

State Chair George Phillies called the 2008 Libertarian Party of Massachusetts Convention to order on October 18th, 2008.

The agenda was approved. George Phillies was selected as Convention Chair. Mary-Anne Wolf was selected as Convention Recording Secretary. Carol McMahon and Gary Komarowsky were selected as vote counters and tellers.

Officers' reports:

Phillies reported that our Presidential and U.S. Senate candidates were on the ballot, that our Senate Candidate, Robert Underwood, was polling at 5%, and that our party's volunteers should be encouraged to contact newspapers and broadcast media about us.

Political Facilitator McMahon reported that more outreach was needed, and that we hope our next convention will need a bigger room. Our party had a booth at the Boston Pride Festival, which advocates rights for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people. We also had booths at the Boston Freedom Rally and at Extravaganja, which both advocate legalization of marijuana.

Party Treasurer Walter Ziobro was not present. He provided a written report which McMahon summarized. Fundraising and membership are down. Our party had one-time petitioning expenses this year, but we need to plan for these expenses.

Art Torrey said that part of the increased expenses relative to last year was that the party was doing more, such as putting out the newsletter every month. Our party has dramatically decreased our newsletter expenses because Phillies has purchased a printer which allows low cost printing, and made it available for the party's use, and because party members now collate the newsletter.

Everyone's fundraising was down, due to the economy. Phillies mentioned that party participation in the Pride Festival had been paid for by his campaign, not by the party.

Phillies reported that our state and national parties and members spent over \$40,000 to put Presidential Candidate Barr on the Massachusetts ballot, after which he neither campaigned in Massachusetts nor advertised in Massachusetts. Phillies suggested that our party might get a better return on investment by concentrating on more local offices. This change would mean allocating funds to our state (OCPF), rather than federal (FEC), bank account. We should run our strong candidates for offices that they might win.

Torrey gave the Operations Report. He described his own activity as an elected Town Meeting Member. The online forum of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts website has over 65 registered members. He described our payment for 3 meetup groups. The Route 495 Meetup, also known as the Lowell Area Liberty Association, has about 20 online members, but only 3 regularly attend at this time. The Boston Meetup has over 100 online members, and considerably higher attendance in person. Torrey reported that we have been sending newsletters to party members, and sending membership renewal reminders.

Phillies has made State Committee meeting minutes available both in the newsletter and on the

website. Phillies described that he has located old party minutes, which he will scan for posting them on the website.

In his capacity as Acting Membership Secretary, Phillies reported that our party has 100 dues-paying members. Membership numbers may have stabilized, assuming recent renewal reminders result in renewals. The mystery in our records formerly confusing lifetime members and monthly donors has been clarified; current membership records are in "adequate shape".

Newsletter Editor Dave Blau reported a successful year from the editor's point of view. He thanked George Phillies for helping. He was proud to say we put out a newsletter every month this year. We have drastically reduced costs. Our party has a new dues structure, allowing members to pay more for a paper newsletter or less for electronic delivery.

Steven Greffenius asked who the contributors to the newsletter were. Blau responded that newsletter contents came from multiple sources. He mentioned that Mary-Anne Wolf posts summaries and links to news articles of interest on the website, and that this information was sometimes repeated in the newsletter. Blau reported that tracts on Libertarian strategy information from previous years are reprinted. Also included are Minutes from State Committee Meetings, press releases from the Robert Underwood campaign, issues with respect to ballot access, and articles written by George Phillies. Torrey added that more guest contributions would be welcome, and that Phillies's printer not only lowered cost but also allowed for printing on color.

Webmaster Mary-Anne Wolf reported that the website was up and kept up to date, that dues and contributions could be paid online, and that there was an updated list of recommended readings. She also reported that the forums were a technical success, but there was not enough participation.

Nominations for State Committee membership were requested. The nominees were Arthur Torrey, Robert Underwood, George Phillies, Dave Blau, Mary-Anne Wolf, and Steven Greffenius. Nominees made speeches. In accord with the bylaws, a motion that because we had fewer candidates for State Committee than openings, we should elect the candidates as a slate, was passed unanimously.

The convention recessed. The convention voted to deal with the constitutional amendments first and Arthur Torrey's motions second. The convention voted to systematically correct and make consistent the capitalization of words in the state party Constitution and By-Laws.

