BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Date: April 4, 2022

Petitioners: Andrew Cordio as Chair of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts representing a constructively disaffiliated affiliate and thereby allowed an automatic appeal as per Libertarian Party National Bylaws Article 5.6 and the attached undersigned members comprising at least 1% of the national Libertarian Party's Sustaining Members as required by Libertarian Party National Bylaws Article 7.12.

Interested Parties: Any persons claiming to be current members of the leadership of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts and/or the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts including the following State Committee elected at a specially called convention concluding on February 26th, 2022, as follows:

- Andrew Cordio, Chair
- Charlie Larkin, Treasurer & Archivist
- Scott Gray, Recording Secretary
- Jason Brand, Membership Director
- Janel Holmes, Political Director
- David Burnham, Operations Director
- Thomas Eddlem, Communications Director
- Brodi Elwood, Technology Director
- Daniel Garrity, Fundraising Director

And the former State Committee prior to the above election, as follows:

- Ashley Shade(resigned), Chair
- Cris Crawford, Treasurer
- Derek Newhall, Recording Secretary
- Michael Burns, Political Director
- Andrew Moore, Membership Director
- Jeremy Thompson, Operations Director
- Daniel Riek (Acting), Technology Director
- Tara Desisto

Committee Jurisdiction: Libertarian Party National Bylaws Article 8.2(a) and 8.2(d).

Notice of Filing Exhibit 1

Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** is the extensive timeline was submitted along with the Bowen/Ford resolution to support the contentions made.

EXHIBIT ONE

Executive Summary of the Ongoing Situation in the Massachusetts Affiliate

Contents

I Summary introduction **2**
I.1 Chronological statement of facts . . . 3

Appendices **6**

A Supporting Documents **7**
A.1 November State Committee meeting minutes . . . 7
A.1.1 Proposed Standards of Behavior . . . 13
A.2 December State Committee meeting minutes . . . 17
A.3 South Shore LP December resolution . . . 28
A.4 Petition for a Special Convention . . . 29
A.5 State Committee member Facebook comment . . . 30
A.6 January petition to the LNC . . . 30
A.7 Libertarian Party of Worcester County resolutions . . . 33
A.7.1 Worcester County LP January resolution . . . 33
A.7.2 Worcester County LP January censure . . . 34
A.8 Middlesex LP January resolution . . . 34
A.9 South Shore LP January statement . . . 34
A.10 Prepared Remarks of Janel Holmes for Febuary LNC meeting . . . 36
A.11 January letter from Mrs. Harlos to LAMA State Committee . . . 42
A.12 Worcester County LP resolution to send negotiators . . . 47
A.13 February State Committee meeting minutes . . . 47
A.14 LAMA Special Convention February 12th minutes . . . 47
A.15 New LAMA State Committee meeting minutes . . . 51
A.16 Former LAMA State Committee response . . . 55
A.17 State Committee response to blog post . . . 62
A.18 LAMA Constitution & Bylaws . . . 66
A.18.1 LAMA Constitution . . . 66
A.18.2 LAMA Bylaws . . . 68

Chapter I

Summary introduction

The curious thing about the Massachusetts controversy is that no facts are disputed between the two so-called "factions," other than the question of whether one or two of the 47 petitioners had their dues paid up-to-date.

The key facts in the Massachusetts controversy are that:

- The seven former members of the state committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (hereafter LAMA) were never empowered by the membership, nor by either the LAMA constitution or by-laws, to engage in a mass expulsion for any reason, let alone for members exercising their rights outlined in the LAMA constitution to petition for a special state convention. They had in fact voted against giving themselves that very power just one month earlier.
- The state committee was never empowered by the membership to disregard the petition entirely for a special state convention, and the constitution explicitly compels them to organize a petitioned-for state convention.
- These rogue seven state committee members were not empowered to rule a petition for a special convention "out of order," as the LAMA constitution makes the power of the membership to petition for a special state convention agenda plenary, and only allows the State Committee to append to the member's agenda.
- The special state convention completed on February 26 was organized by two members of the state committee, as required by the LAMA constitution, and was open to all LAMA members (and the state convention on April 24 will be the only one open to all LAMA members).

Therefore, the state committee elected at the February 26 special state convention is now the only state committee deriving its authority from a vote of the membership in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of LAMA.

The question before the LNC is whether the party belongs to the membership and the rules of the constitution and by-laws, or to whatever faction holds a majority vote on the former state committee who believe they can on a whim reduce the size of the party to a handful of loyal followers through mass expulsions.

The seven former members of the state committee have not only shrunken the party in Massachusetts, they've treated LAMA as less a political party than as a private yacht club where the rules don't apply to themselves. They employ risible "takeover" language in a desperate and vain attempt to hold on to their offices a few more weeks, and have lazily settled into a habit of deploying vague and detestable slurs against the character of a membership they've never bothered to meet and know nothing about.

Thomas R. Eddlem,
Communications Director, Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

I.1 Chronological statement of facts

2021

November 8

State committee meeting via Zoom (see Appendix A.1). State committee member Jeremy Thompson proposes a "Standards of Behavior" addition to the by-laws to be imposed upon the membership (see Appendix A.1.1). Without the required two week notice, a by-laws change is adopted to require the affiliates to submit their meeting minutes within a week of their meeting and disaffiliate if no minutes are submitted in a three-month period. LNC Development Officer Tara DeSisto is elected to the state committee by a 6-0 vote (Charlie Larkin, Janel Holmes abstaining) to fill a vacancy.

December 12

Officers of the South Shore Libertarian Party adopt a resolution opposing the "Standards of Behavior" (labeling it "Code of Conduct"). See Appendix A.3.

December 13

State committee meeting via Zoom (see Appendix A.2). Thompson's draft "Standards of Behavior" document sis substituted by a new code of conduct written by Christopher Thrasher. Meeting minutes record eight members speaking against adoption of the "Alternative Standards of Behavior," including local affiliate leader Dan Garrity who says he will start a petition drive for a special state convention if the document is adopted into the by-laws. No members (other than those on the state committee) spoke in favor of the "Standards of Behavior" resolution. Adopted 6-2 (Ashley Shade abstaining, Charlie Larkin and Janel Holmes opposed). Proposal on affiliates also passes 7-1 (Janel Holmes opposing, Ashley Shade abstaining).

December 19

Petition of 47 signatories for a special state convention (under Article II, section 5 of the LAMA Constitution, see Appendix A.18.1) is delivered to the state committee (see Appendix A.4). Two members of the state committee were among the petitioners, Charlie Larkin and Janel Holmes. The LAMA constitution requires a special state committee petition to be signed by 10% or more of the dues-paying members. The state committee membership director Andrew Moore verbally announced LAMA had 204 dues-paying members at the December 13 state committee meeting and the November minutes record 190 dues-paying members.

December 22

State committee member Tara DeSisto labels the special convention petition an "act of aggression" in Massachusetts Libertarians Facebook group, which was the first indication petitioners had that the state committee majority did not plan to organize a special convention. See Appendix A.5.

2022

January 10

State committee meeting is held in executive session, just 30 minutes after an invitation email was sent to membership to join the Zoom. The minutes do not mention a vote to enter into executive session. State committee votes 6-1 (Janel Holmes opposed, Tara DeSisto and Charlie Larkin abstaining) to expel all 47 petitioners from membership and refund their dues. According to the official minutes, the state committee does not employ or refer to the recently adopted "Standards of Behavior" (which requires a hearing and notice for the member proposed to be expelled), nor to any other power granted by the membership to the state committee in the LAMA constitution or by-laws. Official minutes record the petition was "Signed by 46 people, 1 was not a member, 2 joined after signing," but petitioners assert they delivered the signatures of 47 dues-paying members to the state committee. The discrepancy could be explained if one of the 47 signatories was not a dues-paying member. The state committee members do not have a separate vote on removing Charlie Larkin and Janel Holmes from the state committee (presumably because state committee members must be dues-paying members according to the LAMA Constitution - Art. IV, section 6b). Ashley Shade announces resignation as Chair of LAMA

in compliance with Massachusetts state law banning candidates or elected officials being the head of political parties.

January 11

Worcester County Libertarian Party passes two separate resolutions declaring state committee meeting invalid and resolution of censure for seven state committee members. See Appendix A.6, A.7.1, and A.7.2.

January 15

Middlesex Libertarian Party unanimously adopts resolution of censure for former State Committee Chair Ashley Shade and declares expulsions at Jan. 10 meeting invalid (see Appendix A.8). Pioneer Valley affiliate (still in process of formation) votes unanimously "We do not recognize the validity of the expulsion of the petitioners." (the latter not included in appendices)

Week of January 14 through 18

State Committee members Charlie Larkin and Janel Holmes form an organizational committee with affiliates to hold Special State Convention. Worcester affiliate names Larkin, Holmes and Paul Lynch as their representatives on the committee. Middlesex names Jason Brand, Kenneth Luu and Brian Zakrajsek. South Shore names Thomas Eddlem. Pioneer Valley names Dan Garrity.

January 22

South Shore Libertarian Party unanimously adopts a "Finding of Facts" statement and resolutions declaring the state committee meeting and expulsions invalid at its regular monthly meeting. See Appendix A.9.

January 23

Janel Holmes, Brodi Elwood, and Cris Crawford speak before LNC hearing on the Massachusetts controversy. See Appendix A.10 for Holmes' statements. Crawford's remarks not in appendices.

January 27

Caryn Ann Harlos, Brodi Elwood's parliamentarian, submits a document to the State Committee outlining the parliamentary case, and requests that they reinstate all signatories immediately. See Appendix A.10.

February 3

Worcester County Libertarian Party passes resolution to send negotiators to LAMA state committee, naming Ann Reed and Janel Holmes as negotiators, and giving them a timeline of one week to find an acceptable resolution (which would include reinstatement of all members). See Appendix A.12. The three South Shore officers pass resolution to nominate Worcester negotiators as their "proxy negotiators."

February 7

Monthly LAMA state committee meeting (see Appendix A.13). Worcester negotiators meet with the LAMA state committee, but do not come to an agreement.

February 8

Worcester formally withdraws its negotiators in a Worcester County Libertarian Party meeting, saying they were "insulted" by LAMA state committee members.

February 12

Special State Convention begins via Zoom, with 38 members in attendance (several identified as "witnesses" and not as members). Convention resolves to nominate members at in-person continuation of the convention on Feb. 26 (see Appendix A.14).

February 26

Special state convention resumed at Electric Haze in Worcester. Convention elects new state committee, consisting of Jason Brand, David Burnham, Andrew Cordio, Thomas R. Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Dan Garrity, Scott David Gray, Janel Holmes, Charlie Larkin.

March 2

New state committee meeting. Pioneer Valley affiliate formally recognized.

Officers elected

Andrew Cordio, Chair

Charlie Larkin, Treasurer & Archivist

Scott Gray, Recording Secretary

Jason Brand, Membership Director

Janel Holmes, Political Director

David Burnham, Operations Director

Thomas Eddlem, Communications Director

Brodi Elwood, Technology Director

Daniel Garrity, Fundraising Director

See Appendix A.15.

March 7

Former state committee member Derek Newhall post on LAMA blog "How we got here" (see Apprendix A.16).

March 12

Communications director for new state committee Thomas R. Eddlem responds to Newhall's allegations on his personal blog (see Appendix A.17).

Upcoming

April 23

Regular annual state convention for former state committee faction elected in March 2021

April 24

Regular annual state convention for state committee elected in February 2022

Appendices

Appendix A

Supporting Documents

A.1 Facsimile of November LAMA State Committee meeting minutes

Minutes of the State Committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

November 8, 2021

Online via Zoom Cloud Meetings.

Present: Derek Newhall, Ashley Shade, Andrew Moore, Michael Burns, Janel Holmes, Cris Crawford, Jeremy Thompson, Charlie Larkin, Ann Reed, Brian Zakrajsek, Brodi Elwood, Kenneth Luu, Connor O'Brien, Erik Yankowsky, John Pazniokas, Josh Richard, Scott Gray, Michael Dalgleish, Kris Wilson, Aaron Morse, Patrick Douglas, Ryan Sullivan, Tom Eddlem, Nicole Richard, Tara DeSisto, Chris Elam.

