

Co-Chair
Vernon Sykes, Representative
34th House District



Co-Chair
William G. Batchelder, Speaker
69th House District

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

LIAISON WITH PUBLIC OFFICES COMMITTEE
HERB ASHER, CHAIR
THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2014

Roger Beckett called the joint meeting of the Public Education and Information Committee and the Liaison with Public Offices Committee to order at 9:16 a.m. A quorum was present and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved without objection.

The items outlined in the agenda were brought forward and were discussed by the joint committee.

Mr. Beckett asked for suggestions regarding an e-newsletter. Rep. Amstutz suggested that the e-newsletter be keep short, but provide links to the more in-depth information on the items being presented in the e-newsletter.

Upon discussion of regional meetings, Vice Chairman Taft noted that a lack of staff is a concern and with it being an election year, these meetings may also pose a problem as they might turn political and veer from the intended purpose of these meetings. It may not be timely yet to have these regional meetings, but is something to keep on the agenda.

Mr. Beckett asked committee members whether they believe that committee reports be distributed sooner to members as well as posted on the website, and if so, should the joint committee submit such a recommendation to the full commission. Mr. Saphire said he supported the idea of encouraging committees to submit their reports sooner, while Vice Chairman Taft echoed the idea adding that it should be submitted within one week of the hearings. Mr. Saphire also mentioned that the length and detail of the reports are sometimes not enough and more detail would be appreciated. Chairman Asher stated that it might be difficult for all matters of discussion to be included in reports if they were to be submitted within too short of a timeframe, especially for subject matter committees. Rep. Amstutz suggested for committee members to submit ideas for inclusion in the report so that a bullet point of every detail would not be necessary. Mr. Beckett agreed that topics could be general and not every single matter raised would be in the report.

Vice Chairman Taft made a motion to have reports submitted within one week. Sen. Peterson seconded the motion. No objection was raised.

With discussion of communication from committees submitting recommendations to the full commission, Mr. Beckett inquired as to the process for commission spreading the word to the public about these recommendations. Chairman Asher noted that the executive director and communications person would help to create a process to inform the public as well as solicit and encourage their participation through various media outlets.

Mr. Beckett mentioned to joint committee members that any ideas for website updates or thoughts on the position description for the communications staff member is encouraged and can be emailed to him.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 9:57 a.m.


HERB ASHER, CHAIR


ROBERT TAFT, VICE CHAIR