

LPMass State Committee Minutes February 19, 2008

The State Committee met at 7PM at the home of Chair George Phillies. Members present were Dave Blau, Carol McMahon, George Phillies, Dave Roscoe, Art Torrey, Bob Underwood, and Mary-Anne Wolf.

Minutes of the last meeting have been approved; highlights appear in the state newsletter.

The Agenda was approved with amendments and is highlighted below.

Officer Reports

Membership Secretary: David Roscoe reported that he intends to resign as Membership Secretary in order to pursue other interests. He will serve for another two months and will be available thereafter as a consultant. A description of the vacancy will appear in the next newsletter. It was observed that Dave has been a serving officer of LPMass and the preceding Libertarian Association of Massachusetts for far longer than anyone else.

Resolution, passed by acclamation: To thank David Roscoe for his many years of faithful and dedicated service to our Libertarian Party, and to wish him well with his new endeavors.

We are indeed gaining new members every month, and losing old members at about the same rate. Membership is down two relative to last month, to 103.

Webmaster: The webmaster is running for TownMeeting Member and has collected the needed signatures. Coding for attaching a Donortown Square donor button to the front page of the web site is now ready to install.

Editor: The March Newsletter, at four pages, is complete and ready to address and stamp. It was observed that the PDFs went to the print this noontime and are ready to go now.

Political Facilitator: The nominating paper for President, Vice President, and US Senate has been obtained from the Secretary of the Commonwealth and will be completed soon. The candidates are George Phillies (President), Chris Bennett (Vice President), and Robert J. Underwood (U.S. Senate). We have substitution for President and Vice President, subject to legal constraints on who we may name as a Federal candidate. The twelve Presidential Electors are Bill Hees, Frank Muscolo, Carol McMahon, Art Torrey, Mary-Anne Wolfe, Shirley Underwood, Bob Underwood, Nicole Underwood, Stephanie Woiciechowski, David Blau, David Roscoe, and George Phillies.

Forthcoming events: The Extravaganja is the third Saturday in April. In early Summer is the Boston Pride Festival. Van's Warped Tour is in late summer. We appear to be on line to attend all of them, though only the first two are likely to be helpful for petitioning.

We are waiting for Meetup.Com to forward the coupons for multiple local organizers, so we can list the meetup groups. The Boston Meetup Group is meeting the Second Monday; it has 30-40 listed members of whom six attend a typical meeting.

Operations Facilitator: The website is running well. We still have the difficulty that the old URL is in private hands, not ours. There was agreement that we should issue a public statement that we do not control or endorse the contents of the LPMA.org web page, which in addition to forwarding to our web pages are being used to support a candidate of another party.

The Committee unanimously noted with profound regret the passing of the mother of long-time Libertarian activist Chris DeLeo, and extended to him our deepest sympathies.

Chair: The chair emailed lapsed national member asking for their support. Of ca. 350 email addresses, more than 200 were found to be invalid. Dave Roscoe described an arrangement he made to ensure that the invalid emails do not re-enter our system. The Chair also notified national of the list of invalid emails, and was informed that the National Party does not make corrections to their email data, whencefrom the members shown as still using mediaone.net.

Social Director: We need a Social Director to coordinate socials.

Chair: Ballot Access and Fundraising. LPMass has raised \$8000 in matching funds, and thusfar has raised \$1500 to match them. The LNC has offered us \$7500 in matching funds, if we can raise a matching \$7500. The LNC matching funds must be sent to the LNC, which will collect W-9s and pay their petitioners directly, by check. The Chair will encourage current National members who are monthly pledgers to redesignate their pledges for MA ballot access. The possibility of using a correctly timed Summer Social for petition sorting was identified.

The Chair reported that he has a large list of recent libertarian-leaning donors, who could be contacted and asked for money if the address data were perfected. The State Committee, noting the paucity of volunteers to call these people, agreed without objection to offer--in lieu of a salary--10% of funds raised to people who will phone and raise money.

The Chair reported that he attended the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance Meeting (the State Chairs conference). Steve Gordon, who attended our 2006 State Convention, is the new LSLA chair.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Changes in Dues: It was noted that postal expenses are perpetually climbing, the cost of paper and ink has nearly doubled, and therefore that the party's financial situation is challenging. It was proposed to change the dues structure in ways that will encourage a larger party membership and better cover our costs.

The proposed dues structure for members, after considerable debate, is

First member in a household, newsletter sent by paper mail, \$25.

First member in a household, newsletter sent electronically, \$15.

Additional Members in a household at an address that already has a 'First Member in a Household' membership, either paper or electronic, if the additional member is not sent the newsletter, \$5 or \$10 each.

There are challenges not completely resolved with having people whose 'additional person' membership expires after the matching 'First Person' membership.

Student groups: Considerable interest was expressed in trying to contact student groups. The LNC has a list of these.

Ownership of State Party assets A list of state party assets is being generated. The intent is to make sure that we actually own the assets, so that we do not repeat the difficulty encountered with LPMA.ORG.

Known Assets include: Bank Accounts, Web Site, Domain names, and the mail box. We appear to be in good shape on all of these. There are also a large number of boxes of old records (in Carol's basement) and several LPMA banners (in Phillie's first floor).

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned to the newsletter collation.