Start at 8:47 PM.

Janel mentions that the Bylaws change that was voted on last month is out of order per the Constitution

- Constitution Article 4, Section 7
- There is a question on whether the motion needs to be reintroduced or not.
- Cris asks for a ruling from the chair. Ashley rules that since it was publicly introduced last meeting it is in-order to be voted on this meeting.
- Any discussion and voting will be pushed to the end of tonight's agenda.

Minutes from last month accepted after striking the Bylaws change vote.

Elections update

- 150 Libertarians elected to office this season
- 120 in PA alone
- Ashley won her election in North Adams

Treasurer's report by Cris Crawford

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tYEtai5-CsHez_35ctExf6M__-gNbTNoSXNqYNLOT7o/edit
- Increase of 540.00 from last month

Membership report by Andrew Moore

- 190 members
- New proposal for membership tiers:
  - Basic $30
  - Premium $60
    - Car magnet
  - Bronze $150
    - +T-shirt
  - Silver $240

+Coffee mug
Gold $540
+Convention meal pass
Lifetime $1,500
Pin, plaque, full convention ticket, monthly call with chair
Student $15
We voted on Basic and Lifetime tiers previously
Should people who pay monthly get their gifts up front or at end of year?
Ashley says at end
Cris brought up issues with paying for merch vs. when we get paid for it
Andrew says it shouldn't apply since we'll buy as memberships get paid versus being a store
Charlie suggested we ask local vendors to see if we can gain some goodwill that way
Has some suggestions for vendors
Ann Reed suggests we give out membership cards
Andrew thinks that's a great idea and will implement it for all tiers
Tara DeSisto suggests this all be moved to a subcommittee and volunteered to help with it based off her experience with National
Charlie moved to approve Andrew's current plan
Derek seconded
Tiers will be voted on, not the gift specifics
Voting by voice vote: no nays

Convention planning
Anyone interested needs to contact us over Slack or email to be added to it
Charlie and Cris are the heads of the committee
Brodi Elwood wants to volunteer
Jason Brand and Brian Zakrajsek also wants to volunteer

Other notices:
LNC meeting December 4th and 5th in Boston
9AM to 5 PM
Open to the public
Includes budget meeting for 2022
Also organizing another event Saturday night
Fundraiser at alibi lounge (downstairs) at the Liberty Hotel
Breakfast options also under discussion
State committee's choice on whether to do anything for a breakfast
Cris says just going to do Dunkin because the hotel's breakfast options are expensive
Friday night event at Pub 2Twenty2
Cris moves to authorize her to spend $500+ for this event
Ashley amends to spend $1,000

Already reserved lounge area
Voting by voice vote: no nays
Now that funding is approved, will officially announce events soon

New business:

Code of Conduct proposed by Jeremy Thompson:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11a6U3bEM1wnFbrQ5QcDIssDFYxRso3Hq?usp=sharing
Jeremy spoke on why he's proposing this
Encoding things we already follow per Francis' Democratic Rules of Order
Thomas Eddlem objects to Section 2d
Jeremy says that Section 2d is per National guidelines
Tara clarifies that National's guideline is when there's a Libertarian running
Cris concurs with Tara and reiterates that we can't vote on this tonight
Michael Dalgleish questions how board the range of the Scope section is
Brodi Elwood asked about the role of the membership in regards to this proposal
Janel moved that a special convention be called sp this be brought before the membership to vote on
Charlie seconded
Ashley ruled out of order since it hasn't been two weeks yet
Janel then amended to simply call a special convention
Derek asked what this entails
Ashley explained that it's a full state convention with pre-published agenda
Jeremy disagrees that a full convention is required
Voting per roll call:
Janel - Yes
Charlie - Yes
Jeremy - No
Cris - No
Michael - No
Derek - No
Andrew - No
Ashley - Abstain
Motion fails because 2/3rds required to call a convention
Patrick Douglas asked whether amendments push the notification time out
Ashley ruled that it wouldn't unless the amendment completely changes the intent of the proposal
Cris clarified that no amendment can change the purpose of the proposal
Ashley explained that enacting proposal requires 2/3rds to pass, amendments on the floor just need majority, but later amendments would require 2/3rds

New business:

Cris moves to elect Tara DeSisto to the State Committee
- We have a vacancy on the State Committee
- Derek and Andrew seconded
- Patrick Douglas asked about the vacancy
  - Daniel Riek resigned
  - Two officer positions are vacant: technical director and fundraiser
  - Tara cannot be fundraiser since she's National's fundraiser
- Tara then talked a bit about her qualifications and her vision for the party
  - Has worked for National for two years
  - Worked on Jorgensen campaign
  - Wants to dismantle the two-party system
- Brian Zakrajsek asked if Tara's dues are up to date
  - Andrew verified that she is
- Jeremy talked a bit about how she interacted with the Greater Boston affiliate
- Voting by roll call:
  - Andrew - Yes
  - Jeremy - Yes
  - Cris - Yes
  - Derek - Yes
  - Janel - Abstain
  - Charlie - Abstain
  - Michael - Yes
  - Ashley - Yes
  - Tara is elected to the State Committee

Tom Eddlem had a question about how affiliates give minutes to the State Committee
- We can receive over Slack or email
- local-groups channel on Slack

Bylaws changes from last meeting
- Ashley proposed we revisit this next month so Tara
- No formal objections, tabled until next week

Cris talked briefly about LPMA electoral history
- Ashley being elected to city council makes her the highest elected Libertarian in MA history
- Ashley then talked a bit about her campaign

Jeremy mentioned that someone else was running as a Libertarian
- Janel and Charlie mentioned a Andrew Cordio ran as mayor of Fitchburg
  - Janel learned about this very late

Charlie said the candidate sent an email to us

Charlie says he apologized to him on the State Committee's behalf

Him, Scott, and Brodi were at the campaign wrap-up party

He's supposed to have received around 26% of the vote

Jeremy thinks it's unacceptable that we weren't told about this since there's multiple ways to get ahold of us

Ashley said she wasn't aware of anyone else running

She requests that he speak to her directly about this so we can support them in the future

Adjourned at 10:30 PM.

A.1.1 Facsimile of proposed standards of behavior as submitted by Jeremy Thompson at November 8, 2021 State Committee meeting, substituted during December meeting.

Proposed Standards of Behavior

The Libertarian Association of Massachusetts ("LAMA") State Committee is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful, friendly, safe, supportive, and harassment-free environment for members, activists, donors, and all others in association with LAMA.

Therefore on this day, [date of motion's passing] we, the 2021 LAMA State Committee, hereby institute the following Standards of Behavior:

(1) Expected Behavior

(a) All LAMA members must strive to be civil to other LAMA members and to members of the general public within all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA.

(i) "Members must not use any form of personal criticism or ridicule to persuade a meeting. A member may criticize an idea but never a fellow member. A member must never interject or interfere with another member's right to an uninterrupted floor when speaking, except as allowed under a point of order. The chair should insist that this rule be followed" (Democratic rules of order - Fred Francis, Peg Francis. -- 9th ed.) - These are the rules of order that LAMA currently abides by as of LAMA Bylaws Article IV Section 9

(b) It is hereby required that all LAMA members must ensure that all information given to the LAMA Membership Director remains up to date and as accurate as possible.

(2) Prohibited Behavior

(a) Harassment, in any form, will not be tolerated.

(i) Harassment shall be defined as continued, unwanted actions that serve no reason other than to annoy, hurt, intimidate, or abuse a targeted individual.

(ii) Isolated incidents (unless extremely serious or persistent) will not rise to the level of harassment.

(b) Threats of violence, and violence itself, will not be tolerated.

    (i) This is to reiterate and further codify the Nolan pledge we require for all who wish to remain in affiliation with LAMA.

(c) Any behaviors which target, in an adverse manner, others based on age, ancestry, color, religion, disability, gender-identity, gender expression, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, or any other involuntary class of an individual or group of individuals.

(d) Attacking the campaigns of LAMA-endorsed Libertarian candidates running for public office shall be in violation of this Code of Conduct.

    (i) “Attacking” shall not be defined as philosophical, policy, legal, or strategy disagreements. It means purposely undermining the campaign of a LAMA-endorsed candidate, for any reason, including endorsing the candidates of other political parties over our own.

(e) Instigating or participating in deliberate actions that interfere with LAMA goals, as mentioned in the Preamble to our Bylaws, herein listed as:

    (i) Recruiting candidates and helping Libertarians to run for office;

    (ii) Organizing and supporting local and topical Libertarian groups;

    (iii) Performing non-electoral political acts, e.g., referenda, lobbying, and litigation;”

    (iv) Recruiting members, helping them to do politics;

    (v) Educating the public on Libertarian political directions;

    (vi) Creating circumstances favorable to attaining the Organization’s objective, by creating politically-effective legally-independent PACs, 527 organizations, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations;

    (vii) Raising and spending money to do its work;

    (viii) And performing needed internal operations.

(3) Scope

(a) These Standards of Behavior shall apply to all public spaces (including those online), anywhere LAMA business is conducted, all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA.

(4) Sanctions

(a) Engaging in prohibited behavior in any capacity may result in the immediate suspension or termination of membership as considered by the LAMA State Committee after the accused has received access to due process.

(i) Due process shall be defined as an executive session whereby the member(s) in question shall be provided ample opportunity, no less than 7 days, to present their case to the State Committee before a State Committee decision has been finalized.

(ii) Violations of expected and prohibited behavior shall constitute the only criterion of defining the phrase “for cause” in LAMA Bylaws Article 1 Section 3 with regards to the termination of membership

(b) If a LAMA State Committee member has been found to have violated the Standards of Behavior, they must be disciplined as outlined in Article IV, section 10 of the LAMA Constitution.

A.2 Facsimile of December LAMA State Committee meeting minutes

Minutes of the State Committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

December 13, 2021

Online via Zoom Cloud Meetings.

Present: Derek Newhall, Ashley Shade, Andrew Moore, Michael Burns, Cris Crawford, Jeremy Thompson, Tara DeSisto, Charlie Larkin, Janel Holmes, Ann Reed, Daniel Garrity, David Redding, Kenneth Luu, Kris Wilsom, Michael Dalgeish, Christopher Thrasher, Joshua Bromage, Brodi Elwood, Brian Zakrajsek, Jason Brand, Patrick Douglas, Erik Yankowsky, Thomas Eddlem, Connor O'Brien, Ryan Sullivan, Bryanna Clancy.

Start at 8:30 PM.

Minutes from last month accepted after correcting a typo discovered by Ann Reed.

Treasurer's report by Cris Crawford:

- Pretty standard.
- $260 spent on walking tour for LNC meeting
- $222 spent on food. Will be in next report
- ~$220 spent on donuts for LNC. Will be in next report
- Deposit for convention will also be in next report
- New account totals:
  - LAMA Federal Account: 20,382.79
  - LAMA State PAC: 7,173.46
  - MALP State Account: 1,698.98

Membership report by Andrew Moore:

- Andrew is awaiting responses from our potential swag vendors

Convention planning:

- Jo Jorgensen only speaker confirmed
- Trying to get Justin Amash, but unlikely as of right now
- Will be at Framingham Sheraton
- Sat. April 23

LNC Meeting report:

- Successful from LAMA's perspective
- Saturday event went very well
  - Cris talked about the events of the weekend
- Spent ~$750 to host them
- Tara also talked about the events of the weekend
  - National picked up some of the cost for the Friday event at 2Twenty2

Ashley talked to LPNH members represented our state committee well and were very civil

National left a bunch of t-shirts at Tara's house for fundraising purposes at our convention

Ann asked for clarification about the relationship between the LNC, National, and us

Derek commented that the open bar was nice at the fundraiser

Ashley pointed out that the LNC meeting is online on YouTube

Affiliates bylaws proposal from October meeting:

Originally proposed by Cris Crawford

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dcc0kt6qe3354dcipTNIzvYzzTpKEnmgpSWdRj07bf4/edit

Motion to amend article VIII, sub-affiliates, of the LAMA Bylaws, to add paragraph 2 and renumber the following paragraphs.

