

Minutes of the State Committee meeting of January 23, 2008
Home of George Phillies, Worcester

The meeting came to order at 7PM. Present were David Blau, Carol McMahon, George Phillies, Art Torrey, Bob Underwood, and Mary-Anne Wolf.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved on the forum and are being distributed.

Officer reports:

Political Facilitator. We have a U.S. Senate candidate, Bob Underwood, who has filed with the FEC. He will soon have his own web pages. We badly need candidates at all levels. Of state committee members, Art Torrey is not up for re-election this year, Mary-Anne Wolf is running for re-election, and three other members are running for Federal office. On the fundraising for Senate and Presidential ballot access, we currently have \$8000 in matching funds and \$1500 in funds raised to match them. We may need \$20,000 to pay for ballot access. It would be a positive step if the LNC were to donate \$10,000 toward this cost. It was noted that \$10,000 is far less than the \$25,000 they estimated as needed for this drive, let alone the ca. \$45,000 that would have been needed if we had run a State Auditor candidate in 2006 and now needed a huge number of raw signatures or contacts to put Underwood on the 2008 ballot.

Five of the six prizes in the fund raising contest (there were two ties) have been shipped. The sixth awaits an address that is not a PO Box.

Webmistress: We need access for donations and renewals via Donortown Square as soon as possible. McMahon will set up a Donortown Square account and get the link for the Radio Button to Wolf. Torrey will ensure that all of the web page passwords are in good order and get copies to other members of the state committee. A check box on the online donation form will allow people to sign the oath on line.

The February Newsletter has been printed. The new printing arrangements met the cost objectives on dollars per copy though not dollars per member. This time, we needed more material for the issue; until now, we have been catching up on minutes. Filler material pushing the forum would be positive.

Membership is up 17 since last month. The State Committee was disturbed to learn that a prior State Committee had created life memberships, granted them to about a dozen people, and not set aside money to cover the cost of the memberships. One state committee member was surprised to learn that she is a life member. The Life Membership question will be investigated further.

The State Committee was dismayed to observe that an ad for a Republican Presidential candidate has appeared on the LPMA.ORG web site. Phillies was charged with contacting the Presidential campaign and the two Republican State committees potentially involved, to call their attention politely to the facts of the matter in the hope that they will prefer to rectify the matter in the immediate future in a positive non-confrontational way. The alternative of an open letter, informing readers that the Libertarian party of Massachusetts is loyal to its party, and does not support

Republicans, was noted.

The State budget was discussed at length. The total involved \$19,000 in expenses. The estimate is that we will have 120 members renew, and gain one member a month, over the next year, at \$15 dues per member. The deficit for the year is very nearly \$10,000, primarily for spending on Federal ballot access. The State convention was budgeted for 30 members at \$30, leading to a break even for the state convention. Outreach includes booths at the Boston Pride Festival (\$500), the Boston Freedom Rally (\$150), the Extravaganja (free), Van's Warped Tour (free), and perhaps some town street festivals. We badly need more FEC-valid donations, and also need OCPF donations. The budget passed unanimously.

After nonsubstantive corrections, the current draft By-law became

"(a) The State Committee may by two-thirds vote call a Special State Convention to resolve questions 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 Special 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 motion to adopt the By-law passed unanimously.

The State Committee discussed at length the question of Libertarian National Committee (LNC) support for a Republican Presidential candidate, including inviting that candidate to run for our nomination and supplying his supporters with in-kind support via the ballot base program. Phillie reported that BallotBase had collapsed after about a thousand phone calls for that Republican, but that the LNC had failed to supply the promised matching assistance to Libertarian Presidential candidates in the CA and MO primaries. Torrey reported attending the New Hampshire event, and confronting LNC members Lark and Machia. He had informed them that he might resume his financial support for national, but only after the LNC members who voted for the proposal were all purged from the national committee. Several members said that we are the Libertarian Party, and that the LNC had damaged our good name by linking it to that Republican.

Options for defending our party were discussed. Encouraging Libertarians across America to give directly to their state parties and preferred candidates, rather than to the LNC, within Federal and State legal limits, was a possibility. Concern was expressed that the LNC might recall its 2000 actions toward Arizona and disenfranchise our state party. There was agreement that we would continue within MA to earn the party name. What is best for our party? There was agreement that we would prefer to stay on speaking terms with the LNC at least through to the national convention. We could do the right thing, our own fund raising, emphasizing that we do not have expensive staff or office space. There was agreement that it might be useful to give the national party a new By-law

stressing party loyalty as a requirement on the National Committee, and that other states should be asked to help.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.