

State Committee Minutes, March 23 2008

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

Officer and Committee reports:

Membership Secretary: We have 101 members, the same as last month. The number of contacts in the last six months is up over the six months prior. Mary-Anne Wolf noted challenges relating to the poor quality of the National base, and suggested that if we split the load with other states in our region we might be able to maintain a part of full time clerk typist to maintain a reasonably useful data base. The State Committee again voted its thanks to Dave Roscoe for his long a faithful service in support of the state party.

Political Facilitator: We have candidates. We have a new elected Libertarian. Andrew Boysen has been elected to the Wellesley Housing Authority. An article on his achievement is in the newsletter. Mary-Anne Wolf is highly likely to be elected to Town Meeting in Billerica. Jim Perry is moving to Billerica and will run for town meeting. Val Diviaci has expressed an interest in running for State Senate in a Middlesex/Essex district. Bill DiScipio is likely going to be a candidate again. Our potential Governor's Council candidate has had issues that will likely keep him from running this year. Robert Underwood's U.S. Senate campaign site is up.

Editor: We generated a full column article on Andrew Boysen, including finding a good picture.

Webmaster: The link to Bob Underwood's web site has been fixed. The Donation link to Donortownsquare is about to come up. We will add an I-Volunteer form that will automatically transmit the collected data to people. Making the page do a database archive would be harder and will be done later. The Committee will check if th Constitution and ByLaws on the web page are up to date or not.

At the Committee's request the chair recounted the current financial situation on ballot access, including his interactions with National. We raised \$8000 in matching funds to pay for a ballot access drive. We have \$1500 cash on hand and have perhaps another \$2000 coming in. If we finish raising money, we will have \$16,000 for ballot access, which at \$1/ signature will generate the required raw signatures.

The national party has raised \$7500 in matching funds. If we get them \$7500, they will pay up to \$15,000 to petitioners to collect signatures. Unfortunately, they are paying \$1.50 per signature, which means that the national plan would collect 10,000 raw signatures, meaning 7500 or so valid signatures, a guaranteed failure.

Phillies described his negotiations with several members of the National Committee and its staff. The LNC is unwilling to send us their \$7500 to spend on petitioning, because they fear the money might be misappropriated, and sending our money to them not only has the same problem but also means that the petition drive would fail. Phillies and LNC Chair Redpath had a long conversation. They agreed that they would each propose to their Committees that each committee would pay the

petitioner directly up to 75 cents a signature for the same signatures, meaning that their petitioner would be paid at their rates, we would pay less than budgeted for signatures, and funds would be matched. Phillies was then phoned by LNC Treasurer Starr, who stated that the Redpath-Phillies proposal would not be acceptable, and insisted that we should send our money to them. An exchange of emails between Starr and members of the LPMass state committee followed, which did not get anywhere.

Phillies said that he views his objective as raising another \$4500 in matching funds (plus money for the State Account) for LPMass and around \$7000 for the LNC ballot access drive. Phillies noted that he had had 1000 copies of the nominating paper printed for circulation, including mailing one with the next newsletter to all state party members. He asked that the printing costs be covered. His request was unanimously accepted.

Phillies was directed by the Committee to send an email to the entire LNC describing the current state of affairs with respect to the ballot access drive.

Carol McMahon reported that she had procured nominating papers for President etc. from the Secretary of the Commonwealth and created an appropriate template to insert all names on the papers. The Committee voted our thanks to Carol for what is actually an extremely tricky computer task.

LNC petitioner Al Anders has sometimes been in state. He has a substantial stock of nominating papers on which to collect signatures.

The Committee turned to a discussion of a Bylaw fixing membership and subscription requirements and dues; there is currently no Bylaw on this topic. Also, the Committee finds that the records show that we have a number of life members, including one Committee member who has no idea why she is a life member, and has no records indicating a basis or what was promised these members.

BYLAW ADDITION

Memberships and subscriptions

1. a. The State Committee may by majority vote set the dues for any category of membership or subscription.
 - b. To join as a member, a person must be an American citizen or a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States, must reside in Massachusetts, and must provide the state committee with their valid mailing address in Massachusetts.
 - c. Persons who reside outside Massachusetts may not be members, but may subscribe to the newsletter.
 - d. All memberships expire on the last day of a calendar month.
2. The categories of membership, their annual dues, and the services provided to members in that

category are defined below. All members, regardless of category, are equally members in the sense of the Party Constitution, Article I.

a. Dues for a Paper Mail member are \$25 per year. A Paper Mail member is sent a printed copy of each issue of the newsletter by US Mail.

b. Dues for an Electronic Mail member are \$15 per year. An Electronic Member is sent a copy of each issue of the newsletter via electronic mail in PDF (Portable Document Format) To qualify for electronic mail membership, the member must supply an email address that is capable of receiving the newsletter.

c. Dues for each Additional Household Members are \$5 per year. An Additional Household Member must at the time of joining live at the same address as a current Paper or Electronic Mail member. Additional Household Members are not sent the newsletter in paper or electronic form. The expiration date for the Additional Household Member is the same as it is for the associated Paper or Electronic Mail member.

d. There shall be no category of non-dues-paying membership.

3. The State Party may from time to time send additional notices or items to some or all members. In doing so, it may use any transmission medium appropriate to the notice or item. In cases of exigency, the State Committee may by majority vote authorize alternative delivery methods to deliver the newsletter.

4. All members shall be sent a timely individual notice of each State Convention.

5. Non-member subscriptions to the state newsletter may be purchased for \$25 per year for paper-mailed subscriptions or \$15 per year for electronic subscriptions. Non-member subscribers are not members.

6. Members may at their request be transferred between categories of membership.

a. Paper membership to Electronic membership - The member's Expiration Date shall be extended by 1/2 the number of months remaining in the current membership, rounding down.

b. Electronic membership to Paper membership - The member's Expiration Date shall be reduced by 1/2 the number of months remaining in the current membership, rounding up, but in every case the member will be sent at least one paper issue of the newsletter.

c. Additional Household membership to paper membership: The Member receives a full year membership, but pays only \$20 for the first year's dues.

d. Additional Household membership to electronic membership: The Member receives a full year membership, but pays only \$10 for the first year's dues.

e. Combining individual memberships to Individual plus additional household: 1. If needed, convert

each membership to the one type desired (Electronic or paper mail) as specified above. 2. Add the remaining lengths of the two memberships together to determine the new expiration date of the combined membership.

7. Members are responsible for informing the Membership Secretary of address changes in a timely way.

8. The State Party interprets the phrase "member of the National Libertarian Party, as defined by the Libertarian National Committee charter and bylaws," to mean that the person has signed the membership pledge of the National Party, in the form extant on the date of adoption of the State Party Constitution.

9. Donation extensions to membership: Each person donating \$100 or more shall be given a one year extension of their membership, with an additional one year extension for every \$100 donated, with the upper limit that a membership shall not extend more than 5 years into the future. Persons making a monthly pledge contribution to the state party of \$10 or more shall be given a one month extension of membership for each month of contributions.

STANDING RULES

1. In setting dues for each category of membership or subscription, the State Committee shall regularly confirm that the amount paid more than covers the marginal cost of the membership or subscription.