1. Charter

The State Committee upon majority approval at a State Committee meeting may charter a sub-affiliate when 3 members of LAMA file bylaws with the State Committee. Bylaws shall not be inconsistent with LAMA bylaws, and members shall qualify as members of LAMA according to Article IX, section 1 of the LAMA bylaws. There must be a minimum of three meetings before the affiliate shall be recognized by LAMA.

2. Meetings

Meetings of LAMA sub-affiliates are open to all members of LAMA. The date, time and location of meetings shall be submitted to the state committee for posting on the lpmass.org calendar at least one week in advance. Meeting minutes shall be submitted to the state committee for publication on the member area of the LAMA web site within one week after a meeting. If a sub-affiliate has no meetings for a three-month period, it will be considered to be disbanded. A sub-affiliate can be reinstated after it holds a regular meeting by a majority vote of the state committee.

Tara talked about the state committee's responsibility for openness

Michael Dalgleish asked if the state committee follows the same rule

Ashley confirmed that it is

Cris commented that minutes are posted in the members areas, about how we're switching to CiviCRM, and if affiliates have issues with privacy they should talk to us

Tara said we should make more of our notices public

Ashley reminded people to stay on topic to the motion

Thomas Eddlem asked a couple questions

He had concerns about the privacy of guests listed in the minutes
Brought up point that the week requirement seems antithetical to ratifying the minutes the next meeting
Ashley clarified saying the minutes are not public, only to members, and the week issue doesn't affect
Ann Reed disagreed with Tara that we should limit our meetings only to LP members to prevent bad actors from showing up similar to the Dems and GOP
Ashley reiterated that the minutes are private to LAMA members and notices are public, and reminded people to stay on topic
Patrick Douglas asked if we should put in language to protect the privacy for the CiviCRM migration
Also if they meet at people's houses, the address shouldn't be public
Chris Thrasher asked about the three meeting requirement
Also asked about the wording of the Charter section, specifically the word "may"
Ashley explained her rationale for the three meeting requirement
It's to make sure that people who want to participate are able to before the bylaws are submitted
Brodi Elwood expressed concern that the language saying "all LAMA members" might override local affiliates expelling members
Ashley reiterated the need for inclusiveness at local level
Cris said participation and attending meetings are two separate things
Brian Zakrajsek asked about groups already in the process of forming
Ashley confirmed that, yes, it will
Ashley said it doesn't affect any affiliate she knows about right now
Patrick Douglas asked why all of this needs to be in the Bylaws if affiliate formation is already at the discretion of the state committee
Ashley
Voting on full text:
Derek - Yes
Andrew - Yes
Charlie - Yes
Cris - Yes
Tara - Yes
Janel - Nay
Jeremy - Yes
Michael - Yes
Ashley - Abstain
Motion passes

Code of conduct proposal:
Proposed Motion:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_Xdnx6-qYc9lwVTGfFFErdjW7OctqaY3crl-oZiIfP0/edit?pli=1

Proposed Standards of Behavior:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mgEU-4NIuhs93XsozL957cGOMxt_o8T31FMlErY8hAw/edit

Cris and Andrew seconded
Ashley proposed removing 2d the section on attacking LAMA-endorsed candidates
David Redding spoke against it
    Said it's in violation of free speech
    Said Jeremy was himself in violation of it
        Ashley muted David over this comment as not germane to the motion itself
Cris spoke in favor of striking the section on attacking LAMA-endorsed candidates
Brian Zakrajsek spoke about requirement of keeping info up to date and who/how it applies to
    Also had reservations about "interfering with LAMA goals"
        Used the example of Bill Weld (the LAMA-endorsed candidate) "endorsing" Hillary Clinton in 2016
        Thinks this produces an problem of possible competing goals and might be used to attack other people
        Ashley said in this example Bill Weld would be in violation of this document
    Also has concerns that due process is vaguely defined
        Jeremy clarified by citing 4ai
        Cris also said this is a new requirement
        Thinks this needs to be expanded/further clarified
            What does "present their case" mean?
Michael Dalgleish had a question about updating information: What does this mean? What are we looking for?
    Jeremy spoke about the membership director needing information and is defined by them and SC
        Asked for concerns. Ashley ruled out of order.
Janel says she has many issues with it
    It's a loaded document
    "Words have meaning, not intention"
    Personal criticism is subjective
        Ashley clarified that it's in Francis' Democratic Rules of Order
    "Any behaviors which target" is vague
        Says we can't always tell what people mean
    Not up to legal standards
    Wants to table until convention
Tara spoke to many of Janel's points
    Once had many of same concerns as Janel
    The "be courteous" part is part of LAMA's Bylaws

Supporting candidates is a tricky line to walk since we are an explicitly partisan organization
This is not a legal document, “due process” is internal not legal
In favor of adding language to specify/clarify it more
Nolan pledge should be part of our membership form
An important part of our political heritage and must be upheld
Diversity of thought is important, but we must be welcoming
Chris Thrasher talked about his concerns
Thanked the SC for taking comments
While actions have warranted this in the past, he has concerns about document
Ghost of Lee Wrights says no libertarian document should say “Prohibited”
Concerned about how the SC may interpret
Membership in organizations could be
Thinks this prevents people from disagreeing with others
Applying this to membership seems like overreach
Thinks “for cause” restricts SC
If we pass this, make it specific to harassment
Jeremy responded
Likes Thrasher’s amended document
But thinks “for cause” should remain as it is
Derek thinks John Dixson’s proposed amendment would be out of order
Tried to do a motion to postpone
Ashley ruled out of order
Brodi Elwood thinks this should be brought before a full convention
Ann Reed thinks this is a “heavy” document
“No human degradation” should be enough
Final document should be friendly
A motion to replace Jeremy’s version with Chris Thrasher’s amended version:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aOwokngLD3zJnQ_UBKCckZbMIURD7DecpSp1EzE2deE/edit
No objections from the State Committee
Jeremy asked if amending pushed the deadline back
Ashley explained it does not
Cris spoke in favor of the new version
Condensed version of what Jeremy was trying to do
Andrew thanked everyone for their work
Tara thanked Chris for his work for National
Janel wanted clarification on how this affects our bylaws
Ashley and Jeremy explained this is an addition to our bylaws, not a replacement
Daniel Garrity thinks this is an unlibertarian document
Said he has the votes to push this into a special convention
Jeremy responded that most libertarian organizations have standards of conduct
Andrew agreed

Examples: Students for Liberty, Young Americans for Liberty, Ludwig von Mises Institute

Private organizations having the right to set their standards is a cornerstone of libertarian principles

Ashley said all organization should have an anti-harassment policy

Thanked everyone who contributed

Chris Thrasher reiterated that this would be better passed at convention

David Redding wants it noted that only the State Committee has spoken in favor of this and everyone from the membership wants this tabled or is against it

No org has this for donating members

And this is a legal document

Cris spoke to Ann's objection

It would be great if everyone was as nice as Ann

The abuse we have experienced from people is the worst in memory

Appears coordinated and from people who have done no work for LAMA or the LP

Tara spoke regarding some of Cris' points

We must be a big tent organization, this document does not go against that principle

We must divorce ourself from any organization or individuals who are bigoted or violent

While this does have some legal weight (per David Redding's point), Chris Thrasher, the author, is in law school

Voting for the new version of the proposal:

Andrew - Yes

Charlie - No

Cris - Yes

Derek - Yes

Jeremy - Yes

Janel - No

Michael - Yes

Tara - Yes

Ashley - Abstain

Motion passes.

Cris and Jeremy thanked Chris Thrasher again.

Jeremy expressed his intention to amend this document next meeting.

Full text of the passed motion:

Alternative Standards of Behavior Proposal for the LAMA

The Libertarian Association of Massachusetts ("LAMA") State Committee is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful, friendly, safe, supportive, and harassment-free environment for members, activists, donors, and all others in association with LAMA.

Therefore on this day, [date of motion's passing] we, the 2021 LAMA State Committee, hereby institute the following:

I. Standards of Behavior for LAMA Members

1. All LAMA members must strive to be civil to other LAMA members and to members of the general public, within all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA or individual LAMA members, including online spaces.

2. Threats of violence, and violence itself, will not be tolerated.

3. Harassment, in any form, will not be tolerated.

a. Harassment shall be defined as continued, unwanted actions that serve no reason other than to annoy, hurt, intimidate, or abuse a targeted individual.

b. Isolated minor incidents shall not be considered to rise to the level of harassment as defined in these standards of behavior.

4. Any behaviors which target, in an adverse manner, others based on age, ancestry, color, religion, disability, gender-identity, gender expression, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, or any other involuntary class of an individual or group of individuals shall be deemed to be in violation of these Standards of Behavior.

5. As per LAMA Bylaws Article IV Section 9 and Francis and Francis Democratic Rules of Order:

a. LAMA members must not use any form of personal criticism or ridicule to persuade a meeting.

b. LAMA members may criticize an idea but never a fellow member.

c. LAMA members must never interject or interfere with another member's right to an uninterrupted floor when speaking during a meeting, except as allowed under a point of order.

II. Sanctions

1. A violation of any of these standards of behavior by a LAMA State Committee member shall be considered adequate "cause" for the purposes of an action under Article IV, Section 10 of the LAMA Constitution.

2. A violation of these Standards of Behavior by a non-state committee LAMA member may result in the suspension or termination of membership if the LAMA State Committee, by two-thirds vote of its entire membership, suspends or terminates the membership of a LAMA member after the member has received access to due process.

   a. Due process shall be defined as an executive session in which the member in question shall be provided ample opportunity to present their case to the State Committee, with the member receiving adequate notice no less than 7 days prior to such an executive session.

Reminders:

Jeremy:

Liberty in Action: How Change Happens
April 2 at Harvard
Urges libertarians to run in Boston

Tara:

Association of Libertarian Educators
March 25-27 at Doubletree Hotel where LNC meeting occurred
MA is big in education
96% of educators identify as "liberal"
If anyone wants to help, let Tara know
Want to limit participation to mostly educators, but any volunteers for setting up/running the event would be helpful
Ann Reed asked whether this would touch on COVID mandates

Tara does not know the exact agenda, but it primarily focuses on issues inside academic institutions
While Tara has not seen it on the agenda yet, it is very possible it will be at least partially addressed

Ashley said that people who record this meeting without the express consent of all those who are present are in violation of Massachusetts law

New business:

Jeremy proposes that sections 1b, 2e, 3 and 4a2 from the original standards of behavior be added to the document just passed.

Will be discussed and voted on next meeting
Text of relevant sections:

(1) Expected Behavior

(b) It is hereby required that all LAMA members must ensure that all information given to the LAMA Membership Director remains up to date and as accurate as possible.

(2) Prohibited Behavior

(e) Instigating or participating in deliberate actions that interfere with LAMA goals, as mentioned in the Preamble to our Bylaws, herein listed as:

(i) Recruiting candidates and helping Libertarians to run for office;
(ii) Organizing and supporting local and topical Libertarian groups;
(iii) Performing non-electoral political acts, e.g., referenda, lobbying, and litigation;"
(iv) Recruiting members, helping them to do politics;
(v) Educating the public on Libertarian political directions;
(vi) Creating circumstances favorable to attaining the Organization's objective, by creating politically-effective legally-independent PACs, 527 organizations, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations;
(vii) Raising and spending money to do its work;
(viii) And performing needed internal operations.

(3) Scope

(a) These Standards of Behavior shall apply to all public spaces (including those online), anywhere LAMA business is conducted, all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA.

(4) Sanctions

(a) Engaging in prohibited behavior in any capacity may result in the immediate suspension or termination of membership as considered by the LAMA State Committee after the accused has received access to due process.

(ii) Violations of expected and prohibited behavior shall constitute the only

criterion of defining the phrase “for cause” in LAMA Bylaws Article 1 Section 3 with regards to the termination of membership

Adjourned at 10:50.

