



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

NEWS RELEASE

Electoral Board

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General Registrar

Rokey W. Suleman II

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9 Staff Members Receive Election Certification 3 are Nationally Certified; 6 are State Certified

Fairfax County Deputy General Registrar **Gary Scott** and Election Specialists **Rebecca Corner** and **Regina Zinzer** have completed the necessary course of study to become Certified Elections/Registration Administrators (CERA), the highest professional achievement for elections and voter registration officials. The Election Center held graduation ceremonies on in August at its annual conference in Dallas, Texas.

Also, Fairfax County Office of Elections staff members **Ruth Aponte**, **David Bjerke**, **Mary Lee Crabbe**, **Harriet Grubb**, **Deborah Maiorino** and **Barbara Scott** have completed the necessary course of study to become a Virginia Registered Election Official (REO). Graduation ceremonies were held in August at the annual Voter Registrars Association of Virginia conference in Virginia Beach.

Of the more than 21,000 elections and voter registration officials throughout the U.S., only 498 have achieved CERA status; six are in Fairfax County. Scott, Corner and Zinzer join General Registrar **Rokey W. Suleman II**, who received his certification in 2007; Business Analyst **Sonia Skipper**, who received her certification in 2006 and Election Manager **Judy Flaig**, who received her certification in 2004.

Scott, who was appointed deputy general registrar in 1997, manages the voter registration division of the Office of Elections. Corner, who joined the elections staff in 2002, and Zinzer, who has worked in elections since 1990, are responsible for recruiting and training the 3,000 election officers who serve in the county's 228 polling places.

"CERA is the highest designation available to elections and voter registration officials," said R. Doug Lewis, director of the Election Center. "It takes an unusual commitment to have several people within an office pursue a demanding and challenging educational program. It also assures Fairfax County that the very best in management techniques, technologies, and processes will be implemented."

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9 Staff Members Receive Election Certification (cont.)

CERA designation is achieved through a multi-year course of study conducted by The Election Center's Professional Education Program and taught by the Master's in Public Administration faculty of Auburn University. The intent of the program is to professionalize the management of voter registration and elections administration in promoting and preserving public trust in the democratic process. The Election Center is a non-profit association of voter registrars and elections administrators throughout America.

Crabbe is the office manager for voter registration; Maiorino manages the office's finances; Bjerke oversees the voting equipment; and Aponte, Grubb and Scott process voter registration applications and changes. Collectively, Aponte, Bjerke, Crabbe, Grubb, Maiorino and Scott have more than 50 years of experience with voter registration and elections in Fairfax County. They are the first Fairfax County employees to complete the REO certification since the program began in 2004.

REO designation is achieved through completion of multi-course curriculum jointly sponsored by the Voter Registrars Association of Virginia and The Election Center. The REO curriculum covers the specific requirements of Virginia law and practices related to voter registration and election administration in the commonwealth. The Election Center is a non-profit association of voter registrars and elections administrators throughout America.

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