

Minutes for October 2007

The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Carol McMahon. Present were George Phillies, Carol McMahon, Dave Blau, Dave Roscoe, Walter Ziobro, Mary-Anne Wolf, and Arthur Torrey.

Carol McMahon nominated George Phillies as Chair. Arthur Torrey seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Phillies was elected by 5 votes with one vote for None of The Above.

Arthur Torrey nominated Mary-Anne Wolf to be Recording Secretary. Dick Clark seconded the motion. George Phillies asked Dick Clark if he was willing to serve as Recording Secretary. Dick said that he would be willing. Carol McMahon moved that we appoint Mary-Anne Wolf as interim Recording Secretary for the duration of this meeting. Arthur Torrey seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

The Chair proposed an agenda. Arthur Torrey moved to accept this agenda. Dick Clark seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0.

George Phillies suggested multiple corrections to the minutes from the state convention and from the previous state committee meeting. The corrections were accepted. George suggested that the newsletter editor publish a redacted version of the convention minutes in the newsletter. George proposed that minutes posted in the forum with no subsequent correction for a week be considered to have been approved.

Bob Underwood joined the meeting.

A vote was taken on all of the proposals with respect to the minutes, including accepting the old minutes, redacting the convention minutes in the newsletter, and treating lack of correction as approval. The motion passed 7-0.

Officer's reports: Chair Phillies reported on the state convention and the resurrection of the state newsletter and socials. He reported that prizes were in place for top donors responding to our fund raising appeal.

Arthur Torrey and George Phillies discussed how to transfer the recorded convention on VHS tapes into a digital format. George agreed to find a volunteer connected with his campaign to do this.

Treasurer Walter Ziobro made a report on party finances.

Walter explained how our financial situation was a net loss as compared with the previous year, mostly do to the cost of mailing newsletters to the membership. He explained how we will close the North Short bank account shortly. George Phillies suggested that the account be closed by mail rather than by personal appearance at the bank.

The next report was from Carol McMahon, the Political Facilitator. She reported how 14 checks and \ \$165 were deposited as a result of the state convention. This included donations from people who

did not attend, and 3 state party membership renewals. She reported that there has been no change in candidates since the convention.

Dave Roscoe, the membership Secretary, reported about how he had sent a list of new party contacts to state committee members. He said that he had deactivated the free newsletter subscriptions, except for the Chair of the LP National Party, and the Editor of LP News.

Dave Roscoe is working on an updated Information Packet to send to new members. Arthur Torrey, Bob Underwood, and George Phillies volunteered to help him. Dave Roscoe said he would post the draft packet in the SC Private forum on the lpmass.org website, and would also send an email notifying state committee members that the post was there. Dave Roscoe reported that the level of our membership is back to the 1995 level.

Arthur Torrey, the Operations Coordinator, reported that he had sent the letters to Muni Savyon, about our party's request to take ownership of lpma.org. These letters were sent certified mail with restricted signature. Arthur Torrey reported that he had communicated with meetup.com. The next step is to send them money and fill in a registration form for the 3 meetup groups (Worcester and Points West, route 495, and Coastal Massachusetts) which our party plans to fund, in order to facilitate communication among local organizations. It was agreed that we will need to appoint sub-organizers for these 3 groups. Arthur reported that the website is staying spam free. Walter Ziobro said he had been accidentally removed from the list of state committee members on the website. Arthur asked Walter to send Arthur a private message to remind Arthur to fix this. George Phillies agreed to send Mary-Anne Wolf a pdf of the current newsletter, so that she can post it on the website.

George Phillies reported having been in touch with Kristen Green, of the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office. We must have the 12 electors designated on the nominating papers sign a form to request substitution of the presidential candidate. The Phillies 2008 campaign is obtaining a copy of the disk containing registered voters; LPMass still needs to obtain its own copy of the disk.

Mary-Anne Wolf asked George Phillies about tzotzkes to be given to donors, and George offered to suggest some sources of these items.

Walter Ziobro asked George Phillies what substitution does with respect to FEC reporting. Phillies confirmed that ballot access funding is a federal activity of the state party. To simplify FEC reporting, the matching funds offered LPMass by Phillies 2008 for ballot access petitioning will be paid directly by Phillies 2008 to the petitioner, rather than doing a transfer of federal funds between the campaign and the LPMass Federal PAC.

A plan to list books written by party members on the website was discussed.

The party officer elections were held.

Mary-Anne Wolf nominated Carol McMahon to be Political Facilitator. Arthur Torrey seconded the motion. Carol McMahon nominated Dave Roscoe to be Membership Secretary. Arthur Torrey

seconded the motion. Arthur Torrey nominated Walter Ziobro to be Treasurer. Carol McMahon seconded the motion. Mary-Anne Wolf had earlier been nominated to be Recording Secretary. Dave Blau nominated Dick Clark to be Recording Secretary. Carol McMahon seconded the motion. Arthur Torrey nominated Dave Blau for Newsletter Editor. Carol McMahon seconded the motion. Walter Ziobro nominated Mary-Anne Wolf for Newsletter Editor. Dave Roscoe seconded the motion. Walter Ziobro nominated Dave Blue for WebMaster. Someone seconded the motion. George Phillies nominated Mary-Anne Wolf for WebMaster. Arthur Torrey seconded the motion. Mary-Anne Wolf nominated Arthur Torrey for Operations Facilitator. Someone seconded the motion.

The Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Operations Facilitator, and Political Facilitator, were unopposed, and by unanimous consent were elected by acclamation.

Mary-Anne Wolf withdrew from competition for Recording Secretary. Dick Clark was by unanimous consent elected by acclamation.

Mary-Anne Wolf withdrew from competition for Newsletter Editor. Dave Blau was by unanimous consent elected by acclamation. Dave Blau withdrew from competition for Webmaster. Mary-Anne Wolf was by unanimous consent elected by acclamation.