A.3 Reproduction of the South Shore Libertarian Party resolution against Code of Conduct/Standards of Behavior proposal

Resolution of the South Shore Libertarian Party

Unanimously adopted at the monthly meeting, December 12, 2021

After enduring some witheringly crass ridicule, members of the LAMA executive committee have proposed a "Code of Conduct" that would require the following behavior:

> **Required Behaviour**
> **1(a)** It is hereby required that all LAMA members be courteous to other LAMA members and to members of the general public within all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA." https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mgEU-4NIuhs93XsozL957cGOMxt_o8T31FMlErY8hAw/edit?usp=sharing

While the South Shore Libertarian Party expresses sympathy for executive committee members thus insulted and ridiculed, we oppose the proposed code of conduct for both specific and general reasons. Generally speaking, being an adult means having to work with difficult, often crass people, and being in the leadership of a political party means working with people with whom you disagree and who are criticizing you.

There's a benefit in a broad, vigorous public discourse, especially within a political party, which this resolution seems to overlook and would unintentionally suppress.

It should also be stressed that LAMA is a group of donors, not an exhaustive list of people publicly affiliated with the Libertarian Party; anyone in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can publicly register as a Libertarian Party member on the voter rolls. Banishing a rude donor does not help protect the public image of the Libertarian Party, particularly in an atmosphere of unfriendly establishment media. Mere party registration with the registrar of voters will cement the image of a person much more publicly than the private membership rolls of LAMA. Moreover, a competent leadership should be able to make use of that rude donor's membership fee to grow the party regardless of his/her language.

We need only to look at the Delaware situation discussed just last week by the Libertarian Party National Committee to find examples of such naked corruption.

More specifically, the existing proposal is fraught with loose language with a potential for abuse. It is certainly likely that this resolution would eventually be used by future LAMA leadership -- not necessarily this leadership -- to cover up crimes. A LAMA member will eventually witness something illegal in an LP-endorsed campaign, whether a bribe, illegal donation, pay-for-play, etc., though we should hope it will be many decades down the road. Publicly revealing/reporting this could be considered an "attack" on the campaign (it certainly wouldn't be a favor), lobbying effort or other work in "raising and spending money" and could serve as a cover-up mechanism.

Indeed, the language in the proposed LAMA resolution is so general that this resolution by the South Shore Libertarian Party opposing it could reasonably be perceived as being within the purview of "Instigating or participating in deliberate actions that interfere with LAMA goals" or "Performing needed internal operations."

This proposed LAMA resolution is troubling not just because of the specific potential for abuse, but because it exposes a party leadership more engaged in throwing people out of the party than in bringing in new people. It distracts from the party's main mission of opposing government intrusion in our daily lives more effectively, especially opposing vaccine and mask mandates, US imperialism abroad and looming rampant inflation that will devastate the working poor and middle classes. It's those latter things the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States most need from the Libertarian Party.

A political party limited to "courteous" members is inevitably a very small party, one too small to be effective in the work of lessening the burden of government (whose agents and media vassals are not courteous") upon the common person.

Therefore, the South Shore Libertarian Party urges the executive committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) to reject the proposal on the table and substitute it with a resolution reaffirming the national Libertarian Party code of conduct.

Approved December 12

Thomas R. Eddlem, Chairman
James Parent, Vice-Chairman
Ryan Sullivan, Secretary

A.4 A reproduction of the December 19, 2022 petition for a special convention of LAMA

A petition for a Special State Convention of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts to elect a State Committee:

With this call we, the undersigned members of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, call on the State Committee to organize a special meeting of the State Convention between thirty and sixty days of this call being presented, as provided in Article II of the Constitution of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, at a time and place that is convenient to the membership of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

We, the undersigned, call on the State Committee to work in good faith to find a date and time that makes it possible for the greatest number of members to attend; in particular, to avoid holidays, school vacation weeks, or before 6 PM if the convention is to be held on a weekday. We expect a physical venue to be selected; if the State Committee has difficulty finding a physical venue to host the meeting, the first names on the list of signatures offer to help find one.

With this call, we place these items on the agenda for the Special State Convention to consider:

Special Orders:

Move:

That the following Special Order is adopted for this meeting, if held in an electronic forum: In order to retain the ability to rise on a point of order a side-by-side chat will be maintained, to which all members may post or reply.

Motion to Set the Number of Seats on the State Committee:

Move:

To set the number of seats on the State Committee at nine.

NOTE: This is the maximum number of seats to be elected at a regular meeting, and the number who were elected at the last regular meeting of the Association.

Election of a new State Committee:

Nominations are open from the floor.

NOTE: As provided for in Article IV, Section 5, of the Constitution, all of the current members of the State Committee will hold office until the adjournment of this meeting.

A.5 Tara DeSisto's December 22 comment in Massachusetts Libertarians Facebook group.

A.6 Reproduction of the petition to LNC by Larkin/Holmes and affiliate leadership

Petition to the Libertarian National Committee for relief:

January 11, 2022

A tiny faction of seven members of the LAMA state committee have failed in their responsibilities under the LAMA constitution of their open and declared intention not to follow the state LAMA constitution. And we, who remain loyal members of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, ask the national party to intervene on our behalf.

The rogue LAMA State Committee violated its own constitution yesterday, January 10, to wit

> Article II, Section 5. "If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee. In a single calendar year a state party member may not sign more than one petition requesting a special state convention.
>
> The petition shall specify the agenda of the special state convention, and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but may not otherwise change the agenda. The quorum for a special state convention shall be 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the

> current dues paying membership of the party. If one or more dues paying state party members mails or presents to the state committee a written request to assemble a petition requesting a special state convention, then, within 60 days, the state committee must inform the dues paying members of this request, and the names and contact information for the party members who made the request. Other relevant information may also be included. State party members must be informed about the petition by placing the information on the first page of the party newsletter, and prominently on any electronic media controlled by the state committee.

Indeed, 46 LAMA members (of 204 total state members the month the signatures were received) signed a petition for the special convention, 22.3% of the dues-paying membership, did sign the petition and delivered it to the State Committee. That fact is not in dispute.

Also not in dispute is the fact that every one of the signatories has allegedly been ejected from the party for exercising their constitutional right to petition for this special convention. During an email broadcast to the members in the morning after the meeting Ashley Shade acknowledged that "In regards to the petition, the members have every right to submit a petition to request a Special State Convention." But at the same time the former chair admitted the rump state committee has no intention of holding the convention for which it was legitimately petitioned and required by the LAMA constitution to hold.

Note that the power of the membership to call a special convention and determine its agenda is plenary; there are no restrictions on what the petitioners may call for as an agenda. Indeed, the LAMA constitution redundantly notes that the State Committee is prohibited from restricting the agenda in any way, noting that "and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but **may not otherwise change the agenda.**"

Any claim that a petition for a special convention to call for new leadership as unconstitutional is false on its face by anyone with the power to read plain English.

But the meeting minutes from the January 10 Zoom meeting show a desperation by committee members to maintain their positions, and a filial loyalty by the chair to enable their retention in office, regardless of what rules they would have to break.

> Cris Crawford remarked: "This is not a difference of opinion, this is Mises Caucus trying to pack the national convention"
>
> Jeremy Thompson complained "It is not fair to usurp the will of the last convention for a malicious caucus"
>
> The minutes of the meeting show Chair Ashley Shade commenting that "We are responsible to the people who elected us to prevent a takeover."

It should be stressed that the very members who elected them are the ones they have allegedly removed from membership. About a third of those who elected the current rump State Committee were among those allegedly kicked out of the party without cause, hearing or notice. No fewer than 10 of the signatories who were allegedly ejected from LAMA for signing the petition had also voted for the existing State Committee in March 2021. Moreover, the rump state committee members did not validate the election of two of its own state committee members, whom they voted to remove from office as a result of their support of the members' petition rights for a special state convention under the LAMA constitution.

By this action, the rogue LAMA State Committee would reduce by one-quarter its total dues-paying membership.

This leadership **fully validated** the petitioners' concerns, and made obvious why a special convention was necessary. Indeed, the petitioners only called the special convention because this tiny cabal has consistently and constantly conspired with corrupt intent to remain in leadership against the will of the membership, and has had their laser-like focus bearing down upon removing members for the past six months, rather than growing membership.

They have mutually pledged to each other to make the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts membership as small and irrelevant as necessary in order for them to retain their State

Committee positions.

Make no mistake, this action by the rump state committee members was not about a takeover, nor was it to validate the votes of the earlier March 2021 regular state convention. We know they are dissembling; they know it, and they know we know it.

We do not want to see the Libertarian Party utterly destroyed in Massachusetts by this tiny faction of less than a dozen bad actors. We represent the two remaining legitimate members of the State Committee and the elected leadership of most of the state's local affiliates, the South Shore Libertarian Party, Worcester County Libertarian Party, Middlesex County Libertarian Party, Pioneer Valley Libertarian Party.

We also represent one of only three public office holders in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who are Libertarian, a chairman of the Dighton-Rehoboth regional school committee.

We believe that the rules – the constitution – apply to all, in stark contrast with the rump state committee members who think no rules apply to them. We believe in a growing, vigorous Libertarian Party, in contrast with the insular cabal who never once talked about increasing membership in the past six months of State Committee meetings (review the meeting notes for yourself), but instead limited their focus to removing members and making the party smaller.

Indeed, with only 204 dues-paying members in a state of six million (now reduced by a quarter) the rump state committee members have acknowledged by their actions that they have not brought new members into the party in any significant way during their tenure. If they had, there'd be no fake, fevered concern about a "takeover." They'd have already brought in the votes for their own re-elections.

It is our view that the meeting of rump state committee members January 10 was not a legal meeting in terms of the LAMA constitution, because (1) it was held exclusively in executive session without a vote, and the LAMA requirement for parliamentary proceedings (Francis & Francis) does not account for executive sessions, (2) because any political party meeting chaired by a candidate for office or public official is in violation of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, (3) there are no provisions in the LAMA constitution or by-laws for the mass expulsion of members without due process.

The Special Convention will be held

We, the undersigned, remain committed to holding that special state convention in line with the LAMA Constitution, and in fidelity to it, within the deadline required by the petitioners, with the remaining legitimate members of the LAMA State Committee.

We – along with an invitation to all members – plan to hold that special convention with the remaining legitimate members of the State Committee, within the timeline specified by the LAMA Constitution. We ask the rump state committee faction to share the membership roster for notification of the special convention. But whether they assist or not, we will make every possible attempt to contact and welcome all LAMA members to the convention. It will be open to all persons, and all dues-paying members of LAMA at the time the petition was presented to the State Committee shall have a vote, including the rump members of the state committee if they should choose to attend.

It should be stressed: We do not ask the LNC to dis-afilliate Massachusetts; to the contrary, we ask them to validate the results of the legitimate, required special convention under the LAMA charter.

And we ask the Libertarian National Committee to validate the results of that convention, whomever is elected, and to certify those new leaders as the legitimate State Committee for the Libertarian Party in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Signed,

[State Committee members & Worcester Affiliate officers]

Charles H. Larkin
In-exile State Archivist, member, Worcester County Libertarian Party

Janel Holmes
Elected Massachusetts State Committee member, Chair Worcester County Libertarian Party

Vivian Eliza Nichols
Secretary, Worcester County Libertarian Party

[Other Local Affiliates]

Thomas R. Eddlem
Chairman, South Shore Libertarian Party

James Parent
Vice Chairman, South Shore Libertarian Party

Ryan Sullivan
Secretary, South Shore Libertarian Party

Brodi Elwood
Chair, Libertarian Party of Middlesex County

Jason Brand
Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Middlesex County

Scott David Gray
Secretary, Libertarian Party of Middlesex County

Dan Garrity
Organizer, Pioneer Valley Libertarian Party (in formation)

A.7 Libertarian Party of Worcester County resolutions

A.7.1 Reproduction of Libertarian Party of Worcester County resolution on Jan. 10 state committee meeting

Resolution to Dismiss Recognition of the January 10th LAMA State Committee Meeting

Whereas, on January 10th 2022 the LAMA State Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting in which they voted to terminate the membership of 47 members who petitioned for a special convention in accordance with the process outlined in the LAMA constitution.

