

Minutes of December 2, 2007

Present for all or part of the meeting were Dave Blau, Carol McMahon, George Phillies, Dave Roscoe, Art Torrey, Bob Underwood, and Mary-Anne Wolf. Phillies as Chair took minutes.

Meeting came to order at slightly after 1 PM.

An Agenda was moved and approved:

Call to order

Agenda

Minutes of previous meeting (on Forum, at least some corrections have been submitted).

Search for replacement State Committee member for Dick Clark who has resigned (we need a Recording Secretary). (per Roberts, Chair acts as Secretary in small meeting).

Officer and Committee reports

Old business:

Ziobro moved to amend the National Convention delegate Bylaws, the section

"C) Eligibility

1) To be eligible to be elected as a Massachusetts delegate to the National Convention, a person must be:

a) a legal resident of Massachusetts, and

b) a member in good standing of the Massachusetts Party.

2) A person who had been a member in good standing of the LPMA, within the past three years from the date of the State Convention, but whose membership has expired, may restore their active membership by paying dues prior to being elected."

by striking 1) a) and renumbering appropriately.

Candidate Recruitment

Raising of funds

Issues relating to the Fiduciary responsibility of State Committee members and employees.

1) We used to have a Bylaw forbidding State Committee members and employees from supporting candidates of other parties in races in which there is a Libertarian candidate. Carol McMahon has asked that this rule in some form return.

2) We are asking the State Party to come up with \$16,000 or more to put a Presidential candidate on the ballot. What do we do if the National party runs NOTA? That decision will be difficult to explain to the people who gave us the \$16,000 for petitioning.

3) There are several efforts, one perhaps not serious, to procure the LP nomination for a member of another party."

The Agenda was approved as reported.

The Chair reported that Recording Secretary Clark had tendered his resignation from the State Committee, citing lack of time. It was agreed to advertise to members that we have a vacancy on the State Committee and ask for volunteers. As per Roberts (small committee) the Chair will serve as Recording Secretary pro tem.

Consideration of the Minutes was postponed for electronic consideration.

Officer Reports:

Membership (Roscoe) Membership has changed from 136 to 124. An infopak Q&A to be sent to inquirers to recruit them as members has been placed on the forum. Arrangements for joining LPMA via the web page are referred to the Outreach Working Group. We need a better setup for credit card payments.

The Political Facilitator (McMahon) reported that we still lack a US Senate and more local candidates.

Operations: A VHS tape has been made of the last State Convention. It is ready to be digitized. For due diligence, certified letters have been sent to believed addresses of the current owner of the LPMA.ORG URL. Emails were sent to former officers, asking them to arrange for transfer of any remaining State Committee property that they might have. The Editor has transferred the software to the new editor.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to table Mr. Ziobro's motion until the next meeting so that he could be present.

Officer Recruitment: McMahon proposed reserving a private room in a Restaurant in the Framingham area, and inviting to it prospective candidates, staff, and volunteers, where they could be given street lists for ballot access support. The State Committee appropriated up to \$50 for the effort.

Newsletter: The cost of the newsletter has recently substantially exceeded \$1 per member. Many costs have soared. For example, paper has doubled this year. The Editor was encouraged to publish highlights of minutes, and refer readers to the Forum for full minutes. An ad hoc working group (Torrey, Blau, McMahon, Roscoe, Drobnis) was established to investigate electronic delivery of the newsletter, and to treat dues for persons taking electronic delivery and dues for members of a single family living at a single residence.

Fundraising: For ballot access we have \$8000 in matching funds and \$100 to match them. It was agreed to hold a fundraising dinner to raise money for the Ballot access drive. The Political Facilitator will contact the National party and inquire if they have any ballot access plans for Massachusetts.

Local organization: We need regional captains to contact prospective members and involve them in local activities. Small groups meeting out of private homes are a sound basis for this approach. Captains should find free meeting space (not restaurants!), for example in public libraries, send letters to the editor and other free ads announcing meetings, and be there. Even if only 0 or 2 people appear, just keep running the meetings.

