

State Committee Minutes – July 8, 2000
Sloatsburg, NY

Present:

Rich Cooper (Chair), Blay Tarnoff (Vice Chair), Audrey Capozzi (Vice Chair), John Clifton (Treasurer), Caryn Cohen (Secretary), Bob Goodman (At-Large), John Ayling (At-Large), Bonnie Scott (At-Large), Don Silberger (At-Large; Hudson Valley Rep.; Arr. 11:50), Brad Arter (At-Large; Queens Rep.), Chris Garvey (Suffolk Rep.), Jeff Russell (Capital District Rep.), Bridget Ruddy (Central NY Rep.), Stephen Healey (Monroe Rep.), Bob Armstrong (non-voting), Jeff Doty (Newsletter Editor; non-voting), Bill Bombard (non-voting), David Gilmartin (non-voting) (Absent: Immed. Past Chair, Nassau Rep., Brooklyn Rep.)

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 am.

Treasurer's Report:

John Clifton distributed a Treasurer's report. The ending balance, as of 7/7/00, was \$14,568.11. The report concluded that, with the addition of pledged contributions and the LP UMP July check, the actual balance should be about \$17,400.

New Business:

Board of Elections Information

Richard Cooper attended a Campaign Finance Seminar. He indicated that we must file with the Board of Elections, as we are a political committee. He distributed an "Important Dates to Remember" sheet. Candidates must file separately. Regional parties, if unsure whether to file, should contact the state.

Chris Garvey moved to accept the members of the "Committee to Fill Vacancies," as listed on the nominating petition. Brad Arter seconded. Bonnie Scott questioned Rich Cooper's presence on the committee and asked whether his intention is to run candidates. Rich indicated that he does want candidates, but not ill-prepared ones. Bonnie commented that the Party needs to mentor people to encourage them to run as candidates.

The motion passed with no nays and two abstentions.

Bob Goodman moved to accept the listed electors. Blay Tarnoff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Petition Drive

Jeff Russell reported that the National Committee has not committed any financial help as of this time. Rich Cooper did not feel that the New York Party should pay everyone who collects signatures, as formerly proposed by Dottie-Lou Brokaw. The NYLP has typically gotten 5-6,000 volunteer signatures.

Rich suggested awarding a cash prize to high-volume petitioners. There was a short discussion regarding what has worked to motivate petitioners in the past; i.e., petitioning

seminars, group petitioning parties, and publicizing the existence of large, public events. Bonnie Scott moved to award \$300 to the top petitioner, and \$150 to the second and third highest signature gatherers.

John Clifton moved to amend the motion to award the first place winner life membership in the LP. John's motion to amend failed. Bonnie's motion passed unanimously.

Chris Garvey moved that Rich Cooper place two ads (at one inch each, for \$55 per inch) in Backstage magazine to attract petitioners. The motion passed unanimously.

Rich Cooper suggested that the party needs captains to manage groups of petitioners. He offered to contact the Browne campaign regarding assistance with petitioning.

Alternative Methods to Hold SC Meetings

Rich Cooper suggested that we hold State Committee meetings via conference calls. A discussion was held regarding the relative merits of holding audio conference calls, Internet chat meetings, video conference meetings, or voting over e-mail. Caryn Cohen expressed concerns regarding the drawbacks of e-mail votes, such as the lack of continuity of discussion, the confusion which occurs when various people log on and receive messages at different times, and the difficulties involved in keeping track of different votes. Jeff Russell proposed that we use a speaker phone at the Sloatsburg meeting room and in Buffalo. Chris Garvey moved to allow people to attend State Committee meetings by alternative means (i.e., audio conference, computer, etc.). Such people would be counted as officially attending for purposes of the bylaws. The motion passed 10-2. John Ayling proposed a subcommittee to study alternatives to meeting in person; the following people volunteered: Chris Garvey, John Ayling, and Bonnie Scott.

New Chapter

Chris Garvey moved to accept Monroe County as a new Libertarian Party of New York Chapter. Stephen Healey reported that thirty people attended a founding convention on February 15, 2000. He presented to the state secretary a written text of the bylaws and a partial list of members voting in favor of LPMC bylaws.

Stephen indicated verbally that there are officers of the Monroe County Chapter. He was elected both chair and representative to the State Committee. The motion to accept Monroe County passed with one nay vote.

2001 State Convention

Chris Garvey moved to hold the 2001 State Convention in New York City. The motion passed with one abstention. Volunteers to the Convention Comm consisted of: Rich Cooper, Jodi A., Caryn Cohen, and Blay Tarnoff.

Newsletter Ads

There was a discussion regarding the issue of whether to accept ads from outsiders in Free New York. Rich Cooper recommended that we do not run such ads.

Petitioning

Jeff Russell discussed the details of the petitioning process. He indicated that local coordinators are needed from each geographic area. He suggested the following guidelines for the coordinators:

- Compile a list of names of people willing to collect signatures in your area.
- Collect petitions.
- Keep track of paid petitions.
- Verify all information on the petitions. The Board of Elections website will list districts according to address.

Brad Arter moved that we send copies of the petition with a sheet of instructions to all members. The number of pages to be sent to each person was left up to Jeff Russell's discretion. The motion passed unanimously. Don Silberger moved to budget \$1,000 for this mailing. The motion passed unanimously.

Fundraising Letter

The most recent fundraising letter, which cost \$866.52, has so far raised \$200. (Ed. note: \$2824 has been raised as of July 20. Thank you to all who have contributed.)

Harry Browne Campaign

David Gilmartin is the New York coordinator of the Browne campaign

Roy Innis Endorsement

John Clifton agreed to write a letter to Roy Innis asking whether he would be willing to endorse John Clifton for senate.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2000, 11:30, at the LPNY Annual Picnic, at Jim Harris' house in Westbury, Long Island.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

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