

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 8 August 2015

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met on the grounds of Dave Sten's home in North East, Maryland. The Treasurer's report and proposed Constitutional amendments were distributed. The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Mark Grannis; and Tony Spezio. It validated that 15 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 29 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 14 March 2015 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: there were some addition errors on the submitted report, approval was suspended until the next CC meeting.

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston thanked Dave and René for hosting the picnic; he reports that we have 64 members; we have 15,935 registered voters as of 6/30/2015: that is 0.4%, we need 1%. We are on the ballot for 2016, need 1% in presidential election to retain status. We are working on legislation to change the 1% registration threshold to 10,000. In that regard, Eric Blitz notes that we need more people to write their state delegates and senators to get it to a vote. Bob thanks Eric for handling so much legislative activity. In next year's election we will have openings for eight House, one Senate seat, and Baltimore City candidates. Delegates Robin Grammer and David Moon spoke with our group in forums last Thursday and a month ago, respectively.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments: one proposed amendment from the last meeting is to be voted up or down:

Article V, Section 7, sub-paragraph A3. Vote: passes unanimously on a voice vote.

New Proposals for Constitutional Amendments:

1. (Robert Glaser) Replace all instances of "Chair", "chair", "chairman" with "Chairman": found in sections V4D, V5A, V5B, V7A3. Vote: passes unanimously on a voice vote.
2. (Eric Blitz, see attachment) Direct election of Chairman. Vote: passes unanimously on a voice vote.
3. (Eric Blitz, see attachment) Budget and Finance. Vote: Tabled with a 6-5 vote.
4. (Eric Blitz, see attachment) Local CC's. Vote: passes with a 6-5 vote.
5. (Eric Blitz, see attachment) Voting Method. Withdrawn to reformulate.

The Investigating Committee for these proposals is Eric Blitz, Bob Johnston, Stuart Simms, Dean Ahmad, and Robert Glaser.

James Lark, LNC regional rep: thanks the Stens once again for arranging the picnic and commends Scott Spencer for serving as LNC alternate. The LNC met in the DC area in July; it adopted a new logo; is raising funds for Oklahoma ballot access, we have a fighting chance. Membership and finances have been going down for both the national and state parties, they don't know why. Took questions.

Executive Board Vacancy: Tim Sutton resigned over time constraints. Nominated as his replacement were Shawn Quinn and NOTA; Shawn Quinn elected by a unanimous voice vote.

Finance Committee: Bob Johnston appointed Dean Ahmad, Stuart Simms, and Michael Linder to this standing committee.

Announcements: Robert Glaser has license plate applications and extra newsletters on hand, and MdLP caps for sale.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm. --Robert E. Glaser

Minutes of the Investigating Committee on proposed Constitutional Amendments

The Investigating Committee of Eric Blitz, Bob Johnston, Stuart Simms, Dean Ahmad, and Robert Glaser met on the grounds of Dave Sten's home in North East, Maryland on August 8, 2015 at 6:32 pm.

Proposals 1 and 2: The committee was in favor solely because it is the language and methods detailed in Maryland law.

Proposal 4: three members are in favor and one opposed.

The Committee adjourned at 7:19 pm.

--Robert E. Glaser

Minority report on Proposal 4:

This proposal should be defeated because it centralized power in the party, it and undermines the fabric of the party that has served us well for the over three decades that it has been in effect.

Under the current structure, any member of the state central committee is simultaneously a member of the local committee unless the local membership chooses not to organize. The proposal states the power to organize away from the local central committee members and akes local committee membership (should there be any), non-synonymous. It would have the following undesirable effects: It would be harder to form local central committees and it would make them financially dependent on the state party. Requiring people who have already been aproved as state central committee members from locality to again be approved as a local central committee by a majority of state central committee is not ony bureaucratic, it is insulting. As to forbidding local committees for having their own dues, it should be no more acceptable than woud be a similar rule by the national LP prohibiting the state parties from having their own dues and mandating that they depend upon the national party for their finances.

I. Dean Ahmad, Ph.D.

Direct Election of Chair

Proposed Amendments:

Strikethrough for deletions, capital letters in bold for additions.

Article V, Section 4:

Section 4. Officers and Executive Board

A. Executive Board: Seven members of the State Central Committee shall be elected to the Executive Board according to the provisions of Section 4-B of Article V. **THE CHAIRMAN SHALL BE A VOTING MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, EX OFFICIO.** They shall assign among themselves the offices of ~~Chairman~~, Secretary, Treasurer, **AND** Vice Chairman. The three remaining members shall be known as At-Large members. These assignments may be changed at any time by the Executive Board. The officers of the Executive Board shall be the respective officers of the State Central Committee.