Whereas, This meeting was held without agenda and was opened in a closed session and

Whereas, The standing of multiple Committee Members at the time of the vote is now in question with regard to the LAMA Constitution, LAMA By-laws, and/or Massachusetts General Law.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Libertarian Party of Worcester County by unanimous vote does not recognize the January 10th meeting of the LAMA SC to have been properly held and does not recognize actions proposed or passed at this meeting as any such actions are void as it was only an informal gathering.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Libertarian Party of Worcester County recognizes the proper state committee to consist of State committee members who were supposed by the acting State Committee to have been expelled and does not recognize State Committee Members who are not eligible to serve as State Committee Members due to violations of the LAMA Constitution, LAMA Bylaws, and/or Massachusetts General Law and furthermore will not recognize any further action taken by the existing partial State Committee.

Libertarian Party of Worcester County
January 11, 2022

A.7.2 Reproduction of Libertarian Party of Worcester County resolution of censure on state committee members

Public Letter of Censure of the LAMA State Committee

Whereas, On January 10th 2022 the LAMA State Committee voted to terminate the membership of 47 members who petitioned for a special convention according to the process outlined in the LAMA constitution.

Whereas, This meeting to expel was held without agenda and opened in a closed session and

Whereas, The standing of multiple Committee Members at the time of the vote is now in question with regard to the LAMA Constitution, LAMA Bylaws, and/or Massachusetts General Law.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Libertarian Party of Worcester County by unanimous vote censures the LAMA State Committee for their actions taken in an effort to enact a mass expulsion of LAMA members.

Libertarian Party of Worcester County
January 11, 2022

A.8 Reproduction of Libertarian Party of Middlesex Motion of Censure of Ashley Shade on January 15, 2022

The following motion was duly made and seconded: That the LP of Middlesex censures Ashley Shade. She acted as chair of the State Party after having been elected to office, ignoring legal standards with respect to conflicts of interest. She attempted a coup against the membership. She illegally opened a meeting of the State Committee in Executive Session.She attempted to use the illegal meeting to expel 47 members who had exerted their Constitutional authority to call a Special Convention. She proceeded with the vote to expel en masse without any due process or representation.

Passed unanimously.

The following motion was duly made and seconded: To send Jason Brand, Kenneth Luu and Brian Zakrajsek as delegates to the group of members planning a Special Convention.

Passed unanimously.

A.9 January 22, 2022 Statement of SSLP on State Committee actions of January 10

Finding of Facts:

The state committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) in its regular January meeting of Jan. 10, 2022 was held entirely in executive session, without even a vote to go into executive session, even though Francis & Francis, the parliamentary rules LAMA has adopted to govern itself, makes no provision at all for executive sessions; and

More importantly, the LAMA Constitution was further violated when seven members of the state committee did with corrupt intent vote to expel 47 members of LAMA whose sole alleged misdeed was signing a petition for a special state convention under the LAMA Constitution, because the seven members of the state committee perceived their own re-election at the special convention in danger, and neither the LAMA Constitution nor the by-laws authorize the state committee to either remove large numbers of members in order to preserve titles of officers nor to suppress a valid petition for a special state convention, and

Furthermore, the LAMA by-laws only authorize the state committee to remove "a person" – not many at once – and "for cause," and petitioning the state committee for a special state convention in line with the LAMA Constitution cannot possibly be considered "cause" for expulsion, and

Moreover, the minutes of the January 10 meeting record the Chair Ashley Shade acknowledging "not everyone who signed is part of the 'takeover,' " admitting, even in the fevered conspiracy-mongering minds of the seven state committee members, they were expelling members solely for petitioning under the LAMA Constitution; and

The LAMA Constitution was further violated in the expulsion of two of its state committee members, namely Janel Holmes and Charlie Larkin, without cause or due process, the only alleged "cause" being support of a special state convention under the LAMA Constitution, even though the LAMA Constitution explicitly requires cause and due process: "The State Committee may by two-thirds vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, **for cause**, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process."

All three officers of the South Shore Libertarian Party and the only elected Libertarian Party public official in the South Shore (Chairman of Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee Aaron Morse), as well as many as 10 other local members, were allegedly expelled by the vote of the seven rogue state committee members.

Resolutions:

The South Shore Libertarian Party therefore regards the actions of the state committee (which can only be labeled a "Death Spiral Caucus" of the Libertarian Party) on January 10 as null and void, and the alleged "expulsions" of members invalid; and

The South Shore Libertarian Party also calls for the LAMA special state convention set for February 12 via Zoom to go on unimpeded, and for all LAMA members and the Libertarian National Committee to recognize as validly elected leaders of LAMA whomever the special state convention nominates for a new state committee; and

The South Shore Libertarian Party adopts a formal censure of all seven rogue members of the state committee, as mass expulsions lowering membership down from an organization of 204 members among a population of six million is not a sign of a vibrant and growing Libertarian Party; and

The South Shore Libertarian Party further calls upon the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) to:

(1) Censure the seven members of the LAMA State Committee, and

(2) Direct the LAMA State Committee to advertise the February 12 special state convention being organized by the petitioners among the LAMA membership, and

(3) Investigate the role of LNC staffer Tara DeSisto in the failed and illicit attempt to suppress the valid special state convention, as she was appointed to the state committee board and led the charge among the rogue cabal on social media against the special state convention, calling it an "act of aggression," and

(4) Further investigate if there is any link between Massachusetts and similar Death Spiral Caucus mass expulsions and/or closure of new enrollments into the party in Delaware, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The South Shore Libertarian Party also acknowledges the Middlesex, Worcester, and Pioneer Valley Libertarian Parties have adopted similar resolutions.

Approved unanimously (5-0) at regular meeting Saturday January 22, 2022

Thomas R. Eddlem, Chairman
James Parent, Vice-Chairman
Ryan Sullivan, Secretary

A.10 Facsimile of prepared remarks of LAMA State Committee member Janel Holmes before the LNC Jan. 23, 2022 (via Zoom)

Hello everyone. First, I would like to thank everyone for your time. My name is Janel Holmes, I am the duly elected Communications Director of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts. I am from Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts and I first joined LAMA as a volunteer in the summer of 2020, when the Political Director reached out to me to see if I would be interested in setting up a local affiliate. Having worked towards that goal, the Libertarian Party of Worcester County just celebrated its one year anniversary in December of 2021, and currently we are the largest sub-affiliate which is continuing to grow.

I am here today in concert with multiple other sub-affiliates across the state of Massachusetts to ask that the LNC exercise its discretionary right to endorse in writing reinstatement of 47 wrongly ousted members of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts by its State Committee.

As reason, therefore:

> We dispute the validity of the vote to expel as well as the legality of the meeting in regards to standards of official meeting protocol. The meeting did not initially conveen in open session and there was no roll call vote to enter executive session nor was there an announcement of the official reason for entering closed session. Furthermore, the Agenda was never posted prior to the meeting and was withheld from at least the 2 State Committee Members which were later expelled in said meeting.
>
> The Constitution also provides reasonable access to due process for State Committee members facing expulsion:
>
> Per Article IV Section 10
>
> *"The State Committee may by two-thirds vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, for cause, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process. Expiration of membership in the Organization is cause, but payment of membership dues to renew membership, prior to the vote, constitutes an absolute defense."*
>
> This would mean that the expulsion of the 2 State Committee Members should have been held as separate motions and reasonable access to due process afforded, not simply by revocation of their membership as the Constitution is the governing document over the Bylaws. I think most would agree that a closed meeting in which the Agenda was hidden from the accused members, does not constitute due process.

As to the vote to expel, we call into question the validity of the Membership Director's eligibility to vote as he was no longer in Massachusetts.

As provided in the LAMA Bylaws:

Article I. Membership

1. Eligibility for Membership

Members are all dues-paying persons ***in Massachusetts****, and all non-dues paying Associate members.*

As well as citing the LAMA Constitution Article IV Section 8

To be elected ***or serve as a member or officer*** *of the State Committee, a person must be a Member of the Organization whose dues are current.*

We argue that although still contributing dues, that his role on the State Committee was ineligible once he left the State of Massachusetts.

The final vote by secret ballot read 6-1. But should correctly have read 6-1-2 (2 absent).There are 9 members on the State Committee, 2 of which were not present, and as provided in the Bylaws, the vote requires 2/3rds of the ENTIRE State Committee. Without the vote of the Membership director, who was present that evening, and I can assure you, I did not vote in favor of my own expulsion, the vote would read 5-1-2. Motion fails to meet the 2/3rds required.

As an aside from that fact, it has been brought to the members attention that Ms. Shade was in violation of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 55 Section 5a:

Section 5A. No candidate or individual holding elective public office shall establish, finance, maintain, control or serve as a principal officer of a political action committee; provided, however, that each of the following may authorize one such political committee to which this section shall not apply: a majority of the members of each political party who are members of the house of representatives, and a majority of the members of each political party who are members of the senate.

Given this fact, we question the validity of Ms. Shade's vote, not only for this meeting, but for any motion in any meeting after she announced her candidacy in which her vote was the deciding factor. For the purpose of this argument the vote to expel could potentially have read 4-1-2. Motion again fails to pass.

Finally, I would like to cite the recently adopted Standards of Behavior, which provides for due process, that has yet to be added to the LAMA Bylaws public document:

I. Standards of Behavior for LAMA Members

1. All LAMA members must strive to be civil to other LAMA members and to members of the general public, within all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA or individual LAMA members, including online spaces.

2. Threats of violence, and violence itself, will not be tolerated.

3. Harassment, in any form, will not be tolerated.

a. Harassment shall be defined as continued, unwanted actions that serve no reason other than to annoy, hurt, intimidate, or abuse a targeted individual.

b. Isolated minor incidents shall not be considered to rise to the level of harassment as defined in these standards of behavior.

4. Any behaviors which target, in an adverse manner, others based on age, ancestry, color, religion, disability, gender-identity, gender expression, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, or any other involuntary class of an individual or group of individuals shall be deemed to be in violation of these Standards of Behavior.

5. As per LAMA Bylaws Article IV Section 9 and Francis and Francis Democratic Rules of Order:

a. LAMA members must not use any form of personal criticism or ridicule to persuade a meeting.

b. LAMA members may criticize an idea but never a fellow member.

c. LAMA members must never interject or interfere with another member's right to an uninterrupted floor when speaking during a meeting, except as allowed under a point of order.

II. Sanctions

A violation of any of these standards of behavior by a LAMA State Committee member shall be considered adequate "cause" for the purposes of an action under Article IV, Section 10 of the LAMA Constitution.

A violation of these Standards of Behavior by a non-state committee LAMA member may result in the suspension or termination of membership if the LAMA State Committee, by two-thirds vote of its entire membership, suspends or terminates the membership of a LAMA member after the member has received access to due process.

a. Due process shall be defined as an executive session in which the member in question shall be provided ample opportunity to present their case to the State Committee, with the member receiving adequate notice no less than 7 days prior to such an executive session.

The argument for passing these Standards of Behavior was to outline exactly what constitutes grounds for expulsion, explaining the "for cause" language in the LAMA Bylaws. Yet, conveniently this document has not been updated in the official Bylaws to date, when it was passed in December.

Not only are we dealing with a committee that is willing to expel members simply for petitioning them for their grievances, but one that has operated outside the bounds of the law, their own bylaws and their own constitution. Imagine if the state were to remove voting rights for issuing a petition against them. If we don't want the state doing something to us we certainly shouldn't be doing it to other libertarians. This action was unconscionable, unethical and unbecoming of libertarian leadership.

In addition to asking for the endorsement to reinstate the aggrieved members, we ask that the LNC pass a resolution recommending the next elected LNC take up the matter in their first meeting should this not be resolved by the April 23 convention in Massachusetts.

In Liberty,

Janel Holmes

A.11 Letter by Caryn Ann Harlos to LAMA State Committee Members

January 27, 2022

State Committee Members:

I have been retained as advisory parliamentarian by Brodi Elwood and certain other select members of the group of LAMA members who were signatories to the Petition for a Special Convention. I am not writing solely as a parliamentarian, however, but also as a Libertarian, committed to this Party and its principles. I will try to clearly state to which "hat" I am referring to in this communication.