Fund raising was discussed. The state party has raised \ \$3000 in matching funds. The national party has identified \ \$25,000 for ballot access in Massachusetts.

It was decided to ask Steve Drobnis to host a fund raiser in January or February, right before we start petitioning.

It was also decided to send a 4 piece letter to each person who has donated to the state party over the last 6 years. We can generate the list of donors from the FEC reports, but we will need to remove duplicates. Dave Roscoe will handle supplying the addresses of current LPMass members. We should decide on gifts to give to donors before Thanksgiving.

Mary-Anne Will will start a discussion on the forum about the design of these gifts (what to write on the fridge magnets etc.) Experience shows that putting postage on the envelope pays for itself in increased donations.

George Phillies proposed to allocate \ \$1000 of State Party federal funds to pay for this fund raising mailing. If there is any money left over from the federal ballot access funds after completing the federal ballot access drive, the party will be reimbursed from the federal ballot access funds for the mailing.

Carol McMahon requested that we include a request in the fund raising letter for a separate check to be deposited in the OCPF account.

Arthur Torrey formally moved that we do all of the above related to fund raising. Dick Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

Various state party property was discussed.

Carol McMahon still has at her home the materials that she received from Tom LaRoche, including equipment for two Operation Politically Homeless booths, and a banner.

There is also software used to edit the newsletter, which Stephanie Woiciechowski will send to the newsletter editor. The Operations Facilitator will ask all former members of the state committee to transfer to him any state party property still in their possession.

Arthur Torrey, the Operations Facilitator, will control how property is handled. George Phillies will send necessary information to Arthur.

State Committee members are required to join at least two working groups. In some cases officers are ex-officio members of working groups.

Local Organization: Carol McMahon (ex officio), Dave Blau, Dave Roscoe, Arthur Torrey, George Phillies, Bob Underwood

Elections: Carol McMahon (ex officio), Dick Clark, George Phillies, Bob Underwood.

Political Action: Carol McMahon (ex officio), Dick Clark, Arthur Torrey

Newsletter: Dave Blau (ex officio), Mary-Anne Wolf

Web Support: Mary-Anne Wolf (ex officio), Dave Blau, Dave Roscoe, Arthur Torrey

Outreach: Carol McMahon (ex officio), Dave Blau (ex officio), Mary-Anne Wolf (ex officio), Dick Clark

Membership: Dave Roscoe (ex officio), Carol McMahon (ex officio)

Fund Raising: Carol McMahon (ex officio), Arthur Torrey (ex officio), Walter Ziobro (ex officio)

Convention: Carol McMahon (ex officio)

Budget and Finance: Arthur Torrey (ex officio), Walter Ziobro (ex officio), George Phillies, Carol McMahon

Audit and Compensation: Dave Blau and Arthur Torrey

Posting of newsletters on the website was discussed. It was agreed to post each newsletter issue after the next issue has been published.

Carol McMahon discussed having a printable renewal form on the website. She and Dave Roscoe

will put something together. Arthur Torrey discussed adding the ability to renew membership by credit card on the website, which may be functionality already supplied by our ISP as part of our current account. Arthur Torrey raised the issue of having household memberships in which a single paper newsletter is sent to multiple party members living at the same address.

The question of where Mr D. should forward the party's paper mail was discussed. It was agreed that mail will continue to be forwarded to Carol McMahan, so that bills can be paid quickly. It will not be sent to Dave Roscoe.

Mr D will be asked to forward our mail weekly, instead of every other week, to reduce turnaround time in processing new memberships and membership renewals.

George Phillies noted that under certain conditions large contributions of \$1000 or more must be reported to the FEC within 24 hours. It was decided that on the rare occasions that these reporting rules are applicable, an email reporting the donation should be sent to Ziobro, to be followed by a telephone call.

George Phillies suggested that Dave Roscoe should have copies of newsletters available to send to new party members immediately, which Dave Roscoe does not currently have.

in notifying Dave Roscoe about new members and membership renewals, in the case that the printed address on a membership check differs from the address on the envelope or if the address on the membership form is difficult to read, the envelope should be scanned and included with other scans sent to Dave Roscoe electronically.

George Phillies proposed that Carol McMahan, Dave Roscoe, and Walter Ziobro continue to work out details on their division of responsibilities in handling our party's paper mail.

Walter Ziobro offered a specific motion to change the by-law on National Convention Delegation membership. Ziobro's motion would allow people who are not residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be made part of our state party's delegation at the party National convention. George Phillies noted as an alternative that one could require that out-of-state persons could only be placed on the Massachusetts delegation by vote of the state convention. Torrey noted historical issues with placing out of state persons on the state delegation at the national convention. It was decided to discuss this idea in the website forum.

The State Committee met in executive session to discuss a sensitive personnel matter.

The State Committee agreed that we will invite Steve Drobni to be the honorary Chair of the Fund Raising Working Group, and that we will welcome his participation in other State Committee activities.

The State Committee agreed that we will invite Bill Hees to participation in the Web Support and the Elections Working Groups, and in any other Working Group that he would like to participate in, and that we would welcome his presence at State Committee meetings and look forward to hearing

his advice.

Dave Blau raised the issue of how our state party makes sure it complies with applicable laws. Carol McMahon and Walter Ziobro explained that compliance with campaign finance laws is the Treasurer's responsibility. Carol explained that while we had been a political party rather than a political designation our party constitution and by-laws had been approved by the Secretary of State's office for compliance with state law. Walter explained that the Eu vs. California Decision had been invoked repeatedly in the prior party by-laws. Carol McMahon said that our existing Audit working group could deal with this. George Phillies suggested that we take a month to think about this question.