B. Election of the **CHAIRMAN AND** Executive Board: **AT THE REGULAR SPRING MEETING OF THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, A SEPARATE VOTE SHALL BE HELD FOR THE CHAIRMAN AND THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE VOTE FOR THE CHAIRMAN SHALL BE HELD FIRST. NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP CAN BE MADE BY ANY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, INCLUDING THE PERSON SEEKING THE OFFICE. THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SHALL BE ELECTED TO ONE YEAR TERMS.** ~~The members of the Executive Board shall be elected at the regular spring meeting of the State Central Committee. Election shall be to a one-year term for all positions. Votes shall be cast by the transferable ballot method of proportional representation. Voters shall list all candidates they are willing to have represent them in order of preference and submit those ballots to the teller. On the first count the teller shall assign one vote to the most preferred candidate on each ballot. Each candidate receiving enough votes for election (more than seven eighths of the number of ballots cast) shall be declared elected. The teller shall repeat the process, assigning one additional vote to the most preferred unelected candidate on each count until all slots are filled or until seven such counts shall have been completed. If an impasse is reached any unelected candidate may withdraw and her votes will be appropriately reassigned. Should no candidate offer to withdraw, the one with the fewest votes must pass her votes on. The elected officers shall assume membership immediately and assign offices among themselves as required by Section 4-A of Article V. If the period of nomination for Executive Board members has closed, and the number of candidates is equal to or lesser than the number of vacancies, all candidates may be elected as a slate by majority vote, with two-thirds approval of the assembly.~~

C. Removal: **THE CHAIRMAN AND Each** Executive Board member shall be subject to removal by the following procedure: Upon receipt of a recall petition signed by

twenty percent of the State Central Committee, the Credentials Committee (Section 7-B of Article V) shall call a special meeting of the State Central Committee which, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, may remove her.

D. Vacancies: Vacancies on the Executive Board caused by death, resignation, or any other reason, shall be temporarily filled by the appointment of a replacement by the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman if the vacancy involves the Chair), which shall be made within 30 days of the vacancy. The appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Executive Board at its next regular meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The temporary appointment shall end at the next regular meeting of the Central Committee, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, wherein the Central Committee shall elect a replacement member who shall serve the balance of the term.

Party Expenditures and Finance

Proposed Amendments:

Strikethrough for deletions, capital letters in bold for additions.

Article V, Section 5:

Section 5. Duties of Officers and the Executive Board

A. Duties of the Chairman: The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the State Central Committee and Executive Board which she shall attend, shall serve as the principal spokesman for the Party and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Executive Board or the State Central Committee. All powers granted to the Chair by the Libertarian Party National Committee, such as the ability to remove and replace Regional Reps, shall actually reside in the Executive Board and shall be performed by the Chair at, and only at, its direction.

B. Duties of the Vice-Chairman: The Vice-Chairman shall act as chairman in the absence of the Chairman, and perform such other duties as directed by the Executive Board and the State Central Committee.

C. Duties of the Secretary: The Secretary shall have charge of all books, papers, records, and other documents of the State Central Committee. She shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board and shall make the minutes available as may be required by law, and perform such other duties as may be required by the Executive Board, the State Central Committee, or this Constitution.

D. Duties of the Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have full responsibility for all fiscal affairs throughout her term, and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Executive Board, the State Central Committee, or this Constitution. **THE TREASURER IS AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND FUNDS AS DIRECTED IN A BUDGET APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OR BY A SEPARATE RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.**

E. Duties of the Other Officers: Each At-Large member shall be responsible for a functional area such as (but not limited to) membership, outreach, and media relations, and such other duties as they may be required to perform by the Executive Board or the State Central Committee.

F. Duties of the Executive Board: The Executive Board shall oversee and act in respect to all matters pertaining to the Party. The business of the State Central Committee between meetings shall be conducted by the Executive Board. A majority of the total number of votes authorized to be cast by the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. All questions coming before the Executive Board shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held regularly in person, by teleconference, or a combination of both, and minutes of the meetings shall be made available as may be required by law. The Secretary shall send written notice of the time and place of the Executive Board meeting at least one week in advance (seventy-two

hours for emergency meetings.) **THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SHALL AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF PARTY FUNDS BY ADOPTING A BUDGET OR BY SEPARATE RESOLUTION. EXCEPT FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY,** Any action of the Executive Board may be overruled by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the State Central Committee. No proxies will be counted in Executive Board meetings.

Article V, Section 7

A. Standing Committees: The ~~Finance Committee,~~ the Credentials Committee, and the Program Committee shall be defined in Article V, Section 7-A. Additional standing committees may be defined in the bylaws.

~~1. Finance Committee: The Treasurer, one At Large member of the Executive Board, and one other member of the State Central Committee (not an officer) whom the Chairman of the State Central Committee may appoint (subject to the disapproval of the State Central Committee) shall constitute the Finance Committee. All officers shall submit their budgetary requests to the Finance Committee. Should the Finance Committee disapprove any such request, a vote of two thirds of the Executive Board shall be required for its authorization. The occurrence of such a vote in contravention of the opinion of the Finance Committee shall be communicated to the Chairmen of the Local Central Committees within ten business days.~~

Current paragraph 2 of subsection A shall be renumbered 1.

Current paragraph 3 of subsection A shall be renumbered 2.

Local Central Committees

Proposed Amendments:

Strikethrough for deletions, capital letters in bold for additions.

