

LNC Executive Committee Meeting

Teleconference October 10, 2000

Present: Jim Lark, Chair
Dan Fylstra, Vice-Chair
Mark Tuniewicz, Treasurer
Steve Givot, Secretary
Joe Dehn (CA), Region 2 Representative

Also present: Lois Kaneshiki (PA), At Large Representative
Mark Nelson (IA), Region 1 Alternate (joined during discussion of 527 groups)
Scott Lieberman (CA), Region 2 Representative
Dan Wisnosky (NV), Region 2 Alternate
Tim Hagan (NV), Region 2 Alternate

Staff: Steve Dasbach, National Director
Ron Crickenberger, Political Director (joined during the National Director's Report)

Lark called the meeting to order at 8:40 PM EDT.

Item: Approval of Agenda

Lark informed the committee of a lawsuit planned by the Browne campaign and others. He suggested that a discussion of that lawsuit be added to the agenda.

The agenda was adopted as proposed, including Lark's suggestion.

Item: Chair's Report

Lark thanked the Executive Committee for clarifying his authority to approve an appeal of the AZ state court decision in the lawsuit challenging AZ's early deadline for submitting petitions for independent presidential candidates.

Lark asked Executive Committee members to provide input regarding the choice of general counsel to be made at the December 2000 LNC meeting.

Lark thanked MG and others in Florida for their reception the past weekend. He noted the passing of Harry Reid of Tampa over the past weekend.

Givot asked Lark whether Lark had authorized filing an appeal on the AZ lawsuit.

Lark said that he had done so.

Item: 527 Groups

Lark said that he has reviewed the 527 groups lawsuit, and he feels that the LNC should participate in that suit.

Givot agreed.

Fylstra agreed.

Dasbach said that two versions of the lawsuit have been prepared – one assuming that the LNC is participating, the other assuming that it is not. He said that tomorrow Ron Crickenberger will inform them whether or not the LNC is joining the lawsuit.

Fylstra asked Dasbach what standing the LNC has to participate.

Dasbach said that this regulation requires the LNC to file at least one additional form, which gives the LNC standing.

Dehn questioned whether an LP affiliate should also be joining the lawsuit.

Dasbach said that LPIN is joining the lawsuit.

Lark asked whether there is anything in the lawsuit that would give him pause to participate.

Dehn said that he has some concern that some of the arguments made may bind the LNC to a position in the future.

Dasbach said that this is not likely to pose a problem.

Tuniewicz moved that the LNC should join the 527 groups lawsuit.

Fylstra seconded.

The motion passed 4 to 0.

Item: Browne Lawsuit

Lark said that a copy of the suit was first received today.

Dasbach said that the Browne campaign intends to file the lawsuit on Monday regardless of whether the LNC joins in the lawsuit and that the Browne campaign intends to hold a news conference on Monday to announce the filing of the lawsuit.

Fylstra asked who is drafting the lawsuit.

Dasbach said that Herb Titus (1996 Constitution Party vice-presidential candidate) and William Olson, who did previously FEC research for the Browne campaign, are working on the lawsuit

Dehn asked why Browne is the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit.

Dasbach said that he believes it is because the Browne campaign had paid for the research behind the lawsuit.

Lark suggested that since the Executive Committee members have not had sufficient time to review the lawsuit, that each Executive Committee member get back to him by Wednesday night with a "yes" or "no" decision on the lawsuit. If there is no disagreement, then Lark will proceed accordingly. If there is disagreement, then the Executive Committee will meet at noon EDT on Friday, October 13 to decide the matter.

There was consensus to proceed as Lark suggested.

Item: National Director's Report

Dasbach said that the Reserve Fund requirement was violated briefly -- by about \$10,000 -- but that the shortfall was quickly made up.

Dehn commented that receiving the financial reports just before the meeting provided insufficient time for Executive Committee members to review them prior to the meeting.

Dasbach said that somewhere between 10 and 15 candidates are trying to get the \$5,000 match for advertising.

Dasbach said that the response to the follow up calls by the telemarketing company in DC was a bit below breakeven level. He said that the telemarketing company in California had an apparently high response rate, but that there were problems in the data being provided. He said that he is looking into whether the fulfillment figures for the California firm are as high as the reports provided by the telemarketing firm.

Dehn said that LPCA experienced a similar, low-fulfillment problem with the California telemarketing firm.

Dasbach said that the DC firm's people were trained and monitored by Scott Kohlhaas which may be a reason for the difference in fulfillment rates. He said that, thus far, only the LP's callers were getting good enough results.

Dehn asked about the overall results of the experiment to date and specifically whether the results were continuing at the rate reported at the prior Executive Committee meeting.

Dasbach said that he was just starting to get enough data to evaluate this.

(Fylstra left the meeting at this time.)

Crickenberger joined the meeting at this time and said he expects that at least 8 to 10 candidates will qualify for the \$5,000 matching fund for advertising. He said that as many as 14 candidates might qualify for matching funds.

Dehn asked whether any of the candidates had asked for more than \$5,000 to be matched.