To say that your actions of January 10, 2022, were beyond any bounds of Libertarian ethical principles, parliamentary protocol, and potentially the laws of the state of Massachusetts would be an understatement. I am not an attorney and while I may express some personal opinions about legal matters in this letter, none of that should be taken as legal opinion or advice which I am not qualified nor licensed to give. I have advised my client to seek legal representation and assert any legal rights they have that are within the bounds of their Libertarian consciences. At a minimum, to me, this Committee is guilty of potentially actionable defamation for which you may be personally liable if any of the people so defamed believe this is a Libertarian legal cause of action. In addition, there may be a cause of action for fraud since there was an exchange of money involved in these memberships which may be deemed to create a quasi-contractual relationship which you breached. Further, it seems like the former Chair, Ashley Shade, breached the state laws of Massachusetts (Title VIII, Chapter 55, Section 5A) which is intended to prevent PAC officers from diverting funds and activities to their own personal campaigns to the detriment of other goals of the PAC. This charge is being claimed by multiple members of the LAMA, and if true, this might be very serious indeed. A properly credentialled attorney would need to review these issues and make a legal determination.

I understand that your organization has adopted the Democratic Rules of Order (DRO) as its parliamentary authority **for state committee meetings**. Whether this was the intent or not, there is no adopted parliamentary authority for any other setting. In cases where the governing documents and the parliamentary authority are silent (or there is no parliamentary authority), issues are ruled by custom and general parliamentary law. In researching the prior parliamentary authority, I have confirmed it was Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR), and not just for state committee meetings but for the entirety of LAMA business. This is important because DRO is lacking many critical details and because you have no adopted parliamentary authority in settings outside of state committee meetings. The past use of RONR makes it the default custom, and as the gold standard in parliamentary authority, RONR generally articulates general parliamentary law. DRO is wholly inadequate for political entities and puts you under principles that are general and wide-reaching rather than tailored specifically for your organization.

There are multiple areas of violation that I will detail out here for you with the demand of my client to recognize your meeting and decisions of January 10, 2022, null and void, with the

immediate recognition of the valid membership of all 47 allegedly expelled individuals, and to set the date of the Special Convention to be published within five (5) days of this letter.

1. The meeting was "illegal," and all decisions made were thus *void ab initio* as the chairwoman was disqualified by law from that position and no chair *pro tem* was ever appointed

Whether or not we enjoy this idea as Libertarians, the laws of the land are superior to our governing documents and parliamentary authority and general parliamentary law also presumes this basic fact. And since this particular law is intended to protect members from fraud and misuse of authority in an unequal power relationship, it can be argued to have at least a minarchist justification. A meeting must be validly called and chaired, and since the Chairwoman was disqualified (even prohibited) by law from serving as Chair of the LAMA there was no valid meeting, and all actions taken therein are as if they never happened. It is deeply disturbing that Chairwoman Shade exposed the LAMA to this potential legal liability with impunity and instead of resigning on the spot the minute this was brought to her attention, she instead made her resignation effective at midnight on the night she wrote the potentially defamatory letter.

2. Two of the members of the State Committee were ineligible for said Committee and thus, even if the expulsion action was in order, the 2/3 vote was not achieved

As stated above, Chairwoman Shade was not eligible to serve as Chair and an additional member of the State Committee was not a Massachusetts resident for the past approximately six months and thus also ineligible for the State Committee bringing the entire State Committee membership to seven. A 2/3 vote of the seven eligible members would be five. Out of the six affirmative votes, only four were eligible to serve on the State Committee and thus the 2/3 required vote was not achieved.

3. The State Committee violated member rights by refusing to set the Special Convention on the pretext that the agenda violated the Constitution and/or Bylaws.

The LAMA Constitution provides in Article II.5 the following (emphasis added):

If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee **must organize a state convention** to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee. In a single calendar year a state party member may not sign more than one petition requesting a special state convention.

The Constitution says this MUST happen upon the submission of the petition. It gives no authority to invalidate upon the grounds that the agenda is out of order. In fact, if the agenda is out of order, that is a decision that MUST be rendered at the Call to Order of the Special Convention so that it can be appealed by the people who have the authority to do so; *i.e.,* the

members in convention. Despite former Chairwoman Shade's prior assertions, the DRO and general parliamentary law do allow appeals from her decisions. The Board is NOT the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution. The members are. The State Committee violated their rights by not giving them the opportunity to decide this issue themselves. Further, the agenda does not violate the governing documents as they do not prohibit elections at special conventions and nothing in the agenda is attempting to prevent the elections of the State Committee at the Regular Convention in the ordinary case of business nor does it prohibit the members at the special convention from choosing to affirm the election of the current State Committee by re-electing them.

This right to a special convention is rendered toothless if it is claimed, absent a specific Bylaws or Constitution provision, that a recall election is not allowed since it is obvious that the main reason for having a right to call a special convention is specifically to address member dissatisfaction with a State Committee to the extent that they feel they have to take matters into their own hands. By unilaterally rejecting the petition (and then expelling the petitioners!) on the grounds that they may replace the State Committee merely proves that they had good reason to be dissatisfied and concerned enough to take such a drastic action.

4. The State Committee grossly violated the basic principles of Libertarian justice by expelling members in secret, without notice, and without an opportunity for their defense.

While the Bylaws do provide the authority to expel a member for cause, there is no warrant for a mass expulsion for merely signing a petition to exercise a right that the Constitution gives them. There is no warrant for a mass expulsion at all, and that is completely repugnant to the Libertarian principle of individualism. Signing a petition is not in any reasonable universe cause for expulsion; it certainly gives the appearance of gross retaliation for exercising a right, one that threatened titles and positions. Additionally, this alleged "misconduct" did not occur at a State Committee meeting and thus is not governed by DRO but by custom (RONR) and general parliamentary law. RONR (12th Ed.) 61:22 details the rules governing expulsion for offenses that occur outside of a meeting:

> **Offenses Elsewhere Than in a Meeting; Trials**
>
> If improper conduct by a member of a society occurs elsewhere than at a meeting, the members generally have no first-hand knowledge of the case. Therefore, if disciplinary action is to be taken, charges must be preferred and a formal trial held before the assembly of the society, or before a committee—standing or special—which is then required to report its findings and recommendations to the assembly for action. In addition, even when improper conduct occurs at a meeting, in order for disciplinary action to be taken *other than promptly after the breach occurs*, charges must be preferred and a formal trial held. However, the only way in which a member may be disciplined for words spoken in debate is through the procedure described in 61:10–18, which may be employed only promptly after the breach occurs. In some societies

(depending on particular provisions of the bylaws, as explained in 62), the same steps must also be employed if an officer of the society is to be removed from office. The procedures governing all such cases are described in detail in **63.**

The State Committee quite obviously did not employ this procedure and instead never notified the subject members that they were being considered for expulsion, never gave individual evidence for valid cause for suspension, and never gave individual opportunity for defense at a minimum. Additionally, there is zero authority for mass expulsions, and even if all the due process protocols were followed, there must have been individual motions for each expulsion instead of a collectivist mass expulsion for thought crime (Bylaws Article I.3).

It is also noted that two of the expelled members were members of the State Committee which have these rights explicitly spelled out in the Constitution (Article IV. 10).

Please consider this letter a demand for the immediate reinstatement of ALL of the signatories and the setting of the special convention within five (5) days of this letter.

Caryn Ann Harlos

A.12 Worcester Libertarian Party resolution to send negotiators to LAMA state committee Feb. 3, 2022

Resolution for Negotiations with the LAMA State Committee

In the spirit of unity and for the purpose of repairing damages within the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) the members of the Libertarian Party of Worcester county have voted to put forth a delegation to represent the members of Worcester County Libertarian Party (LPWC) who were allegedly removed from LAMA.

- This delegation is authorized to speak for and negotiate on behalf of the LPWC members who are no longer recognized by the acting State Committee (SC) in any negotiations with the LAMA SC regarding the events that lead to or are a result of the expulsion of the members from LAMA.
- This delegation is authorized to work with any portion of the SC with the authority to reach and approve a deal that brings unity to LAMA.

This delegation being authorized to speak on behalf of LPWC does not however speak for each member removed from LAMA membership; each individual will need to personally agree to any agreements reached between LPWC and the SC.

- This delegation is not permitted to enter into any agreement that is not expressly available to all LAMA members no longer recognized by the acting SC regardless of their association with LPWC.
- The delegation is not permitted to enter into negotiations with the SC without the presence of a mutually agreed upon third party which may include but is not limited to neutral LAMA members, Libertarians from other states, or professional mediators at the expense of the SC.

The offer for this delegation to enter into negotiations with the SC to find resolutions to the LAMA fracture is in no way an admission of any wrongdoing by the members no longer recognized by the acting SC or by the SC however formal admissions of wrongdoing may be considered as part of negotiations. The SC, if willing to present a delegation to negotiate, should respond to one of the emails sent to them containing this notice and may in addition reach out to members of LPWC to coordinate negotiations.

- If no response from the SC is received within one week of the publication of this notice the delegation will be dissolved.
- If no resolution is approved or is possible to enact at least one month prior to the selection of delegates to the LP National Convention by the SC, removed members, any portion of LPMA, or any group that intends to send delegates from Massachusetts to the National LP convention negotiations will be ended and this delegation will be dissolved.
- If any portion of an approved resolution is found to be in violation of any federal or state laws, the LAMA Constitution, the LAMA bylaws, the LPWC Constitution, or the LPWC bylaws the resolution will be void.

Libertarian Party of Worcester County
February 3, 2022

A.13 Facsimile of minutes of February 7 LAMA state committee meeting

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A.14 Facsimile of minutes of LAMA Special Convention on February 12 (over Zoom)

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
Minutes of the Special Convention of February 12th, 2022

Minutes of the February 12th 2022 Special Convention of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

The meeting was held in electronically via ZOOM at 2:00 PM Eastern Time on Saturday, February 12th, 2022, as described in the call for the meeting sent to the members via direct email, social media accounts, and other means.

Members in attendance: Jason Brand, Nathan Brand, Joshua Bromage, Brianna Clancy, Andrew Cordio, David Coelho, Justin Costa, Adam Crary, Michael Dalgleish, John Dixon, Patrick Douglas, Thomas Eddlem, Chris Elam, Brodi Elwood, Pat Ford, Daniel Garrity, Don Graham, Justice Graves, Scott Gray, La'Tisha Greene, Janel Holmes, Charlie Larkin, Luke Letter, Kenneth Luu, Paul Lynch, Aaron Morse, Jacob Nemchenok, James Parent, John Pazinokas, Stephanie Pazniokas, Ted Petingell, David Redding, Josh Richard, Joseph Stivaletta, Thom Sylvia, Christopher Thrasher, Kristopher Wilson, Erik Yankowski, and Brian Zakrajsek.

Also present: Masha Ksendzova, George Phillies

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Larkin.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and amended:

> Move: To schedule a meeting for Saturday, February 26th 2022 at 2:00 PM at The Electric Haze in Worcester.
>
> Move: To amend the motion to schedule a meeting for Saturday, February 26th 2022 at 10:00 AM at The Electric Haze in Worcester. PASSED [1] [2]

MOTION: PASSED as amended

> Discussed: Reasons to not adjourn without electing a State Committee

Upon motion duly made, seconded:

> MOVE: To appoint a Chair Pro Tem for the next meeting, with the authority to change venue or time of the meeting if needed.

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
Minutes of the Special Convention of February 12th, 2022

MOTION PASSED

Upon motion duly made, seconded:

Motion: To name Jason Brand as Chairman Pro tem by Acclamation

MOTION PASSED

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion to adjourn was presented and PASSED

Note: From the discussion, it was clear that the motion was to adjourn until the meeting of February 26th

ADJOUNED

A True Record

Attest:

Scott David Gray, Secretary
February 12th, 2022

1 From the discussion and proceedings, it is clear that the motion was made in order to continue the rest of the Special Convention business at the scheduled meeting.

