

The meeting came to order April 29th, 2007 at 2:35 p.m. Bill Hees, Arthur Torrey, Carol McMahon, Dave Roscoe, Steve Drobnis, Bob Underwood, Walter Ziobro, Mary-Anne Wolf and George Phillies attended. Shirley Underwood was present interpreting for Bob Underwood.

Dave Roscoe summarized changes to the membership database.

Chair Carol McMahon has completed the tentative budget. We have a serious need for fund raising.

Carol McMahon and George Phillies discussed their experience at the outreach booth at Extravaganja in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Vice Chair George Phillies confirmed that the Chair is alive.

Recording Secretary, Mary-Anne Wolf, confirmed that review of minutes State Committee private business forum on the web site should continue. There was a vote to accept the minutes of the phone meeting that had been recorded in the newsletter.

Treasurer Walter Ziobro reported on the relationship of our finances since a year ago.

George Phillies moved, and Dave Roscoe seconded that we should move our AT&T Linx expense, which supports the 800 number, to a less expensive alternative. Arthur Torrey amended this motion, and Mary-Anne Wolf seconded, that this moving should happen within 60 days. There were 6 votes in favor, 1 against, and 2 abstentions on the main vote, but unanimous on the amendment.

There was discussion of how we should convince potential donors that we will be responsible in the use of their donations. The consensus was to record our past actual behavior and spending more than our anticipated budget.

George Phillies moved a motion to the effect that our party will need to have in the FEC bank account in February 2008 perhaps \$10,000-15,000 to put on the ballot candidates for President and U. S. Senate, and should plan its spending accordingly. Arthur seconded the motion and there was a unanimous vote in support of the motion.

George Phillies moved and Arthur seconded that our party should participate in Boston Pride on 6/19 and in Mass Cann. We need volunteers to staff the booth, and it was agreed to ask for volunteers for the Boston Pride booth in the newsletter. Boston Pride lasts until 8 p.m., so volunteers would operate in at least 2 shifts. It was discussed how Bob Power, of Out Right Libertarians, is helping us pay for the space at Boston Price. For Mass Cann, we would need up to \$200, but no-one had offered to help us with that cost yet.

There was also discussion of outreach at the Big E, the Topsfield Fair, and at Van's Warped Tour. The last was describe as having music loud enough to cause one to desire ear protection, and large numbers of excited young women jumping up and down, and the discussion was that some male Libertarians might be especially willing to volunteer, but no formal resolutions were voted on.

Walter Ziobro left the meeting.

Dan Oakes, Libertarian Party member, currently in Shirley MCI prison, who had contacted various party members by letter, was discussed. He had asked for us to recommend a lawyer, and also suggested outreach within the prison population. There was discussion about the usefulness of outreach to people who would not be able to vote, and a consensus that they could help in other ways. Arthur Torrey agreed to communicate back to him.

George Phillies has researched how Google Ad Words could be used to make more people aware of our party and our web site. Arthur Torrey moved, and Mary-Anne Wolf seconded, that we spend \$200 to do this over a 100 day period, and it was voted unanimously to do this.

The date for this year's party convention was set at October 6th. Steve Drobnis said he would ask Carla Howell whether she would be willing to organize it. The tentative location would be Framingham, and we would be expecting 50 to 75 people.

The problem of pornography postings on the web forums was discussed. Since legitimate membership is so low, for the moment we have decided to solve the problem by requiring moderator approval of new members.

Dates and locations of monthly socials were set.

Bill Hees reported the reason we had thought Muni Savyon might not want to give up the LPMA.org domain was not, technically, a factor. Muni's other domains would not depend on it, however, he still has the domain.

George Phillies moved, and Mary-Anne Wolf seconded that we make the following changes to the by-laws, and it was unanimously voted to do so:

REPEAL B.2.b):

B. Duties of Officers

2) The Political Facilitator:

b) belongs ex officio to working groups on local organization, elections, political action, membership, outreach, and fundraising. (and renumber subsequent items)

Repeal B.3.d)

3) The Operations Facilitator:

d) belongs ex officio to the Working Groups on fundraising, budget and finance, conventions, audit, compensation, and nominations.

Add:

Article. Working Groups

Section A. Purpose and Structure

1. Working Groups. Working Groups exist to do work for the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts.

2. Permanent Working Groups.

a) The State Committee will identify State Committee members to belong to each working group. Other libertarians who volunteer and contribute in a positive way are welcome to join working groups.

b) Recognizing the current small size of the LPMA, working groups may well contain only a single member.

