

Minutes of the February 2009 Regular meeting of the
State Committee of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts State Committee was held on February 1, 2009 at 2:09 pm at the house of George Phillies. Present were State Committee members David Blau, Steven Greffenius, George Phillies, Arthur Torrey, Robert Underwood, and Mary-Anne Wolf. Also present were Dan Karlan and Mark Tashjian. The agenda (as amended) and previous minutes were approved unanimously.

Officer Reports

Before the officers reported, Mr. Tashjian spoke about ideas for fundraising.

The Operations Facilitator reported that the forum file uploads are now working. The Libertarian Leadership forum hasn't been working out very well. Mr. Phillies opined that there is a severe disincentive to joining forum if people have to sign up for general forums, and then sign up for special sub-forum.

The Treasurer reported that we can't get money from the Northshore bank account. A phone call is cheaper than certified mail, but we may try both. The Treasurer went through last two years of statements and filings. Ms Wolf moved to reimburse Mr. Phillies for costs incurred in publishing the newsletter. Mr. Torrey seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. Ms Wolf moved to reimburse Mr. Phillies \$210 for a roll of 500 stamps, Mr. Phillies to inquire about purchasing forever stamps. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer has zeroed out the Citizen's Bank account. We are currently doing "quarterly" FEC filing, but we have option of monthly filing. There are several advantages to monthly filing, the only downside is the reports have to be actually filed every month. A form would have to be filed with the FEC. Once a switch is made, we cannot go back to quarterly until the end of the calendar year. Mr. Phillies asked consent to make the switch, which was given.

The Membership Secretary reported that we broke even on membership for December. He will undertake to create a "please renew letter" shortly.

The Recording Secretary discussed a procedure for approving meeting minutes on the forum. The Recording Secretary will post minutes and send an email to the State Committee

with the link. Committee members will post approval or corrections. After each correction, the Recording Secretary will produce a clean copy of the minutes and send another email with a link to the corrected minutes. Voting will be by post on the forum within one week of meeting. Once the minutes pass on the forum, they are published in the public State Committee forum, with a link in newsletter working group forum.

The Editor appreciates the willingness of members to provide material for the newsletter. We should streamline process for announcing “Meetup” meetings in the newsletter. Mr. Phillies prefers serif fonts and narrower columns (in print). The Editor spoke with the chair about publishing a double issue. The current issue going out is a single issue.

The Webmaster reported that email forwarding for officers is now in place. She is in touch with the Secretary of State’s office to ask how to amend our membership database to include our members’ voting information. We are having problems knowing what precinct our members are in. Ms Wolf knows about some websites that tell what a member’s voting precinct is. There isn’t any public information that we can mechanically use, so we may have to type in the information manually.

Mr. Phillies noted that only the state committee of a major party can request list of registered voters in the state. He asked that no one contact the Secretary of State without discussing communication with the entire state committee. Mr. Underwood stated that we could ask people to tell us their precinct when they pay for their membership. Mr. Phillies noted that all we need to do is ask for their state representative or state senator. Mr. Underwood further noted that this information will change in 2010.

Working Groups

Political Action WG: Mr. Phillies stated that if one submits legislation by the second Wednesday of January in an odd-numbered year, it must be put on the legislative calendar by rule. Legislation proposals may still be submitted later, but may not become a bill. Our proposal was to cut ballot access signature requirements in half. Mr. Torrey, as a candidate for re-election, collected twice the number of required signatures (20) in two hours. **Action item:** WG to prepare draft legislation eliminating requirement that signers be enrolled in order to sign ballot access petition.

Elections WG: there is not a great deal of consolidated public information on elections dates. After some discussion it was agreed that the best way to get these dates is to help interested candidates. Action item: organize a handbook for helping candidates to run elections. Put getting election dates into handbook as we accumulate them.

Membership WG: Mr. Torrey sent out a batch of 20-30 renewal letters. We are working to get a follow-up letter sent. We have a set of labels for the second batch. We have a first letter for those whose memberships are about to expire, but a second letter needs to be written. Mr. Phillis will do the second letter. **Action item:** finish the letters and get them mailed out

Fundraising WG: the letter for raising money for federal accounts is nearly finished. We have a huge list of donors that we can send this to. As a cost estimate, 300 first class stamps, 900 mailing labels, 6 pages printing, 4 pages in color x 300 copies, and envelopes would cost about \$0.73 per letter, \$219 total. Not in the budget: return stamps and drop-in cards on heavy stock. Mr. Torrey moved to spend not more than \$250 on a federal fundraising mailing. Mr. Blau seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

A letter soliciting state funds hasn't been started. The federal letter can cover federal campaign activities, including the newsletter and event announcements for federal candidates. The state letter should solicit donations to support state / local candidates. **Action item:** write the state fundraising letter.