Dasbach said that some candidates had asked for this and that they were told that the LP might not be able to provide more than \$5,000 per candidate.

Dehn asked whether there is a cutoff date for candidates to apply for matching funds.

Crickenberger said that he planned to provide a 24 hour notice on the following day.

Tuniewicz noted that Dehn had mentioned that the Browne 800-number call volume was low. He asked Dasbach what kind of call volume was being generated by the Howell campaign.

Dasbach said that many of the calls coming to the office appeared to be resulting from either the Howell campaign or from an advertising project underway in Michigan.

Dasbach said that money to fund the candidate matching funds project is just coming in from a fundraising letter.

Item: Preparations for December 2000 LNC Meeting

Dasbach said that he is working on revenue and expense forecasts for 2001 in the areas that are reasonably easy to project. He said that he is also looking at individual project areas – starting with what has been done in the past. He said that he hopes that this will be distributed prior to the next Executive Committee meeting for comment.

Dasbach said that he is interested in feedback from LNC members about things that they would like to see done in the coming year – particularly things that have not been done in the past.

Dasbach said that campus outreach and affiliate party leadership training were already being considered for 2001.

Givot said that he feels that the LNC is missing an opportunity to proactively plan for the future. He said that presenting and approving a full-year budget will make it difficult for the LNC to have enough time to focus on planning as opposed to reviewing a full-year budget.

Dasbach said that at the December LNC meeting, the LNC will be able to discuss what it may wish to do differently, and that the budget can be revised at the next LNC meeting to support the decisions of the LNC.

Givot said that, in reality, that never happens. He said that the December 2000 LNC meeting offers a unique opportunity to review strategy and set in motion a strategy (which may or may not significantly differ from the current strategy) for 2001, for 2001-2002, and for 2001-2004.

Givot suggested that staff prepare a budget covering the first four months of 2001 for presentation in December. He said that he preferred this because it would not allocate funds for the entire year and would define what projects would be undertaken in the first portion of the year. He said that this would allow more time to consider what the LNC wanted to do during 2001 than would otherwise be possible.

Tuniewicz said while he is not 100% sold on Givot's proposal, he sees several benefits from proceeding in that manner.

Lark said that this does not need to be decided this evening. He said that input from LNC members can be gathered in the interim. He said that – absent explicit feedback from the LNC – he feels that Dasbach needs to prepare a full year budget.

Dehn asked whether much more work would be required to prepare both a four-month and full-year budget.

Dasbach said that not much more work would be required.

Dehn said that the four-month budget might look different than the first four months of the full-year budget.

Givot said that some existing or new projects may better be deferred until a full strategy for 2001, 2001-2002, and 2001-2004 is adopted. He said that the LNC might not want to start some projects if there is no clear determination as to whether or not they will be part of the longer-term strategies adopted by the LNC.

Dasbach said that there are some projects that need to be done urgently during the first few months of 2001 if they are going to be done at all. He cited ballot drives in NC and NE if the LP does not get adequate votes in the 2000 election. He said that failure to complete these drives early in 2001 would result in the loss of Libertarian voter registrations in those states.

Givot said that Dasbach should identify such immediate needs as part of both a four-month and full-year budget.

Givot said that the four-month budget might be very different from the first four months of the full-year budget. He said that the four-month budget might not start up certain projects which might be reviewed and either discontinued or modified.

Lark said that a discussion of Givot's proposal might best be continued by email.

Dasbach said that he hoped to break out costs and revenues from certain functions for the LNC.

Item: Affiliate Party Contract

Givot said that there has been little discussion of this topic since the last Executive Committee meeting. He reiterated that any work done in this regard should be done solely by regional representatives. He said that regional representative might want to discuss this with state chairs to get their input.

Tuniewicz said that Givot might contact Hall to see what he might want to see and not want to see in such a contract.

Dasbach said that this would best be started by the full LNC with the support of the regional representatives. He said that it might also be good to have Hall comment on what we are trying to achieve and what alternatives might help achieve it.

Givot agreed and said that he would talk about all of this with Hall.

Dehn said that there has not been enough discussion of this to proceed. He said that some offline discussion might help. He said that he believes the process should start by identifying what problems we are trying to solve, rather than by assuming there should be a contract and looking for things that might fit into it.

Lark said that he feels that taking this matter to the whole LNC is a better way to proceed.

Item: Remarks for the Good of the Party

Dasbach said that Frontline, NPR, and the History Channel are all programming multi-part programs on the Drug War.

Tuniewicz said that he had seen an online news story -- with a photo -- showing Russell Means being taken into custody during a Columbus Day protest.

Givot reported that Denver talk radio host Mike Rosen continues to correctly identify people as liberals, conservatives, or libertarians. He said that this week Rosen corrected a caller, identifying Russell Means as a libertarian.

Item: Next Scheduled Meetings

Lark reminded the Executive Committee members of the possible meeting scheduled for Friday, October 13 at noon EDT.

Lark said that the next regular scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 8:30 PM EDT on October 24.

Givot moved to adjourn.

The Committee adjourned at 10:04 PM EDT.
