

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland – Saturday, 18 August 2018

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at the home of David Sten, in North East, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 4:24 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Scott Spencer, Stuart Simms, and I. Dean Ahmad. It validated that 22 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 49 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 3/10/2018 and 6/7/2018 Central Committee meetings were accepted as submitted, without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Linder delivered the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted as corrected. The correction was the deletion of a duplicate "8" to the left of the decimal in the total balance. The corrected total balance was \$8,268.88.

Eric Blitz asked the Treasurer whether we had a deficit or surplus from the convention. The Treasurer confirms that we lost money on the event.

Chairman reminded candidates that they could receive matching funds from the state party for campaign expenses.

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports that we have 111 members. We have 21,404 registered voters as of July, which is a little over 1,000 more than this point last year. We now have 0.54% of registered voters. Since we're still short of 1% of registered voters, we need Shawn Quinn to get at least 1% of the votes in the general election to maintain ballot access.

In Pennsylvania, Steve Scheetz and another candidate had their ballot access signatures challenged by the Republican Party, and were forced to drop out of the race, due to insufficient time and funds to fight the challenge.

In Virginia, it was estimated by LNC Representative Dr. James Lark that candidates faced \$15,000 to \$20,000 each for ballot access.

We have 20 candidates, including a full slate of candidates for federal office again. The chairman stated that the candidate for Prince Georges County Circuit Court Judge was nominated incorrectly, because the candidate is a registered Democrat. However, this is for a non-partisan race.

The chairman reported that former Libertarian candidate for President, Gary Johnson, is running for US Senate in New Mexico.

LNC Representative: Dr. Jim Lark spoke about his recent trip to Krakow, Poland. He spoke about the successful national convention the previous month.

Chairman Johnston asked about the LNC finances. Dr. Lark replied that, because of the "tremendous year" in 2016, we had built some ambitious programs, but we're not where we'd like to be. We have an "okay" reserve, but are "not in great shape, by any means". He finds nothing on the horizon that could put us in a bad situation, and is optimistic about Gary Johnson's race in Arizona.

The Chairman talked about regular meetings of several county groups.

David Dull asked about Larry Sharpe's campaign for Governor of New York. Dr. Lark replied that Mr. Sharpe is doing better than candidates in New York have in the past. He believes that Mr. Sharpe is likely to retain ballot access for New York, with upwards of 50,000 votes.

New Business: Chairman Johnston asked Dean Ahmad to chair the meeting temporarily.

Bob Johnston moved that the Maryland Libertarian Party endorse the organization “We Do Better”. The founder also was involved in starting PANDA (People Against the NDAA). The organization identifies nonprofits that provide social services better than does the government. They lobby state governments to create tax credits for funds donated to these non-profit organizations. The Georgia LP has already endorsed the organization.

Mr. Linder asked if there was any bill that was already being proposed in Maryland, but it appears that there is not.

Ms. Woodell asked if this would create any further obligation to support them or a future proposed bill. There would not. It would simply allow them to put on their website that they have been endorsed by the Maryland Libertarian Party.

Motion passed by voice vote, and Mr. Ahmad handed the gavel back to Chairman Johnston.

Mr. Linder asked if there was a planned election night party. Shawn Quinn said that he’s working on one.

Announcements: Mr. Lashar is streaming live at 8 pm tonight.

Baltimore Libertarian Group will have a table at the Essex Day Festival.

Doug Stanley is having a Water’s Edge event in the future, date TBA.

Mr. Pepino reported an attempt to get into the Severn Multicultural Festival next weekend.

Mr. Randers-Pearson has Jenica Martin signs in his trunk if anyone wants one. He will be at a Maryland Cannabis event on August 30.

Shawn Quinn reported that we are 80 days from the election, and encouraged everyone to continue fighting. He talked about his work on the election, and about successes he’s had.

Mr. Lashar said that he’s finding it when individuals “Like” a campaign page on Facebook, because it helps with optics and metrics. He’ll be on WYPR Mid-day on September 23.

Krystal Woodworth said that there’d be a town hall on September 15 for Jenica Martin and Shawn Quinn at the Kent Island Public Library in Queen Anne’s County.

David Dull spoke about social media, suggesting that it helps when there are likes on “boosted” posts. He’s trying to compile a list of group and candidate pages, to coordinate people “Liking” these pages’ posts.

Stu Simms said that we’re looking at April 6, in Frederick, for the next State Convention.

Krystal Woodworth talked about having a booth at the Renaissance Faire next year, as a group of Libertarians, and the theme would be Robin Hood and his Merry Men. She encouraged people to wear Libertarian shirts, if they’re not cosplaying.

Chairman Johnston recognized Life Members present: Dean Ahmad, Stu Simms, and David Sten.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:14 pm.

--Scott Spencer