Newsletter WG: The Editor reported that we have enough material right now for one to one-and-a-half newsletters. We can put together enough material for the next newsletter to do a double issue, and we have the money put aside. We can put in a short article pointing out the double issue, and call it the "Feb/Mar" newsletter. **Action item:** prepare a double length issue for February and March.

Outreach WG: Ms Wolf found a list of organizations to reach out to. Mr. Phillis has also generated lists. We should look over them before we give them publicity on our website. **Action item:** prepare an informal report on the organizations we already know about for next meeting.

Convention WG: there has been no progress on drafting amendments to constitution and bylaws, although Ms Wolf has posted in the forum identifying a list of issues. Mr. Torrey helped out.

Budget and Finance WG: monies have been allocated according to the January annual budget. Monthly financing will be done moving forward. Obtaining a second signatory on the checking accounts is in progress. Mr. Phillies wants Mr. Blau to be assistant treasurer so Mr. Blau can file FEC reports. **Action item:** make Mr. Blau the second signatory on the checking accounts.

The Audit & Compensation WG had no report.

Local Organization WG: Mr. Phillies reported that we got the check for meetup, and Mr. Torrey is the organizer. There is no coupon code. We paid \$72 to cover 3 groups for six months. We could use an Essex county group or a south shore group.

New Business

Mr. Torrey found a service to convert video tapes up to 4 hours long to DVD for \$8.95 each + \$8 shipping. Mr. Torrey wrote to the service. Mr. Torrey moved to spend up to \$50 out of the federal administration budget to convert two tapes for last two state conventions to DVD, the service to perform some video clean-ups. Ms Wolf seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Institutional knowledge: Mr. Phillies has old newsletters and minutes from previous state committees that can be scanned and put online. There are no records prior to 2000. Mr. Phillies also has large lists of donors, that can be aggregated into a systematized donor list. The list is in “a box.” Mr. Torrey: try to move as much info to forum as possible, and send an email with a link to the group.

The other items of new business on the agenda were taken care of in WG discussions. After a short break, the State Committee entered Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to confidentiality and conflicts of interest. After emerging, the following actions were taken:

Mr. Phillies moved to amend the LPMA bylaws to specify “The Operations Facilitator shall be tasked to be the point of contact between the State Committee and the LNC.” Ms Wolf seconded. The motion is postponed for discussion until the next meeting, per the bylaws.

Mr. Phillies moved that the State Committee shall send a copy of our three recently passed resolutions (one regarding California’s Proposition 8, and two regarding Angela Keaton) to each state chair, with a cover letter stating that we have passed these resolutions, and we offer them to your state committees for their consideration. Mr. Torrey seconded. Mr. Phillies justified this request by stating that we should be sure people around the country have the exact text that

we passed, to quell rumors. Mr. Torrey moved to amend the motion to add state newsletter editors as recipients. Mr. Phillies accepted this as a friendly amendment: the cover letter should ask State Chairs to pass along resolutions to newsletter editors. The motion as amended passed 5-1.

Mr. Phillies moved that the State Chair should communicate with the national committee members the key aspects of the phone call with Mr. Kraus, noting that we remain affiliates, noting that we are concerned that phrases were used that could be interpreted to mean that we would not receive a member dump from national and other services for Massachusetts, and we express our confidence the LNC will ensure Mr. Kraus will perform his duties as their employee. Mr. Torrey seconded. Mr. Phillies: this is a polite way to raise issue with LNC and make sure they know what was said in the phone call. Mr. Greffenius stated that maintaining open channels of communication between the State Chair and LNC and staff is a good thing. The motion passed 4-1.

Mr. Phillies has received a lot of event literature from former Treasurer Walter Ziobro and former Political Facilitator Carol McMahon. We are lacking some flyers. Mr. Torrey stated that we are better showing up at events with relatively event-specific handouts, not other things. We could stand to weed through our collection of ancient flyers to minimize the variety of flyers we take to various events. A set of weights would solve the problem of flyers blowing away at outdoor events.

Announcements

Mr. Phillies asked Mr. Karlan if he had any observations regarding our meeting. Mr. Karlan spoke for a number of minutes, then answered questions posed by the State Committee.

The meeting adjourned 6:45 pm.