

LNC Executive Committee Meeting

**Teleconference
July 18, 2001**

DRAFT

Present: Jim Lark, Chair
Deryl Martin, Treasurer
Steve Givot, Secretary
Ken Bisson (IN), At Large Representative
Joe Dehn (CA), Region 2 Representative
Michael "MG" Gilson de Lemos (FL), Region 4 Representative (joined the meeting during Chair's Remarks)

Also present: Lois Kaneshiki (PA), At Large Representative
Mark Nelson (IA), Region 1 Representative
Tom Knapp (MO), Region 1 Alternate
Dan Wisnosky (NV), Region 2 Alternate
Ben Scherrey (GA), Region 4 Alternate
Richard Schwarz (PA), Region 5 Representative
Mike Dixon (IL), Region 7 Representative

Vacant: Vice-Chair

Staff: Steve Dasbach, National Director

Lark called the meeting to order at 8:37 PM EDT.

Item: Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as proposed.

Item: Approval of the Minutes of June 6 Executive Committee Meeting

Martin moved approval of the minutes of the June 6 Executive Committee meeting.

Givot seconded.

The minutes were approved as proposed. Bisson and Lark abstained.

Item: Chair's Remarks

Lark thanked Dan Fylstra for his past service to the Libertarian Party.

Lark asked the members of the Executive Committee to provide guidance as to who would fill in for the Chair in his absence.

Bisson suggested that no action be taken unless a problem arises at which time the Executive Committee would determine whom to appoint in the interim.

There was no objection to proceeding in that manner.

Item: National Director's Report

Dasbach reported that a telemarketing effort is underway to increase contributions to the monthly pledge program. He said that if things continue at the current rate and fulfillment is as expected, this effort should result in additional monthly pledges of about \$5,000 and perhaps as high as \$10,000.

Dasbach said that July has been a difficult month financially, as two SPT meetings are being held, the auditor's bill is due, and the deposit for the Indianapolis national convention is due. He suggested that the Executive Committee authorize the Treasurer to cash in one certificate of deposit with the intention of purchasing a new certificate of deposit in early August.

Martin said that there is also a third payroll due in August .

Givot moved that the Treasurer be authorized to not renew one of the certificates of deposit maturing in the month of July with the intention that a new certificate of deposit be purchased during the month of August.

Bisson seconded.

Dehn said that we are behind schedule in building up our reserve. He said that this would be a step backwards and that if this is done, we should recognize as much. He expressed concern that once the money is taken out other uses will be found for it and the replacement certificate of deposit will not be purchased.

MG asked Dasbach for his sense as to our ability to fully fund the reserve by the end of the year.

Dasbach said that this would depend on the results of the strategic planning process and whether it motivates the membership to contribute to implement it.

Martin said that it does not look good. He said it is dependent on the ability to raise funds to support the strategic plan.

MG said that there are several ideas as to how to build support for the strategic plan. He said that there may be costs associated with marketing the strategic plan.

Dasbach agreed that there would be direct costs associated with marketing the plan and said that there would also be a cost if there were a delay in marketing the plan in that it would affect fundraising. He said he hoped that the plan could be the theme of the September fundraising letter.

Dehn asked the proponents of the motion whether there is an expectation that projected revenue streams will support purchasing a replacement certificate of deposit in August.

Dasbach said that expenses in August will not include the sort of extraordinary items that are due in July.

Dehn asked about current accounts payable.

Dasbach said that it is possible to delay paying certain expenses, if necessary.

Dehn said that he wants to understand whether we are dealing with a temporary problem or one that will not go away in August.

Dasbach said that the current fundraising letter seeks funding for membership prospecting. He said that if it is successful, it will raise far more than is required to provide seed money for a prospecting letter and that any excess can be used for other purposes including purchasing a new certificate of deposit.

MG said that the LNC should maintain its commitment to the reserve policy. He asked Martin to ask staff to explore look at what cuts could be made in expenses.

Dasbach said that had already been done, and at this point further cuts would mean cutting staff and functions.

Dasbach said that one expense that will end in July will be funding the strategic planning process.

The motion passed on a vote of five to zero. Lark abstained.

Item: Delegate Allocation for AZ at 2002 National Convention

Givot introduced the topic saying that the allocation of delegates to national conventions is based on a formula that includes the number of national members in each state as well as the vote in each state for the presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party. He said that he has been asked whether votes cast for L. Neil Smith -- who was listed on the ballot as the Libertarian Party candidate in AZ -- would be counted toward the allocation for the 2002 and 2004 conventions.

Givot said that he had referred the matter to general counsel Bill Hall for an opinion. He said that Hall had provided him an opinion that there is no ambiguity -- that votes for Smith should not be counted in the allocation since Smith was not nominated by the national convention.

