

Minutes of the March 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 March 14, 2009 at 1:56 pm at the Bickford's Family Restaurant, 270 Cochituate Rd in Framingham. Present were State Committee members David Blau, Steven Griffenius, George Phillies, Art Torrey, and Robert Underwood. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as amended.

**Officer Reports**

The Chair reported that conversations with the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) had calmed down substantially in the past six weeks. The Chair has had productive conversations with staff members, including the National Volunteer Coordinator.

The Political Facilitator reported that he has been browsing local newspapers and scanning libertarian-leaning letters to the editor. He has been contacting their authors about getting involved in the Party, but so far has not had a great deal of success.

The Operations Facilitator reported that problems with creating new accounts on the forum appear to be fixed. There is no activity on the website upgrade. The Meetup group situation appears to be under control. We now have the capability to fund six simultaneous meet-ups, of which we are currently funding four in: the Greater Boston Area, the Route 495 Corridor, Western Massachusetts (PVLA), and Essex County. More people are signing up for the meeting, but there is a lot of churn. We may be able to decrease churn by providing more volunteer activities for meeting attendees. The PVLA group has their members collate the monthly newsletter. Renewal notices for expiring members are going out on time. We are looking for a speaker for the Exeter school.

The Treasurer reported as follows:

**Federal account.** The February Monthly FEC report was filed on March 9. Costs: We spent \$336 on stamps, paid \$56 for fundraising stationery and \$44.83 for printing and mailing, and paid \$65 to print the fundraising mailing and \$45.98 to print the newsletter, leaving us with \$3154 in the Sovereign Account. Receipts: The Northshore FEC Bank account was finally closed successfully. We recovered \$192.29. One member paid the \$10 fee to change their

newsletter subscription from electronic to paper. In March 2009 to date, we received \$125 in donations and \$115 for new memberships (four paper, one electronic) from people who received the fundraiser. We have approximately \$3523 total in the FEC account.

**State account.** In February through early March the OCPF Account received \$175 in donations and paid \$7.80 to Donor Town Square for transfer charges. We now have our first monthly donor. The OCPF account is now up to \$1815.

**FEC compliance.** The FEC recently released a new booklet which treats mandatory language on our communications and fundraising statements. The Newsletter Editor has been provided with a donate-and-volunteer page that includes all the compliant language in the correct locations and type faces. We should see it in the next issue. The Webmaster has been provided with revised language for the state and Federal Account donation buttons.

The Membership Secretary reported that since the last meeting through the end of February, 7 people joined or renewed, including 5 paper members, 1 electronic member, and 1 family member. We currently have 89 members. Two will expire at the end of March. None expired at the end of February.

The Recording Secretary apologized for the delay in distributing last month's minutes for approval, and promised to do better this month.

The Editor had nothing to report. It was suggested that the Editor include all Meetup URLs in the newsletter going forward, so that our members with Internet access may locate information about them more easily. Mr. Phillip has worked out some minor details with the printer for printing the newsletter. Its design was optimized for one sided printing. If you use it for two-sided printing, when you print on the second side it occasionally creates echoes, on the first side, of images that were already on the first side. These problems are most serious for color wax and for bold face prints. With a little planning we can minimize this issue.

The Webmaster was ill and did not report. Her report was given by the Operations Facilitator.

## **Working Groups**

Local Organization WG: We are compiling a volunteer list. A Meetup group has been formed in Essex County, and we would like to set up one near Plymouth or on the Cape. As usual, there will be tax protests on April 15th. **Action item:** WG to set up more Meetup groups.

Political Action WG: There will be a marijuana re-legalization event (Extravaganja) in Amherst on April 25th. **Action item:** none.

Elections WG: Mr. Torrey is running for Town Meeting Representative in Billerica. There are seven openings in his district and seven candidates pulled papers. Mr. Phillies has been hearing from other potential candidates, and processing them accordingly. **Action item:** none.

Membership WG **Action item:** finish the letter for recent expirees and get them mailed out.

Fundraising WG: The FEC appeals letter has been sent to members of LP national. We made approximately \$70 as a result, but our budget does not call for that money to be put back into our fundraising account. We have enough money budgeted to run a second fundraising drive for state donations. **Action item:** prepare a list of 200 most recent LPMA members to receive OCPF fundraising letter, get the letters printed and sent.

Newsletter WG: We sent out a double-length issue of the newsletter on time and on budget. It is not economically feasible to go past one ounce mailings on a regular basis. If needed, we can fit more material by reducing the amount of white space or graphics. The problem with the printer we are using to print the newsletters can be avoided by having color logos on only one side. State Libertarian parties may not use the LNC logo in their mailings. **Action item:** Check prices for printing the newsletter at Staples.