Fiduciary responsibility to the State Party. McMahon urged that we are the party leadership. We have a moral obligation to support Libertarian Party candidates. We represent the party. Issues relating to paid staff were postponed until there is a felt need to hire staff; it appears that an

employment agreement resolves the issue. It was moved (McMahon) and seconded to add to the Bylaws a section reading

"No State Committee member shall endorse or support a candidate of another party in a party primary, or in a partisan race in which a Libertarian Party member is a candidate. This Bylaw does not apply to the immediate family or significant others of state committee members. This Bylaw does not apply to State Committee members supplying commercial services as part of their usual and regular business."

The Political Facilitator will contact the Secretary of the Commonwealth and determine legal requirements for selecting Massachusetts electors.

Charles Separk and David Blau requested lists of contact names and addresses for their areas (near Springfield and Boston) for the purpose of establishing effective local Libertarian groups. It was moved (Torrey) and seconded to approve their request and have the Membership Secretary transmit the requested information. Motion passed unanimously.

Phillies recalled that we had postponed to this State Committee rules on chartering local party groups and affiliates. He reported that BCRA requirements make spending of local party groups reportable as part of our activities. He suggested that we have friends, but not local parties.

Phillies reported that the FEC is allowing LP State Committees to be recognized as State Party Committees rather than PACs, which allows them to take larger donations but requires more frequent financial reports. Discussion of having LPMA do this was postponed until the next meeting.

Robert Underwood of Springfield agreed to be our US Senate candidate. The State Committee voted unanimously to make his our 2008 US Senate candidate. Carol McMahon agreed to form his Federal Committee and handle his FEC reports.

Issues relating to the 2008 Presidential Election were discussed. Unlike many past elections, three unusual outcomes seem more than normally likely to occur, namely

- (1) The National Convention votes None Of The Above for President
- (2) The National Convention chooses someone whom we cannot legally put on the ballot.
- (3) The National Convention is subject to a successful takeover attempt by supporters of another party.

By the date of the National convention we will have raised and may well have spent \$16,000 or more to gather signatures for our candidates for President and U.S. Senate. If we then tell our members that we are actually not running anyone for President, they may become greatly irked. Other State Parties are in similar boats. There was general agreement that if the National Party ran NOTA it would have committed suicide.

Options for dealing with a NOTA nomination were noted, to clarify our range of choices. The effort was to generate a wide list, including bad options. Options include Run NOTA.

Run the candidate on our nominating papers.

Hold an Emergency State Convention, informed by the events at the National Convention, to choose a candidate.

Be in touch with other state parties about a common front

The State Committee agreed to wait and see how matters evolve. However, it was agreed that there should be drafted and enacted a Bylaw allowing the State Committee to call an emergency state convention, should one be needed, and that we should make preparations that do not cost money to hold an emergency state convention after the national convention. Also, we should communicate our concerns related to NOTA to our fellow state parties.

The Chair was directed by the State Committee to send a statement to the State Chairs email list reading:

"I have been instructed by a unanimous vote of my state committee to send the following statement to my fellow State Chairs:

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts State Committee takes note that there are active proposals that the Libertarian party should choose NOTA as our 2008 Presidential Candidate.

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts anticipates raising and spending very large sums of money prior to our National Convention in order to obtain ballot access to our Presidential candidate. Other states have done or will do the same.

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts State Committee notes that failure to run a Libertarian Presidential candidate would greatly damage our credibility with our members.

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts State Committee asks that the State Chairs add to their February Agenda a discussion item on State Party options for the event that our Party Convention fails to nominate a candidate."

The motion to adopt this directive passed 6-0 (As chair, Phillies did not vote.)

The prior discussion made clear that 'state party options' included both individual and collective actions, and that 'nominate a candidate' referred to nominating a person that Party Bylaws and State Law would allow us to place on the ballot.

The State Committee then collated, addressed, and stamped a 1000-piece mailing, each piece containing letter, drop card, return envelope, and mailing envelope, raising money for our Ballot Access Drive.

The meeting adjourned at approximately half past four in the afternoon.