2 Per the discussion, many reasons were given to postpone the business until an in-person meeting after two weeks; to permit face-to-face meetings with people who are interested in serving on an State Committee if a new one is elected, to leave time if the Affiliates manage to come to terms with the remaining rump State Committee, and to leave more time to gather more membership lists and addresses of Party Members to make credentialing easier.

A.15 Facsimile of New LAMA State Committee meeting on March 2, 2022

Minutes of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts state committee Meeting, from March 2nd, 2022.

The meeting was held electronically via ZOOM at 8:00 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022, as described in the call for the meeting sent to the committee members via direct email.

state committee members present: Jason Brand, David Burnham, Andrew Cordio, Thomas Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Daniel Garrity, Scott David Gray, Janel Holmes, and Charlie Larkin.

Also present: Mike Brigham, Patrick Douglas, Ann Reed, Kimberly Sullivan, Brian Zakrajsek

Called to order by Brodi Elwood

The following motions were duly made and seconded, and were debated on the floor:

Move: To elect Andrew Cordio Chairman. PASSED

Move: To elect Charlie Larkin Treasurer. PASSED

Move: To elect Scott Gray Recording Secretary. PASSED

Move: To elect Jason Brand Membership Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Janel Holmes Political Director. PASSED

Move: To elect David Burnham, operations Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Tom Eddlem Communications Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Brodi Elwood Technology Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Daniel Garrity Fund-raising Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Charlie Larkin Archivist. PASSED

Upon motion duly made and seconded

The minutes for the Special Convention of February 26th, 2022, were APPROVED.

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

Move: To accept the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Party as an affiliate of LAMA. PASSED

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

> Move: To create a Committee of the Whole, chaired by Jason Brand, with the authority to determine the location, date, and time for our regular convention. PASSED

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

> Move: That in light of the lack of due process or cause, we vacate the motion to expel Masha Ksendzova, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

> Move: To adopt the attached statement (appendix 1) as the position of the State Committee. PASSED

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

> Move: to authorize the Treasurer to make financial arrangements with banks and other institutions, as needed. PASSED

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

> Move: Schedule next meeting for March 16th 8:00 PM, PASSED

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion to adjourn was presented and PASSED

ADJOURNED

A True Record

Attest:

Scott David Gray, Secretary
March 2nd, 2022

APPENDIX I

Statement by State Committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

LAMA has a new interim State Committee, elected at the Special Convention of February 12th and 26th, 2022. The new committee will serve only a very short time -- only until the next regular convention in April, and the new State Committee is working to arrange that convention.

The interim State Committee will be faithful stewards until that convention. We expect to restore confidence that LAMA is a party for all in Massachusetts who love liberty; we expect to vacate the Code of Conduct passed by the last State Committee; we expect to plan a welcoming and unsegregated convention for the membership with entertaining speakers; we expect to present a real platform to be debated and amended by the members at the regular convention; and we expect to present motions to the membership for organizational changes that will clarify and modernize the Bylaws, and that make plain that LAMA is the members, while the State Committee is only there as a steward for those members.

We plan to plunge forward in support of liberty and in opposition to tyranny, with a focus on the COVID regime, the Military-Industrial-Surveillance Complex, the welfare state, corporate cronyism and the threat of rising currency inflation to the poor and middle classes.

We will continue to push forward the single issue coalitions that the affiliates have already started, such as Defend the Guard, opposition to mask and vax mandates, and other areas of crossover interest. We will use our shared goals on these issues to bring more Democrats, Republicans and independents into the party, getting them working on and excited about libertarian issues.

We ask the Libertarian National Committee members, individually and as spokespeople for the National party, to use their influence to smooth the transition of officers after considerable rancor preceding this last State Committee election. We also ask the Committee to share information that they have about present and past Libertarian Party membership in Massachusetts with us, so that it is easier to bring lapsed members back to the cause of liberty.

We want LAMA to be an actual force for liberty, not just a bumper sticker. If you do too, then this State Committee is here to work with you.

Andrew Cordio, Chairman
Charlie Larkin, Treasurer
Jason Brand
David Burnham
Thomas R. Eddlem
Brodi Elwood
Dan Garrity
Scott David Gray
Janel Holmes
Unanimously adopted March 2, 2022

A.16 Former LAMA State committee response to special state convention (from LAMA blog)

A

How We Got Here

posted by Derek Newhall | 402fp
March 06, 2022
Note: A version of this article was originally written for the LNC meeting scheduled Feb. 6, 2022 inquiring about the status of LAMA (the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts – the legally-recognized Massachusetts state affiliate for the Libertarian Party). Portions of it were also read at the LAMA meeting on Feb. 7, 2022. It has now been edited to remove details specific to that meeting and to add developments since then.

Some background: On Dec. 19, 2021, the LAMA State Committee was presented with a petition signed by some members to call a special convention with the purpose of electing a new State Committee. The petition was found to have no validity since its stated agenda went against the Party's constitution and bylaws. Statements have been made by former Chairwoman Ashley Shade and our Treasurer Cris Crawford which detail the reasoning behind the invalidity of the petition, so I will not address them here. Every member of the State Committee (that didn't sign the petition) agrees with the reasoning behind denying the petition.

A few weeks later on Jan. 10, 2022 the State Committee voted to expel all the members who signed the petition. Again, the statements by former Chairwoman Ashley Shade and Treasurer Cris Crawford cover the reasoning behind this action, but one of the most cited aspects of the decision is that the petition was organized by a controversial PAC calling themselves the "Mises Caucus" who has stated their goal is "taking over" the Libertarian Party.

An LNC meeting on Feb. 6 was organized to question LAMA and gather information about the petition and expulsion. A follow up meeting was scheduled for Feb. 13, 2022 but this never occurred. This document is an extension of an opening statement that was supposed to be delivered at that second meeting detailing the timeline of events that led up to the situations in question.

—-

I have been asked by some people as to how we got here to this series of events and how the Mises Caucus's actions brought this all about.

Near the beginning of September the Massachusetts Mises Caucus Twitter account got in an argument with the Libertarian Party of Texas Twitter account.

LP Texas said:

"The Confederates were evil actually".

The Massachusetts Mises Caucus account then argued against that statement over multiple tweets finally ending with:

"Were the lives of the slaves materially different after their freedom?"

The Massachusetts Mises Caucuses tweets about LP Texas went viral, and various LAMA state committee members were then tagged around social media asking, "what's up with Massachusetts?" Specifically, one of the few elected Libertarians in our state, Wade Hasty (Selectman from Williamstown), publicly called on the LAMA State Committee to address the MA Mises Caucus' tweets.

The LPMA account then tweeted a simple phrase we believe in wholeheartedly and consider it an important component of libertarianism:

"White supremacy and liberty are two unaligned ideologies."

The Massachusetts Mises Caucus Twitter account then responded to our simple statement of principle by using a blatant racial slur to describe the entire state committee.

"Let us clarify that we in no way want to enslave anybody. Especially not the rootless cosmopolitans in LP Massachusetts."

That phrase, "rootless cosmopolitans", for those who may be unfamiliar, is an anti-Jewish slur originating in the Soviet Union. Stalin's final reign of terror was explicitly "anti-cosmopolitan" and specifically targeted Jews.

The MA Mises Caucus then tweeted a picture of a person blowing a dog whistle with the caption "Us. Every day." admitting that their statements are a “dog whistle”: a statement designed to appear innocuous to some, but are specifically designed to be heard and understood by racists.

They then began a campaign where the Massachusetts Mises Caucus's Twitter actively engaged with every account who either responded approvingly to their tweets or negatively to our's condemning racism, telling them to join them and help take over the Libertarian Party.

All of this was shared and retweeted by a member of the state party with some extra inflammatory language added. When that member was confronted, she said she had no intention of stopping and would do it all again. A vote for her expulsion was proposed by a member of the State Committee and she was expelled from the party by a vote of 8-1 in favor.

A certain subset of membership wasn't happy that the State Committee booted a member, even one who was very publicly disruptive both on social media and in official LAMA meetings and channels. So one of the State Committee members proposed a code of conduct that would lay out the conditions by which a member could be expelled.

Well, turns out, they really didn't like that either. There were a few open state committee meetings where everyone gave their input, and after much deliberation, a vastly gutted code of conduct was passed instead of the original proposal.

Then a couple weeks later, the petition was submitted to the State Committee. This petition was a call for a convention with the intention of replacing the existing State Committee. The petition was found invalid by our then chair, Ashley Shade, as documented in her statement to the LNC. The short version is that State Committee members can only be elected at regularly scheduled conventions and since the agenda for the petition did not include an item for amending the constitution to allow a special convention to elect a new State Committee instead, it has no valid agenda and therefore is invalid as a whole.

The petition was clearly led by the Mises Caucus, for it was submitted to the State Committee by the people listed on the Mises Caucus website as being their state coordinators, and the first name of every page was a known member of this "caucus".

Some of the State Committee members thought that this was the final straw at trying to undermine the work we do, and so proposed a motion for all petitioners to be expelled from the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts and their dues refunded. This vote then passed by a vote of 6 yeses, 1 no, and 2 non-responses (presumably due to technical difficulties on the call).

That’s how we got here.

Now, for some clarifications to all that:

Do we believe everyone who signed the petition is a member/supporter of the Mises Caucus or a racist? Clearly not. From our phone interviews with some of them after the fact, some had no idea what was going on. Additionally, a couple of the signers are

people we have worked with in the past and respected and find it very regrettable they got caught up in this.

However, the argument presented before the State Committee was that even if the signers were ill-informed participants, they still engaged in an action specifically designed to harm the party through ejecting the State Committee so as to help the Massachusetts Mises Caucus recruit racists.

To put it in a shorter form:

Do I believe that every member of the Mises Caucus of Massachusetts is racist? I have no idea, but it's possible they are not.

Do I believe that members of the Mises Caucus of Massachusetts were using racism as a recruiting tool? Yes. Obviously, because there is clear public evidence of them doing so.

—-

Since all the above was written a few new developments have occurred.

On Feb. 7, 2022 the State Committee had a meeting with members where the most prominent agenda item was what to do going forward from all of this. A proposal resolution was given to us from the Worcester County local affiliate asking for negotiations between the petitioners and the LAMA State Committee. The discussion got heated at times, but at the end of it, the State Committee voted to endorse and approve the proposal and a neutral third party was proposed.

The State Committee then selected two members to lead our “delegation” for the negotiations. However, when our negotiators contacted them on Feb. 10, we were told that they have now rejected the proposal and will no longer talk to us.

This now brings everyone up to date.

—-

In summation, here is a short version of the above sequence of events

- The Mises Caucus was racist on Twitter
- A member was expelled for antagonizing the State Committee using Mises Caucus material
- A code of conduct was proposed to make the criteria for expulsion explicit
- In response, a Mises Caucus-organized petition was submitted to replace the State Committee
- The petition was ruled invalid and members who signed the petition were expelled
- A plan for potential reconciliation was later proposed and agreed to
- …and the petitioners then rejected it

All of the above is publicly verifiable with some effort. Additionally, the State Committee has screenshots and documentation of everything mentioned above.

We all hope this clears up what's been going on.

Do you like this post?

