

Minutes of the meeting of September 7, 2008

Present were Dave Blau, George Phillies, Art Torrey, Bob Underwood, Mary-Ann Wolf, and Walter Ziobro.

On the agenda was approved and passed through.

Treasurer: Walter Ziobro stated that he cannot continue as treasurer. We have \$4371 in the Federal bank accounts and \$128.00 in the state account. The new treasurer needs to be competent to deal with the Federal election commission and the office of campaign and political finance.

Webmaster: lots of work has been done on the side. We are now up to 56 users. The front pages been updated. We need to add a local events for people to talk about.

Operations: the meetup situation has been advanced. The Lowell group has three people attending out of fifteen. The Boston group has four to eight people attending with three to four people joining every week. The western group has four to six attendees.

Membership: we have 115 members. Eleven are expiring. We have received about twenty volunteers and are working on finding things for them to do. It was agreed that Phillies may freely use the various lists to e-mail and contact otherwise the members and volunteers to incite them to activism in our party.

The state convention will be held on October 18th at Tweeds Pub in Worcester. Phillies reported on pricing issues. An admission fee of \$30.00 should cover expenses adequately. It was agreed that the state party would use the events to have a fundraiser and offer prizes for participation. We will attempt to invite a speaker if we can find someone suitable to speak on some interesting current events issue. If the lawsuit does not eventuate as positively as might be hoped, we will have a presidential candidate on hand.

Membership data: Phillies reported having worked through the membership list. We currently owe 720 member-months of memberships. Renewals have recently lagged. Torrey will work on sending out renewal notices.

Newsletter: Blau reported that the next newsletter is ready to go. He observed the bringing out the newsletter every month was a great deal of work, and hoped other people would step up to become editor. Phillies reported on printing costs namely that for the current ten page newsletter we will need 26¢ per copy to print and 42¢ per copy to mail, a cost of well under the \$1.00 per issue that we're targeting.

Resolution: Phillies reported on his treatment by the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance Chair. After discussion a resolution was passed by a vote of four to one, the Chair not voting:

Whereas, State Chair George Phillies received an apparently legitimate advertisement: "We're giving away 100,000 signs to support every campaign in America.", and

Whereas, State Chair Phillip out of the generosity of his heart took time out of his busy schedule to forward this opportunity to as fellow state chairs via the LSLA ( Libertarian State Leadership Alliance) state chairs e-mail list, assuming that the average libertarian candidate could figure out how to divert this opportunity to her his own benefit, and

Whereas, without giving Phillip an opportunity to defend himself, LSLA Chair Stephen Gordon took punitive action against Phillip, and

Whereas, the nature of the complaint and the identity of the complaint have been kept secret, so there was no opportunity for Phillip to defend himself against the unknown complaint or complainant, and,

Whereas, contrary to the false claim of Gordon, a claim that would have been refuted if Phillip had been given a chance to defend himself, Phillip is as of this writing as a result of Libertarian National Committee action the National Party's choice of candidate in Massachusetts, then

Be it resolved, that the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts State Committee in accord with its authority under Party Bylaws orders and directs that all ties of LPMass with the LSLA are severed, and, furthermore,

Orders and directs that its officers under their ex officio as may not invoke their ex officio as to join or participate in the LSLA, and

While recognizing that each individual libertarian is free to do what they see as best for the Libertarian Party, nonetheless encourages individual state party members to seek activism opportunities other where than the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance, and,

Finally, encourages the state chairs remaining in the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance to seek, forthwith, the removal of Steven Gordon as their head, and,

To the extent it is useful, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts will operate a forum for state chairs and other party leaders to discuss their issues at no cost to participate, so they will not lose by not being able to discuss through the LSLA mailing list.

The state committee took a note that the Libertarian National Committee is attempting to expel Angela Keaton as a member of the Libertarian National Committee. Apparently the efforts to expel her consumed a large part of last weekend's LNC meeting. Great concern was expressed that Angela is a forthright and positive figure in the libertarian movement, and it would be injurious to the libertarian political movement if she were expelled.

A series of new amendments to the party state constitution were discussed.

REPLACE

Article IV: State Committee

1. The delegates to the state convention, next succeeding the convention at which this Constitution

is adopted, shall elect a state committee, composed of nine (9) representatives at large, from among the Party's Members at state convention.

WITH A NEW

1. The delegates to each regular state convention shall select up to 9 state committee members, to serve as the state committee until the conclusion of the next regular state convention. To be eligible for election to the state committee, a person must be a member of the state party whose dues are current.

PASSED.