Outreach WG: Eric Curtis of Octopus Solutions has been added to the working group. The cost of his marketing plan is currently unknown. To fund it, given our fundraising budget, Mr. Phillies moved to allocate up to \$200 out of the general fund for the control of the Outreach WG to hold a fundraiser, 20% of the gross receipts to go back into the fundraising account to offset the \$200, the remainder to fund the marketing plan. Mr. Torrey seconded. After noting that this would leave the general fund short, Mr. Torrey moved to amend the motion to provide 10% of the gross receipts back to the general fund, leaving 70% to fund the marketing plan. Mr. Phillies seconded, and the amendment passed 5-0. The main motion then passed 5-0. **Action item:** contact Mr. Curtis and hold the fundraiser.

Convention WG: no report. The State Committee is not opposed to having an invited speaker come, if the speaker does not charge. **Action item:** report on bylaws and constitutional amendments for the convention at the next State Committee meeting.

Budget and Finance WG: In order to make Mr. Blau a signatory on the Sovereign checking accounts, he read aloud a resolution that the bank required be adopted by the LPMA:

*Be it resolved that,*

(1) The Financial Institution named above is designated as a depository for the funds of this association. (2) This resolution shall continue to have effect until express written notice of its rescission or modification has been received and recorded by this Financial Institution. (3) All transactions, if any, with respect to any deposits, withdrawals, rediscounts and borrowings by or on behalf of this association with this Financial Institution prior to the adoption of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. (4) Any of the persons named below, so long as they act in a representative capacity as agents of this association, are authorized to make any and all other contracts, agreements, stipulations and orders which they may deem advisable for the effective exercise of the powers indicated, from time to time with this Financial Institution, concerning funds deposited in this Financial Institution, moneys borrowed from this Financial Institution or any other business transacted by and between this association and this Financial Institution subject to any restrictions stated below. (5) Any and all prior resolutions adopted by this association and certified to this Financial Institution as governing the operation of this association's account(s), are in full force and effect, unless supplemented or modified by this authorization. (6) This association agrees to the terms and conditions of any account agreement, properly opened by an authorized representative(s) of this association, and authorizes the Financial Institution named above, at any time, to charge this association for all checks, drafts, or other orders, for the payment of money, that are drawn on this Financial Institution, regardless of by whom or by what means the facsimile signature(s) may have been affixed so long as they resemble the facsimile signature specimens below (or the facsimile signature specimens that this association files with this Financial Institution from time to time) and contain the required number of signatures for this purpose.

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 5-0. Mr. Phillies moved to amend the bylaws to move the sentence in Article IV, paragraph (D)(2) regarding the Treasurer as the sole signatory on party accounts to Article IV, paragraph (B)(4). Per the bylaws, this motion will be taken up as a General Order at the next meeting of the State Committee. **Action item:** none.

Audit & Compensation WG: Mr. Greffenius and Mr. Phillies have settled on a time to perform the annual audit. They have agreed that the audit will be performed on the paper records. **Action item:** none.

### **General Order**

At the previous meeting, Mr. Phillies had moved to amend the bylaws to require the Operations Facilitator be the point of contact between the LPMA and the LNC. After discussion of this motion, and the Chair's assurance that he was well equipped to handle such contacts, Mr.

Phillies moved to table his motion until such time certain that the Chair wishes it taken from the table. Mr. Torrey seconded, and the motion to table passed 5-0.

### **New Business**

Mr. Phillies will meet with Mr. Curtis on Saturday morning, time TBD, somewhere in Essex County to discuss the marketing plan. He explained, and the State Committee agreed, that before we move forward with the plan proper, there should be enough detail in the plan to satisfy our donors that we are spending their money wisely. Furthermore, the marketing plan is only one area in which we need to spend money. Other areas include fundraising, volunteer support, and elections, to name just a few. However, the State Committee does want a consistent marketing message for the voters and concerned citizens of Massachusetts, and Mr. Curtis can help with that goal.

Mr. Blau spoke about volunteer coordination. He would like to have the working groups put together lists of actions they need to have done and that can be distributed to our volunteers across the state. For example, local volunteers could learn how their local government works, and get us valuable on-the-ground information, such as dates for candidates to pull papers, which local elected offices are available to fill with Libertarian candidates. They can also spend time at the town hall talking with politicians, working their way into the local political establishment. With a standard list of local tasks, the working groups will be able to provide new volunteers with a steady stream of work.

It was decided by consensus that forum voting is still having problems. State Committee members who wish to call a forum vote must now send an email to the entire SC mailing list and provide a URL to the vote. Formal procedures for handling forum votes will be discussed in the private area of the forum.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Phillies reported on the status of the Rhode Island, Maine, and Alabama Libertarian Parties.

The meeting adjourned 4:32 pm.