has enjoyed her tenure as a poll worker. She said we have come a long way. Poll worker Jean Givens recalled how she had to count slips at the Courthouse and some of managers she has worked with through the years. She also thanked everyone for the good work they all do.

Poll Manager Bobby Davis said he wanted to commend the Board for the good things it has done by making the elections and facilities better. He said he started as a poll worker with a “little old shack,” and it was hard to get through the election night because they were no lights, no heat and no restrooms, and they still had to count elections slips when they had paper ballots years ago. Cofer said he and Chief Election Official White both have been on the Board since its inception, and every attempt at a change has been with a “pure heart” trying to make things better for the right reasons. Sellars thanked the poll workers for being flexible and for embracing changes that have been made and for wanting to conduct the elections in the most honest and impartial manner.

The Board adjourned by 6:58 p.m. There was a brief reception of cookies and punch with the poll workers following the meeting.