

Minutes of the State Chairs Meeting March 2007

Present for part or all of the meeting were:

Alabama - Mark Bodenhausen
California - Aaron Starr
Colorado - Travis Nicks
Idaho - Rob Oates
Indiana - Mark Rutherford
Kansas - Rob Hodgkinson
Massachusetts - George Phillies
Michigan - Emily Salvette
Missouri - Darla Mahoney
Montana - Mike Fellows
Nevada - Jim Duensing
New York - M Carling
North Carolina - Lee Wrights
Oregon - Richard Burke
Pennsylvania - Chuck Moulton
South Carolina - Jeff Dimit
Tennessee - Alicia Mattson
Texas - Wes Benedict
Vermont - Hardy Machia
Virginia - Jeff Bowles
Wisconsin - Jeremy Keil

Pat Dixon brought the meeting to order. George Phillies was made Secretary pro tem.

The meeting thanked Rob Hodgkinson and Jeremy Keil for their work for the State Chairs. There was sustained applause.

Elections for new officers were held.

For Chair: Richard Burke and Alicia Mattson declined nomination.

Jim Duensing was elected by acclamation.

For Treasurer: Wes Benedict and Jeremy Keil were nominated.

Jeremy Keil was re-elected by acclamation.

A motion for a five-minute recess was defeated 7-8.

Site selection for the next meeting: The proposals were for Las Vegas, Nevada, for a two-day event or an event over the President's Day weekend, or for a New York hosting of a cruise not leaving from New York. Merits of the proposals were discussed. The question was called. Richard Burke moved for a secret ballot. The validity of a secret ballot was challenged. The parliamentary point was discussed. The motion for a secret ballot was defeated. Nevada won by voice vote.

The choice of weekend will be settled on the State Chair's list.

Alicia Mattson briefly took over as secretary.

Treasury: We had 94 attendees and 10 banquet tickets. There was \$8327 in convention income and an estimated \$5927 in expenses including accounts payable. In net we have \$5179 on hand. Applications for money were discussed, including reducing the cost of the next event, increasing the value of the next event, or maintaining a reserve. 'increase the value' includes better outside media experts, a better facility, or a motivational speaker. Sentiment favored increasing the value of the event consistent with maintaining an adequate reserve.

Old business: Aaron Starr addressed the affiliate agreement issue. In particular, there are questions on data base sharing. After discussion, no action was taken. It was noted that LP-database@yahoo.com is useful for state data base managers.

There were questions about other parts of an affiliate agreement. We have a trademark on 'Libertarian Party' which we --meaning the LNC-- must enforce or risk losing the trademark. Suggestions were made to require antitakeover rules in state party rules. There is a possible need to indemnify officers against suits. The LNC is investigating extending its D&O insurance to affiliates. There are issues with BCRA.

Insurance issues were discussed. A county Fair Board wanted liability insurance. There are problems with affordability. One could imagine expanding Libertarian Party Director & Officer insurance to cover state parties. State Officers had resigned in Oregon over related issues. Individual coverage was believed to be expensive. A voice vote was taken 'all in favor of having an affiliate agreement'. There was a split outcome. Do we want data sharing or not? There are conflicts in some states. An affiliate agreement might help or hurt the conflicts.

Motion: The LSLA requests that the LNC investigate the possibility of one or more affiliate agreements that could be executed for our mutual benefit and/or protection.

There was considerable debate. It appeared that we are not asking for a mandate. It was asserted that we don't know what we want. Fewer than 1/2 of all states are here. Something on paper might sharpen the discussion. The question was called. Motion passed, 9-5.

A request was circulated that each state party submit to Bob Sullentrup a list of major officers and their contact information, leading perhaps to banquet or dinner recognition at the national convention.

The question was discussed: Who should have access to the State Chairs list, e.g. LNC members, or alternatively should LNC members have access to the state chairs list without posting privileges? There are suggestions that the LNC could be in better touch.

Motion: We encourage LNC members to participate on the State Chairs list.

Amendment #1 moved: We encourage LNC members to read the State Chairs list but do not grant posting privileges. Minuted Interpretation: The State Chairs List is open to State Chairs and Designees of the State Chairs, e.g., Vice Chairs or Executive Directors.

Amendment Fails

Amendment #2 moved: The National Secretary and the designee of the Credentials Committee will have posting privileges related to the national Convention needing the attention of the State Chairs.

Motion to Substitute: Moved to create a moderated announce list, the chairs to select moderators, and to leave the state chairs list in place. Motion to substitute failed. Amendment #2 failed. The main motion failed 5-9. There was extensive debate throughout.

Announcements: Van's Warped Tour sent us a schedule and announced that they would welcome a state LP table at each of their events. Phillis urged that states coordinate their convention dates so that more states will be able to see the Presidential and other candidates. Joint conventions of several states with breakout meetings for business are an option.

Jim Lark asked thanks to Mike Fellows for taping LP events including this meeting. There was sustained applause.

Thanks were offered to Pat Dixon and Jeremy Keil for their work for the State Chairs. There was sustained applause.

The meeting adjourned.