

Minutes of the State Committee meeting of December 30 2007

The meeting came to order at two in the afternoon. Present were Dave Blau, Carol McMahon, George Phillies, Dave Roscoe, Art Torrey, Bob Underwood, and Mary-Anne Wolf.

The Agenda was approved and was followed as shown below.

The Ballot Access Fund Drive has raised slightly in excess of \$1000. Prizes for lead donations are awarded to

First Place -- Paul Vassar

Second Place (Tie) Irwin Jungreis, Cristina Crawford

Third Place (Tie) Phillip Robertson, Gerald Levine, John G. Driscoll

The Political Facilitator will contact the first person promising matching funds about the matching \$1000. Phillies will discuss with other members the possibility of having a fundraising dinner at someone's home.

We will need 12 electors for the nominating papers for the Ballot Access Drive.

Three Amendments to the Bylaws were discussed.

Amendment One, dealing with convention delegates, came off the table. The motion takes the current text:

"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."

deletes 1(a), renumbers appropriately, and allows persons who are members of the National party but not the state party to become delegates.

There was extensive discussion. It was recalled that persons had been added to the 2002 LPMA delegation under what some members felt were false pretenses.

There was a felt need that MA delegates should have loyalty to and identification with Massachusetts. There was feeling that the Republican Party is trying to wreck our Libertarian Party, and we do not want to lose control of our delegates. Letting a state place extra delegates in other delegations dilutes lots of interests. A motion to Table failed. The motion to amend the Bylaws was defeated 1-4.

Amendment Two on Party Loyalty of the State Committee came off the table.

The amendment provides: Add as Article II, Section 7 of the Bylaws:

"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 objective is to minimize conflicts of interest. After some discussion, on 4-1 vote, it was agreed to clarify the meaning by inserting "Libertarian" before "primary". Non-Partisan races are not covered by the rule. It was agreed that a state committee member who displays multiple bumper stickers for the same race, as to encourage interest in voting, is not violating the rule. On a 5-0 vote, the text was amended by inserting "and during the course of" after "as part of". The objective of the latter amendment is to make clear that it is only the sale of the commercial services that does not violate the Bylaw restriction.

As amended, the Bylaw became:

"No State Committee member shall endorse or support a candidate of another party in a Libertarian 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 and during the course of their usual and regular business."

The Bylaw as amended passed 5-0.

The State Committee acted as a Committee of the whole to prepare a By-Law to deal with Special State Conventions. After some work, the Draft By-law became

"(a) The State Committee may by two-thirds vote call a Special State Convention to deal with issues that in its judgement require a decision of the membership. The State Committee shall give thirty days notice to all members eligible to vote at the Special State Convention that there is a Special State Convention, including time and place. To be eligible to vote at a Special State Convention, a person must have been a member in good standing of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts on the date of mailing of the call to the Special State Convention.

(b) The Agenda of the Emergency State Convention, including necessary Rules of Business, shall be transmitted by the State Committee to all members with the call to the convention. The Agenda may not be amended by the insertion of topics or issues not germane to the issues proposed in the original agenda."

The Bylaw was tabled until the next meeting.

The Budget and Finance Working Group was directed to prepare a budget for the next year and submit it with the call to the next meeting.

There was an extended and convoluted discussion of spending. We have three sources of income: Dues. General Donations, largely with dues. Donations for special projects, such as the ballot access fund drive. The committee discussed whether the dues should be limited to providing the newsletter and member services, or whether dues should also be used for more general purposes. Purposes for dues would include paying for the newsletter, reminding members to renew, and sending information packets to people who inquire about us. It was proposed that we should allocate dues to include one dollar per member per month to publish and mail a newsletter of no more than ten pages, and two dollars per member to remind members to renew and to pay for packets sent to people asking about the party.

Membership cards are currently distributed with requests to renew. They show that a person has signed the pledge to become a member, and do not indicate whether a person has or has not paid dues. There was agreement that the membership renewal and information packet budget lines should be separate.

The Editor reported that it was impossible to publish the current newsletter using the current budget. We need to be spending \$1 per member per issue, and we are well above that, perhaps up to \$1.30 per issue. Reducing the page count does not solve the problem. Alternative printers will be investigated. Moving the calendar out of the newsletter, or going to a two-month calendar, might allow use of bulk rate mail. If the State Committee or the social group were to handle mailing of a printed, collated, and stapled newsletter, a very considerable economy might be obtained.

#### Officers' Reports:

Membership Secretary David Roscoe reported that Party membership was falling rapidly. Counting a new renewal packet, we are down to 101 members. Discussion did not suggest a good explanation.

There have been further difficulties with the Meetup Group arrangement that are now being fixed. The thousand-piece fundraiser mailing had 200 returns that are being entered in the database.

The possibility of chartering a plane to take people to the Denver convention was discussed. A chartered flight might avoid some airline security issues for people who dislike them. We would need to determine what the costs would be. Chartering a bus is an alternative.

The time and place of future meetings was discussed. There are no happy solutions that work well for everyone. There was agreement that Worcester meetings mean that no one has to drive much more than an hour to get home. However, several members are unavailable or problematic on weekends. It was agreed to discuss meeting the fourth Wednesday of January at 7 PM, as an alternative to weekend meetings; Phillis will email all members to see if this works..