-----

REPLACE

10. No person who is not a recognized member of the national Libertarian Party, as defined by the Libertarian National Committee charter and bylaws, shall hold the office of Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer of the State Committee, or any office in succession, such as Vice-Chair or Assistant Secretary.

WITH A NEW

10. To be elected or serve as a member or officer of the state committee, a person must be a dues paying member of the libertarian party of Massachusetts as defined by the party constitution and bylaws. A person who ceases to be a member of the party ceases at the same moment to be a state committee member or officer.

PASSED

-----

REPLACE

2. If there is a roll call vote-for president at the national convention, all the delegates and alternates whose selection is subject by party rule to the approval of a presidential candidate shall vote on the first such roll call for that presidential candidate unless released by such candidate.

WITH

If the libertarian party of Massachusetts is affiliated with a national organization that holds the convention, and if the libertarian party of Massachusetts chooses delegates for that convention, those delegates shall not be bound as to their vote beyond the rules of that national organization and convention.

THE MOTION TO REPLACE FAILED. A MOTION SIMPLY TO STRIKE THE CURRENT 2.

PASSED.

AMEND

1. A state convention shall be held in every year.

TO

1. A regular state convention shall be held in every year.

PASSED

-----

IN

4. The convention shall have the authority to adopt a platform. The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party shall be included as a part of such platform, and shall not be amended except by a vote of seven-eighths of the delegates present. The platform, other than the Statement of Principles, shall be the most recently adopted platform of the national Libertarian Party, provided that, any plank of such platform, excluding the Statement of Principles, may be deleted in its entirety by a simple majority of the delegates present. The substitution of a new plank for an old plank, or the addition of a new plank, shall require approval by a vote of at least two thirds of the

delegates present.

**STRIKE**

The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party shall be included as a part of such platform, and shall not be amended except by a vote of seven-eighths of the delegates present.

PASSED 4-1

**AND ALSO STRIKE**

The platform, other than the Statement of Principles, shall be the most recently adopted platform of the national Libertarian Party, provided that, any plank of such platform, excluding the Statement of Principles, may be deleted in its entirety by a simple majority of the delegates present. The substitution of a new plank for an old plank, or the addition of a new plank, shall require approval by a vote of at least two thirds of the delegates present.

PASSED 4-1

**AND ALSO AMEND**

4. The convention shall have the authority to adopt a platform.

**TO READ**

4. The convention shall have the authority by two-thirds vote to adopt or amend a platform.

PASSED 4-1

-----

**STRIKE**

3. A person's name shall not appear on any Libertarian primary ballot, nor shall any person receive the nomination of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, for any partisan elective office unless that person is a recognized member of the national Libertarian Party, as defined by the Libertarian National Committee charter and bylaws, or the state Libertarian Party.

PASSED 4-1

-----

**STRIKE**

4. In the event of the withdrawal, death, or ineligibility of any candidate to be elected by the voters, or some portion thereof, of the Commonwealth, the vacancy may be filled by the state committee, unless the convention which nominated said candidate shall have provided for a different method in the original certificate of nomination. In the event a convention is not held in time to allow the convention to exercise its authority to nominate a candidate to be so elected by the voters, the nomination may be filled by the state committee.

PASSED 4-1

-----

**ADD**

Every member of the state committee must make available their name, their state party office if any, and a working way to contact them, in the party newsletter and on the party web site. This may be a physical mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, or some combination of these.

PASSED

-----

**ADD**

3. If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee.

In a single calendar year a state party member may not sign more than one petition requesting a

special state convention.

The petition shall specify the agenda of the special state convention, and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but may not otherwise change the agenda. The quorum for a special state convention shall be 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership of the party.

If one or more dues paying state party members mails or presents to the state committee a written request to assemble a petition requesting a special state convention, then, within 60 days, the state committee must inform the dues paying members of this request, and the names and contact information for the party members who made the request. Other relevant information may also be included. State party members must be informed about the petition by placing the information on the first page of the party newsletter, and prominently on any electronic media controlled by the state committee.

PASSED

Add to conventions a new section (passed unanimously)

2. The State Committee may call additional conventions, termed special state conventions, by a two-thirds vote. The state committee must inform the current membership, at least 30 days in advance, in writing, of the agenda, place, date, quorum, and time of any special state convention.

ADDENDUM

A motion to require that the state committee, in calling the regular state convention, must specify the quorum for the state convention was defeated 2-3.

Activism events: the state committee noted that on September 20, 2008, there will be a freedom rally on the Boston common to call for the relegalization of marijuana. All party activists were urged to turn out and help the state party use this event for outreach.