Torrey moved and Wolf seconded to amend

1. A state convention shall be held in every year.

TO READ

1. A regular state convention shall be held in every year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Torrey moved and Greffenius seconded, to Replace

Article IV: State Committee

1. The delegates to the state convention, next succeeding the convention at which this Constitution is adopted, shall elect a state committee, composed of nine (9) representatives at large, from among

the Party's Members at state convention.

with a new Section 1:

1. The delegates to each regular state convention shall select up to 9 state committee members, to serve as the state committee until the conclusion of the next regular state convention. To be eligible for election to the state committee, a person must be a member of the state party whose dues are current.

Phillies explained that the amendment corrects previous wording, which refers only to electing a State Committee at the 2005 state convention, so that post-2005 State Conventions could elect State Committees. The amendment also clarifies who is eligible for election to the state committee.

Torrey moved and Tashjian seconded the following, which establishes that state Committee Members must make contact information available.

Add to Section IV a new Section

11. Every member of the state committee must make available their name, their state party office if any, and a working way to contact them, in the party newsletter and on the party web site. This may be a physical mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, or some combination of these.

The motion passed.

Torrey moved and Tashjian seconded to Strike from Article V its Section

2. If there is a roll call vote-for president at the national convention, all the delegates and alternates whose selection is subject by party rule to the approval of a presidential candidate shall vote on the first such roll call for that presidential candidate unless released by such candidate.

It was explained that the amendment would make the Constitution of the state party consistent with the rules of the national party with respect to whether delegates sent to the national convention were bound to vote for a specific presidential candidate. The Section being struck tried to assert that delegates are bound, while national party Bylaws state that delegates may not be bound. The motion to strike passed.

Blau moved and Torrey seconded To replace

Article IV Section 10. No person who is not a recognized member of the national Libertarian Party, as defined by the Libertarian National Committee charter and bylaws, shall hold the office of Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer of the State Committee, or any office in succession, such as Vice-Chair or Assistant Secretary.

with a new Section

10. To be elected or serve as a member or officer of the state committee, a person must be a dues paying member of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts as defined by the state party constitution and bylaws. A person who ceases to be a member of the party ceases at the same moment to be a state committee member or officer.

The motion deals with the issue that the National Party could change its definition of National Party member in ways that would cause State Committee officers to lose their positions. The amended motion would require that State Committee Members and Officers must be members of the state

party.

There was a consensus expressed during the discussion that the intent in this new wording is that failure to pay state party dues due to job loss or other financial problems would be handled on a case-by-case basis, and would not preclude someone from being considered a member of the state party for the purpose of being allowed to serve as a State Committee Member or Officer. The expectation was that some other person would typically donate the dues.

The convention specified that eligibility to be chosen as delegate to the National Convention is not impacted by this motion.

The motion passed.

Torrey moved to Strike Article III, Section 3

3. A person's name shall not appear on any Libertarian primary ballot, nor shall any person receive the nomination of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, for any partisan elective office unless that person is a recognized member of the national Libertarian Party, as defined by the Libertarian National Committee charter and bylaws, or the state Libertarian Party.

McMahon noted that in 1996, a Selectman in Spencer, reputed to be much opposed to spending, but whose political positions were not otherwise Libertarian, ran a sticker campaign as a Libertarian Party candidate for State Representative and gained ballot access. At that time, the state party had no path to keep him from running as a Libertarian.

Wolf and Torrey added that the national party might also provide candidates with whose political positions the state party disagreed, and that the state party might also wish protection from the national party.

Tashjian moved and Torrey seconded to amend the motion, to state that Article III, Section 3 would be amended to read:

Article III, Section 3

3. A person's name shall not appear on any Libertarian primary ballot, nor shall any person receive the nomination of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, for any partisan election, unless that person is a recognized member of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts.

This amendment passed. The motion as amended passed.

Blau moved that the State Party Constitution and By-laws be amended to make all references to the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, including capitalization, consistent. The motion passed..

Tashjian moved and Torrey seconded to Strike Article III, Section 4

4. In the event of the withdrawal, death, or ineligibility of any candidate to be elected by the voters, or some portion thereof, of the Commonwealth, the vacancy may be filled by the state committee, unless the convention which nominated said candidate shall have provided for a different method in the original certificate of nomination. In the event a convention is not held in time to allow the

convention to exercise its authority to nominate a candidate to be so elected by the voters, the nomination may be filled by the state committee.

Phillies explained that the reason for striking is that State Law defines processes for substitution, and that our party constitution should not define a process that conflicts with state law. Tashjian expressed the opinion that our party constitution should not apply state law implicitly.