Givot said that the "record date" for determining national membership is December 31, 2001. He said that this is unusual because national conventions generally start in June, not July. He said that he wanted to make the LNC aware of how he intends to interpret the allocation formula -- not counting the Smith votes in AZ -- at the August LNC meeting so that the LNC has an opportunity to review the matter and so that there is ample time for his interpretation to be appealed to the Judicial Committee well before the record date of December 31, 2001.

He said that he did not want the interpretation to be challenged after the numerical calculations are done.

Dixon said that he requested a ruling by Givot on behalf of one of his region's state chairs. He said that -- given the history in AZ -- he feels that it is inappropriate to penalize party members in AZ as a consequence of the actions of a third party which decided to place the name of Smith -- rather than Harry Browne -- on the 2000 ballot in AZ. He said that he intends to bring this matter before the LNC at its August 2001 meeting.

Lark asked Dixon to provide Dasbach with appropriate materials prior to the August LNC meeting.

Mid-Year Review of 2001 Goals

Dasbach referred to his written report.

Bisson thanked Dasbach for preparing and distributing the report.

In response to Dasbach's report regarding certain media goals, Givot asked whether a formal process should exist to revise goals mid-year based on performance.

Dasbach said that we were close to goal for interviews, way ahead on op-eds, and behind on TV and contacts. He said that we should concentrate on trying to close the gap for TV interviews rather than dividing our attention between both or concentrating on closing the gap on contacts. He felt that trying to meet the TV interview goal would have more impact on our mission than the contact goal. He said that rather than revising the goals, the issue is reallocation of resources. He mentioned possibly concentrating resources of op-eds and television appearances rather than directly on pushing the raw media contact count closer to the stated goal.

Givot said that permitting staff to reallocate resources, which essentially abandons portions of one or more goals, gives staff authority to pick and choose which goals (or portions thereof) it wants to deliver. He said that, in this instance, the choices are simple and probably not controversial, but that in future years this might not be the case.

Dehn said that if there is a mid-year change in goals, it should be done in the same manner as goals are initially adopted. He said that he prefers to emphasize the sorts of goals that Dasbach suggested regarding media goals. He said that two important considerations are that (1) we should make a change if and when we have actually decided that something is now more important, not just because we aren't making the numbers and (2) we should not flip back and forth in what we are measuring.

Dasbach said that it is important to continue to have such goals before the staff, but that reallocating resources makes sense to prioritize meeting some subset of goals. He said that it may be that by year end the gap will be closed and that some goals currently seen as unlikely to be achieved may actually be achieved by year end.

Dasbach reviewed some of the details of proposed direct mail prospecting for the balance of 2001. He said that the first letter would be sent to about 250,000 recipients; the second letter would be sent to about 850,000 recipients.

Dasbach also reviewed ballot access, candidate, and membership goals.

Item: Discussion of Outreach to Registered Libertarians

MG reported on his efforts in contacting various people about the systems analysis he has prepared.

Item: Update on Willis Matter Investigation

Lark updated the Executive Committee on his investigation. He said that he received an email from John Famularo this evening which he has forwarded. He said that Famularo has indicated that he wishes to cooperate with the investigation.

Givot asked Lark how long he believes it will take for Lark to communicate the ground rules for Famularo to provide information.

Lark said that there are no precedents or guidelines for him to follow. He indicated that he intends to proceed as quickly as possible.

MG asked for an update on who had responded to his requests for information.

Lark indicated that Cloud, Browne, Bergland, and Reges have responded. He noted that two attempts to email requests to cloud bounced and that he subsequently hand delivered Cloud a request in Houston. He said that Cloud and Browne have indicated that they will not be providing any information. He said that Bergland only acknowledged receipt of Lark's request. He said that Reges provided information prior to receipt of Lark's letter and has not provided additional information.

MG asked about statements made by Carol Moore that a former member of the LP staff has relevant information.

Dasbach said that he reviewed the LP's personnel files and that the former staff person is likely someone who was terminated on less-than-amicable terms.

Givot asked if Lark intends to contact the former employee.

Lark said that if he is given the person's name and if he can locate the individual that he would do so.

Item: Comments for the Good of the Party

Lark commented favorably on the quality of the activists he recently met in Birmingham, AL. He said that LPAL now has a paid administrator and an office in Birmingham.

Lark said that there are some very high quality activists at work in and around Biloxi, MS.

Bisson invited anyone traveling through northern Indiana on July 29 to a picnic event behind held at that time.

Dasbach asked Kaneshiki to share her target for candidates and victories this year.

Kaneshiki said that there are currently an estimated 75 candidates in PA.

MG said that he would like to clarify that direct mail efforts were not continued because some states had to put in a membership effort of their own. He said that LPMA has a program in effect to call people. He said that LPMA's membership has increased as a result. He said that efforts by LPFL are now underway to grow membership by state party efforts. He said that he feels very good that the year end goal will be met.

Item: Setting of Meeting Date

There was consensus that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would be on August 1, 2001 at 8:30 PM EDT.