3. Officers.

a) Each Working Group has a Facilitator. The Facilitator seeks to ensure that her or his Working Group performs its duties.

b) Facilitators chair meetings of their Working Groups. Facilitators report monthly on Working Group activities to the State Committee, and as appropriate to the Web Support and Newsletter Working Groups and to LPMA members.

c) Facilitators have no executive decision-making authority independent from their working group.

d) Except as otherwise specified, each Working Group chooses its own facilitator.

4. Working Groups are expected to perform many activities without staging formal meetings under parliamentary procedure.

5. The State Committee may by majority vote remove a person as a member or Facilitator of a Working Group.

Section B. Permanent Working Groups

1. There shall be permanent working groups for Local Organization, Elections, Political Action, Newsletter, Web Support, Outreach, Membership, Fundraising, Convention, Budget and Finance, and Audit and Compensation.

2. Local Organization.

a) The Local Organization Working Group helps local and topical libertarian organizations. It encourages libertarians to act as local organizers, helps them to organize local and topical groups, and supplies them with information on potential group members. It supports, assists, and publicizes local and topical groups and advises them on possible activities. It develops resources to benefit local and topical groups.

b) The Membership Secretary works with the Local Organization Working Group to develop policies and procedures to provide appropriate local and topical groups with appropriate access to State Party database information needed to promote their groups.

c) The Political Facilitator is an ex-officio member.

3. Elections.

a) The Elections Working Group helps libertarians win elections. It recruits and trains candidates and volunteers, supports ballot access drives, assists candidates with publications, fundraising, and Get Out The Vote efforts, and collects and distributes useful information to candidates.

b) It works to maintain the honesty of the election process.

c) The Political Facilitator is an ex-officio member.

4. Political Action.

a) The Political Action Working Group supports substantive political activities, other than electioneering for elective office. It assists with Referenda and Public Policy Questions, and aids OPH booths, rallies, demonstrations, protests, letter writing campaigns, litigation, and peaceful petitions for redress of grievances.

b) The Political Facilitator is an ex-officio member.

5. Newsletter.

a) The Newsletter Working Group helps the Editor edit and publish the Newsletter.

b) The Editor is the facilitator ex-officio.

6. Web Support.

a) The Web Support Working Group operates or supports Liberty for Massachusetts Web and Wiki Pages, if any.

b) It seeks to operate State Committee email lists, including a periodical announcements list, a moderated Activists list, and an unmoderated General list.

c) Moderation of the Activist list, or other online activities shall not be used to forward the internal political agenda of the moderator(s). Whenever a message other than obvious commercial spam is rejected for the Activist List, the rejected message and the reason for the rejection shall be sent to the message's author and to the State Committee.

d) The State Committee may adopt a standing rule specifying an alternate mechanism to achieve the objectives of part c.

e) The Webmaster is the facilitator ex-officio.

7. Outreach.

a) The Outreach Working Group strives to inform the public about the libertarian direction. It develops and supports publicity and advertising drives, prepares press releases, responds to press inquiries, assists members with letter-writing drives, and produces and distributes outreach material.

b) The Outreach Working Group includes as ex officio members the Political Facilitator, the Editor, and the Webmaster.

8. Membership.

a) The Membership Working Group recruits and retains LPMA Members. It contacts new members to welcome them. It contacts inquirers and invites them to join. It encourages social events, public lectures, and other activities for prospective and current Members. It contacts persons who have ceased to be Members to determine why they left and to invite them to renew.

b) The Membership Working Group includes as ex officio members the Membership Secretary and the Political Facilitator.

9. Fund Raising.

a) The Fund Raising Working Group raises money for the State Committee and its Working Groups, PACs, and 527 and other organizations. It cultivates individual donors, and conducts periodic large scale fund raising campaigns. It is scrupulous in promising donors how their money will be spent, and prompt and accurate in reporting to them and to the membership on how their

money was actually spent.

b) The Fund Raising Working Group has as ex officio members the Political Facilitator, Operations Facilitator, and Treasurer.

10. Convention.

a) The Convention Working Group organizes and conducts the LPMA's Annual State Convention.

b) The Convention Working Group has as an ex officio member the Operations Facilitator.