McMahon and Phillies proposed as an alternative that instead of striking Article II, Section 4, the section be modified to read:

4. In the event of the withdrawal, death, or ineligibility of any candidate to be elected by the voters, or some portion thereof, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the vacancy may be filled in accordance with current state laws, or by the State Committee.

Tashjian moved and Torrey seconded the amendment. The amendment passed. The motion as amended passed.

Torrey and Tashjian moved and seconded to

Add to Article II a new section 6:

6. The State Committee may call additional conventions, termed special state conventions, by a two-thirds vote. The state committee must inform the current membership, at least 30 days in advance, in writing, of the agenda, place, date, quorum, and time of any special state convention.

The motion passed.

Torrey and Tashjian moved and seconded to Add to Article II a new final section:

7. If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee.

In a single calendar year a state party member may not sign more than one petition requesting a special state convention.

The petition shall specify the agenda of the special state convention, and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but may not otherwise change the agenda. The quorum for a special state convention shall be 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership of the party.

If one or more dues paying state party members mails or presents to the state committee a written request to assemble a petition requesting a special state convention, then, within 60 days, the state committee must inform the dues paying members of this request, and the names and contact information for the party members who made the request. Other relevant information may also be included. State party members must be informed about the petition by placing the information on the first page of the party newsletter, and prominently on any electronic media controlled by the

state committee.

The motion was amended to read

Add to Article II a new final section:

7. If 10% or 500 (whichever is fewer) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee.

The state committee must inform the current membership, at least 30 days in advance, in writing, of the agenda, place, date, quorum, and time of any special state convention.

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The motion as amended passed.

Blau moved and Greffenius moved in article IV, Section 2

In Article II, Section 4:

4. The convention shall have the authority to adopt a platform. The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party shall be included as a part of such platform, and shall not be amended except by a vote of seven-eighths of the delegates present. The platform, other than the Statement of Principles, shall be the most recently adopted platform of the national Libertarian Party, provided that, any plank of such platform, excluding the Statement of Principles, may be deleted in its entirety by a simple majority of the delegates present. The substitution of a new plank for an old plank, or the addition of a new plank, shall require approval by a vote of at least two thirds of the delegates present.

to strike the sentence:

The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party shall be included as a part of such platform, and shall not be amended except by a vote of seven-eighths of the delegates present. The motion to strike passed with the required seven-eighths vote.

Torrey moved and Wolf seconded to strike from the same section the sentences

The platform, other than the Statement of Principles, shall be the most recently adopted platform of the national Libertarian Party, provided that, any plank of such platform, excluding the Statement of Principles, may be deleted in its entirety by a simple majority of the delegates present. The substitution of a new plank for an old plank, or the addition of a new plank, shall require approval by a vote of at least two thirds of the delegates present.

and to amend the remaining first sentence

4. The convention shall have the authority to adopt a platform.

To read

4. A Massachusetts state convention shall have the authority by two-thirds vote to adopt or amend a platform.

The motion with amendments was read:

4. A Massachusetts state convention shall have the authority by two-thirds vote to adopt or amend a platform.

The motion passed.

The Convention recessed.

Torrey moved and Wolf seconded the following resolution

LPMass Declaration of Independence:

Resolved that the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts is a free and independent body, and as such, it reserves the right to accept or reject any candidate chosen by the Libertarian National Party, or other entity with which the LPMA chooses to affiliate; and if a nationally chosen candidate is rejected, to run no candidate, or such alternative candidate as it may choose.

The motion passed.

Torrey moved and Wolf seconded the following resolution

LPMass Boston Tea Party Affiliation Request

Resolved that it is the wish of the Membership of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts to direct the LPMass State Committee to negotiate an affiliation with the Boston Tea Party, so long as such affiliation retains the right of LPMass to accept or reject any candidate put forth by the BTP.

[Editorial aside: This motion as stated does not revoke our affiliation with LNC, Inc.]

The motion was defeated.

Torrey moved and Blau seconded a motion specifying that the platform planks adopted at the

previous convention of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts should persist. The motion passed.

Torrey moved and McMahon seconded that a state platform committee should be formed. The motion passed.

Phillies explained that our party's money is divided into federal (FEC) and state (OCPF) accounts. He proposed that we concentrate on running candidates for offices funded by the OCPF account. Torrey so moved; McMahon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

David Blau ran a fund-raiser. \$290 was donated to the State Party for the OCPF account.

Phillies moved to thank Walter Ziobro, Dave Roscoe, and Carol McMahon for their work for the party. His motion passed.

The convention adjourned.