Article VI LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. **FORMATION**, Powers and Duties

~~The~~ **TWENTY-FIVE** Committee members ~~in each~~ **WHO RESIDE IN THE SAME MARYLAND county shall comprise the** **MAY PETITION THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO FORM A** Local Libertarian County Central Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Local Central Committee”) for that county. **THE PETITION SHALL BE DELIVERED TO THE STATE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY, WHO SHALL PRESENT THE PROPOSED FORMATION AS AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE NEXT STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING. THE PETITION SHALL INCLUDE THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR THE LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND BE SIGNED BY AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO RESIDE IN THE RELEVANT COUNTY. THE PETITION SHALL INCLUDE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE TWO INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO CONSENT TO ACT AS THE CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER FOR THE LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE ELECTED. A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SHALL BE NECESSARY TO CREATE A RECOGNIZED LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE.** Each Local Central Committee shall have the power to conduct the affairs of the Party in its county, to adopt **AND AMEND** its own Constitution and Bylaws, to adopt its own rules of procedure, and to take any and all other actions authorized by law. **A RECOGNIZED LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE SHALL BE AN AFFILIATE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND AND AS SUCH, SHALL BE NAMED THE “LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF _____ COUNTY (OR BALTIMORE CITY)”.** **A LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MAY NOT ADOPT A PLATFORM OR PROGRAM THAT CONTRADICTS THE STATE PARTY PROGRAM.**

Section 2. Membership

The members of the Local Central Committee shall be those persons who meet the criteria specified for membership in Article IV, Section 2. Local Central Committees must promptly notify the Secretary of the State Central Committee of changes in their membership rolls and vice versa. The State Party Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the membership rolls for all counties that do not have a Local Central Committee. **A LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MAY NOT REQUIRE A MEMBERSHIP FEE AS A PREREQUISITE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE LOCAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE.**

Section 3. Constitution and Bylaws

Each Local Central Committee shall adopt a “Constitution and Bylaws” which shall, if required by state law, within thirty days of the adoption thereof, be filed with the Secretary of the Party and with the State Board of Elections.

Section 4. Officers

Each Local Central Committee shall have a Chairman, **TREASURER**, and such other officers as required by its Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 5. Meetings

Regular meetings of a Local Central Committee shall be held at such times as are specified in the Constitution, ~~b~~Bylaws and/or written rules of procedure of the individual Local Central Committee. The minutes of each meeting of a Local Central Committee shall be filed with the Secretary of the State Central Committee within two weeks after the date of the meeting. Special meetings shall be called at the request of a majority of the members. Notice shall be in compliance with the laws of Maryland, but in any case, at least seventy-two hours notice of a meeting shall be given to each member stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

Section 6. Electoral Duties

The Local Central Committees shall perform such duties in the electoral process as are required by law.

Plurality Voting to Replace Transferable Ballot Method of Proportional Voting

Proposed Amendments:

Strikethrough for deletions, capital letters in bold for additions. This version presumes that, by prior amendment, the direct election of the Chair and other changes made have been adopted.

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B. Election of the Chairman and Executive Board: At the regular spring meeting of the State Central Committee, a separate vote shall be held for the Chairman and the Remaining members of the Executive Board. The vote for the Chairman shall be held first. Nominations for Chairman and Executive Board membership can be made by any Central Committee member, including the person seeking the office. **THE NOMINEE RECEIVING THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN SHALL BE ELECTED. THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SHALL BE ELECTED BY EACH MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ENTITLED TO VOTE CASTING A VOTE FOR UP TO SIX NOMINEES. THE NOMINEES RECEIVING THE SIX HIGHEST NUMBERS OF VOTES SHALL BE ELECTED. IN CASE OF A TIE FOR THE SIXTH HIGHEST VOTE TOTAL, THE TIE SHALL BE BROKEN BY A SUBSEQUENT VOTE TAKEN BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAD TIED. IN A VOTE TO BREAK A TIE, EACH MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ENTITLED TO VOTE MAY CAST ONE VOTE.** The Chairman and members of the Executive Board shall be elected to one year terms. ~~Votes shall be cast by the transferable ballot method of proportional representation. Voters shall list all candidates they are willing to have represent them in order of preference and submit those ballots to the teller. On the first count the teller shall assign one vote to the most preferred candidate on each ballot. Each candidate receiving enough votes for election (more than seven eighths of the number of ballots cast) shall be declared elected. The teller shall repeat the process, assigning one additional vote to the most preferred unelected candidate on each count until all slots are filled or until seven such counts shall have been completed. If an impasse is reached any unelected candidate may withdraw and her votes will be appropriately reassigned. Should no candidate offer to withdraw, the one with the fewest votes must pass her votes on.~~ The elected officers shall assume membership immediately and assign offices among themselves as required by Section 4-A of Article V. If the

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D. Vacancies: Vacancies on the Executive Board caused by death, resignation, or any other reason, shall be temporarily filled by the appointment of a replacement by the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman if the vacancy involves the Chair), which shall be made within 30 days of the vacancy. The appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Executive Board at its next regular meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The temporary appointment shall end at the next regular meeting of the Central Committee, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, wherein the Central Committee shall elect a replacement member who shall serve the balance of the term.