11. Budget and Finance

a) The Budget and Finance Working Group monitors the Parties funds and proposes an annual budget.

b) If the State Committee experiences unanticipated income or needs of spending, the Budget and Finance Working Group proposes appropriate budget adjustments.

c) The Budget and Finance Working Group has as ex officio members the Treasurer and Operations Facilitator.

11. Audit and Compensation.

a. The Audit and Compensation Working Group annually and in addition on request of the State Committee reviews the State Committee's financial records, and the financial records of the Working Groups, to ensure that they are complete, accurate, and properly reported to the Membership.

b) It determines if moneys have been received and spent in accord with LPMA By-Laws, State Committee actions, legal requirements, and fundamental ethical standards.

c) It reports to the Membership and to the State Committee on irregularities, deficiencies, and deviations, and their causes, and recommends corrective measures.

d) The Audit and Compensation Working Group is elected by and from the State Committee members who are not signatories to any State Committee bank or other financial accounts.

e) The Treasurer reports to the Audit and Compensation Working Group, but may not be a member of it.

f) If, in the opinion of the Audit and Compensation Working Group, it is appropriate to employ an outside auditing entity, they shall propose this to the State Committee, which shall vote on the proposal. In such a vote, the Treasurer and all signatories to any State Committee bank or other financial accounts are ineligible to vote.

Section C. Ad Hoc Working Groups

The State Committee may form ad hoc working groups to perform tasks of limited, fixed duration.

<end of by-law changes>

The proposed bylaws on general duties and obligations of the state committee was discussed.

There was discussion that the rules with respect to not supporting candidates competing against Libertarians did not preclude making resources available to multiple Libertarian candidates, but would preclude, for example, a State Committee member supporting a Republican candidate who

competed against Libertarians.

There was discussion that the prohibition against contracts that extend more than three months into the term of the next state committee would rule out certain contracts which required a 2 year service commitment in order to gain certain savings, but no resolution to change the by laws to remedy this was voted upon.

There was discussion to write a press release to the effect that the Libertarian Party is looking for candidates.

There was discussion of making it possible for a party member of pay monthly pledges. This could be presented at the convention, and inducements could be offered. Cris Crawford's name was mentioned in connection with the member packet. Carol or Walter would process new monthly pledge memberships.

The Presidential campaign of George Phillies is working with a mailing and phone and email list upgrading service, and he asked the party if we would like to have our list upgraded as part of the same deal and share in the cost. We were not able to confirm that the service was bonded. Steve Drobnis had had a bad experience with a similar service. For this reason, the party voted not to accept George's offer.

Carol McMahon mentioned senate legislation, bill S.1082, sponsored by Senator Kennedy, in which drug companies would pay fees to expedite the approval of their products, and the powers of the Food and Drug Administration to make decisions about whether products could be placed on the market, or whether products already on the market could stay on the market, would be greatly increased. The criteria for how to decide whether something was safe would also change, and whether they would be uniformly enforced was unclear. The amounts of money in the fees would be on a similar order of magnitude to the budget of the Food and Drug Administration. Some people believed that this would soon mean that one would need prescriptions for vitamins.

Steve Drobnis moved, and Arthur Torrey seconded that our party should oppose this bill, and it was unanimously voted by all present that we do. Mary-Anne Wolf agreed to write a draft of a press release, which she would send to Bob Underwood and Carol McMahon for polishing.

Although Shirley Underwood is not formally a state committee member, she is usually present interpreting for Bob Underwood, because he is deaf. She was allowed to speak on a matter because of special expertise in it. A Massachusetts law is under consideration which prohibits interpreters from interpreting for the deaf unless they are certified. This will in effect often remove availability of interpreters when someone of sufficient skill is actually around. For example, someone who knows sign language because their parents are deaf might not be certified because they have never received formal training or testing, but might be perfectly able to interpret as needed. For example, this law would make the interpreting that Shirley did for her husband at the state committee meetings illegal.

George Phillies, who is the Chair of the Worcester County Chapter American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, in addition to his leadership in the Libertarian Party, pointed out that this is a free

speech First Amendment issue. Who should prohibit a wife from signing to her husband if she wants to?

Various state committee members began to leave. Facebook flyers as another form of advertising were discussed, but no formal resolution to use them was voted upon. Various people viewed demonstrations of the Google Ads.

There was discussion that we need a Libertarian candidate to run as a replacement for congressman Marty Meehan, who is about to resign.