-

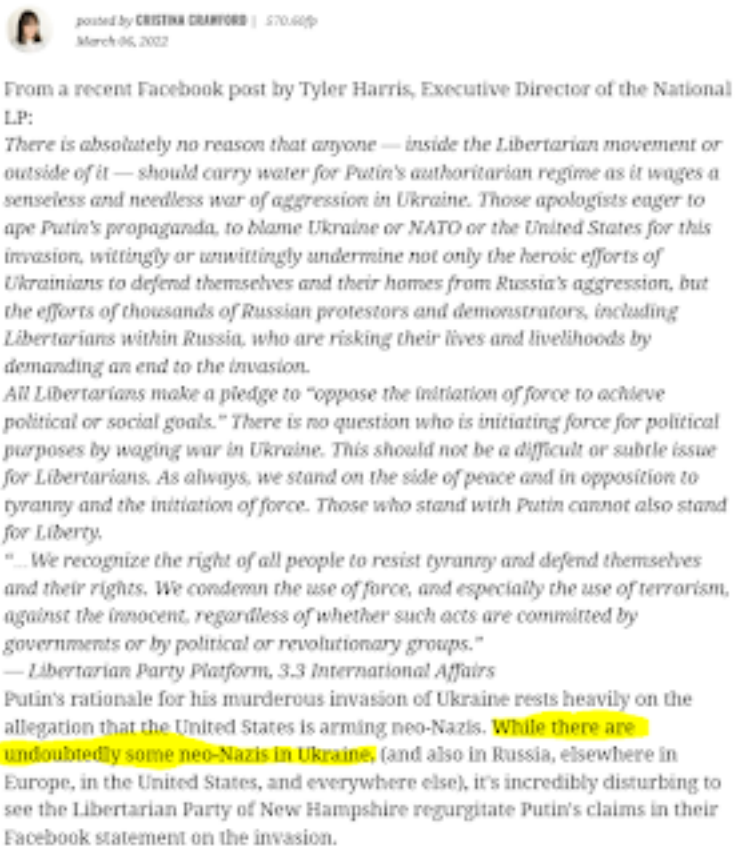
A.17 State committee response to blog post (from Thomas R. Eddlem's personal blog)

Pity for Derek Newhall

By Thomas R. Eddlem

You can't help but feel just a little bit of pity for Derek Newhall and the #DeathSpiral7 this weekend. It was only on Monday the former LAMA State Committee member Derek Newhall laid out in a blog post his exceptionally weak evidence that the Massachusetts "Mises Caucus was racist on Twitter."

Then, on Tuesday, fellow former LAMA State Committee member Cris Crawford followed it up with a blog post saying that "while there are undoubtedly some neo-Nazis in Ukraine," this should not be dispositive from the US supporting the Ukrainians.



posted by CRISTINA CRAWFORD | 570.60fp
March 06, 2022

From a recent Facebook post by Tyler Harris, Executive Director of the National LP:

There is absolutely no reason that anyone — inside the Libertarian movement or outside of it — should carry water for Putin's authoritarian regime as it wages a senseless and needless war of aggression in Ukraine. Those apologists eager to ape Putin's propaganda, to blame Ukraine or NATO or the United States for this invasion, wittingly or unwittingly undermine not only the heroic efforts of Ukrainians to defend themselves and their homes from Russia's aggression, but the efforts of thousands of Russian protestors and demonstrators, including Libertarians within Russia, who are risking their lives and livelihoods by demanding an end to the invasion.

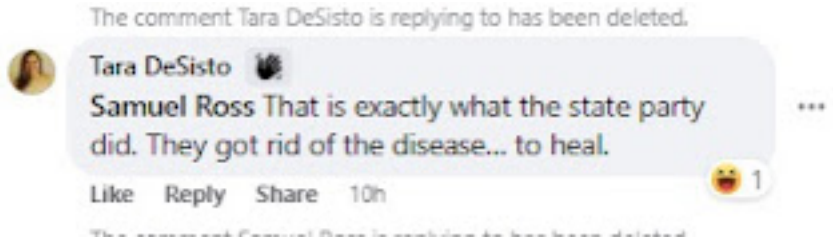
All Libertarians make a pledge to "oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals." There is no question who is initiating force for political purposes by waging war in Ukraine. This should not be a difficult or subtle issue for Libertarians. As always, we stand on the side of peace and in opposition to tyranny and the initiation of force. Those who stand with Putin cannot also stand for Liberty.

"...We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups."

— Libertarian Party Platform, 3.3 International Affairs

Putin's rationale for his murderous invasion of Ukraine rests heavily on the allegation that the United States is arming neo-Nazis. While there are undoubtedly some neo-Nazis in Ukraine, (and also in Russia, elsewhere in Europe, in the United States, and everywhere else), it's incredibly disturbing to see the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire regurgitate Putin's claims in their Facebook statement on the invasion.

And on Thursday, former State Committee member Tara DeSisto engaged in objectively de-humanizing Nazi terminology in a Facebook discussion, saying that "That is exactly what the state party did. They got rid of a disease." Dehumanization is the fourth of the ten stages of any genocide, as I know from teaching about the Holocaust.

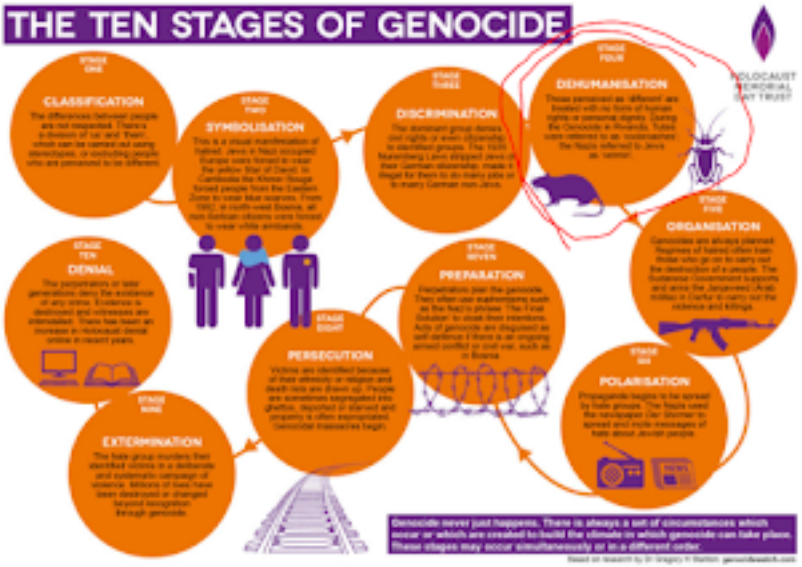


The comment Tara DeSisto is replying to has been deleted.

Tara DeSisto

Samuel Ross That is exactly what the state party did. They got rid of the disease... to heal.

Like Reply Share 10h 1



And finally on Friday, #DeathSpiral7 die-hard Jeremy Thompson (who goes by "Jeremy Francisco Chandler" on Facebook) deployed a well-known slur against African-Americans in a Facebook discussion (later uploaded to Twitter): "If you want the freedom to be a coon just say that."

It's almost as if the rest of the #DeathSpiral7 were deliberately trying to sabotage Newhall's blogpost. Keep in mind that these are the questionable posts from just the five days since Newhall posted his allegations against people he doesn't know on the LAMA blog.

The snarky part of me wants to quip "they are projecting," and then verbally inveigh with a kind of hushed tone that these three outbursts in favor of working with neo-Nazis, employing genocidal language and racial slurs against people of color constitute some kind of insight into their genuine mentality, only that it was a tone moderated by self-censorship to hide an even darker heart of racism.

The problem is, I don't really believe that narrative, even though I could make it credible to most people with a little literary flourish.

Which brings me back to Derek Newhall's claim about the Mises Caucus. Front-and-center in his case was a nearly year-old tweet by a Mises Caucus volunteer organizer who subsequently moved out of state and was not among the #Mass47 which the #DeathSpiral7 voted to expel from the party (He may still be a member in good-standing, for all I know):

> "Were the lives of the slaves materially different after their freedom?"

The above was a response to a discussion of the American civil war where the Massachusetts Mises Caucus member saw in the discussion an implication that the Union was blameless in slavery and ignored the failure of early reconstruction with the imposition of the "Black Codes" across the former confederacy, re-enslaving many black people through vagrancy and apprenticeship laws. Thousands of freedmen were being killed by new terrorist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan, White Knights and Red Shirts. Let's face it; Twitter is not properly designed to debate the finer points of the failure to bring justice to freedmen in the 1860s. The comment was not a defense of the confederacy (the person is an anarchist who opposes all government) nor of slavery, as he made clear in his subsequent tweet:

> "Let us clarify that we in no way want to enslave anybody. Especially not the rootless cosmopolitans in LP Massachusetts."

So Newhall pounced upon use of the phrase "rootless cosmopolitans" as deliberate employment of a nefarious anti-Semitic trope:

> "The Massachusetts Mises Caucus Twitter account then responded to our simple statement of principle by using a blatant racial slur to describe the entire state committee.... That phrase, "rootless cosmopolitans", for those who may be unfamiliar, is an anti-Jewish slur originating in the Soviet Union. Stalin's final reign of terror was explicitly "anti-cosmopolitan" and specifically targeted Jews."

I thought it silly to imply a millennial would be familiar with the minutiae of Stalin sloganeering in the early Cold War-era. That former Mises volunteer coincidentally he wrote an email message to me this week, and I asked him about his use of the phrase "rootless cosmopolitans." His response:

> "I came up with the term because I thought the two words accurately described them! Didn't know about the 1950s Soviet context in the original Russian."

In other words, there was another explanation other than the Mises Caucus caucus was employing a Stalinistic attack on Jews, and it was a totally innocent explanation.

Likewise, I think the goofy-missteps by the #DeathSpiral7 this week can be explained mostly by frustration: Cris Crawford's post was not explicitly about supporting the neo-Nazi Azov Battalion in Ukraine, but in opposition to aggressive war. Tara DeSisto's bumble was a result of unprofessional rage in the heat of a testy Facebook discussion. And while there's no excuse for Jeremy Thompson's employment of the term "coon" to describe another person, it was clearly written in a moment of millennial Twitter/Facebook rage and doesn't reveal any deep-seated racism against black people. (He is black himself, after all.)

The above illustrates why a leadership change was necessary, however. The truth is that the #DeathSpiral7 didn't know either the former Mises Caucus organizer who posted those tweets and as a result expelled 47 who didn't write it in reaction to their own misunderstanding. They engaged in reckless and false charges of racism at the very same week they made more credibly racist blunders. They decimated the ranks of the already moribund Libertarian Association of Massachusetts over a chimerical problem of racism within the membership.

And Derek Newhall mentions one of the reasons I agreed to help the petition process for a special state convention, after a protracted state committee discussion over kicking more people out of the party:

> "There were a few open state committee meetings where everyone gave their input, and after much deliberation, a vastly gutted code of conduct was passed instead of the original proposal."

I thought at the time (the December 2021 meeting), this is the third month in a row the state committee meeting was consumed by kicking members out without any discussion of bringing new members in. This is is not an organization positioning itself to grow and make a difference in the struggle for liberty.

Of course, Newhall didn't mention the fact that every single member who spoke on the code of conduct spoke in opposition to it. Nor did he mention that this same state committee voted down a code of conduct that would have given the state committee the power to mass expel members – just one month before they voted to mass-expel 47 members in a single vote and with no cause given (other than signing a petition for a special state convention). There's no provision in either the LAMA constitution or by-laws that empowers the state committee to mass expel members. But the #DeathSpiral7 have subsequently asserted that LAMA is not so much a political party but is instead a sort of private yacht club owned by a majority of state committee members to whom the rules don't apply.

Thus, it's not surprising Newhall didn't bother to cite any provision of the LAMA constitution or by-laws in the failed suppression of the special state convention, which require the state committee to organize a special state convention for any petition made by members. Moreover, the LAMA constitution explicitly prohibits the state committee from making any changes to the petitioned agenda.

The former state committee officers of LAMA unsuccessfully tried to enclose a circle with a quarter of the membership on the outside. The new state committee, elected at that special state convention February 26 draws a circle big enough to draw in everyone, and welcomes even those former state committee members who would have excluded us.

We have chosen inclusion over exclusion. The era of expulsions is over.

Thomas R. Eddlem is communications director and a member of the state committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

A.18 Libertarian Association of Massachusetts Governing Documents

A.18.1 LAMA Constitution

The Constitution of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

As amended at the 2010 Regular State Convention

Preamble, Name and Purpose
We, the Libertarians of Massachusetts, do hereby unite to form the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, in order to give voice to and implement the fundamental principle of libertarianism: that no person, group of people, or government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group of people, or government. We shall do this by supporting candidates for public office, publicizing the principles and goals of libertarianism, and taking any actions that the State Convention or the State Committee deem will further our aims. The Association, its Bylaws, and State Committee exist solely as a path for reaching the objectives of this preamble.

Article I: Membership
1. Members are all dues-paying members in Massachusetts, and all other persons who may so qualify under uniform rules of non-dues paying membership for which the State Committee may provide in its Bylaws.

Article II: State Convention
1. A Regular State Convention shall be held in every year.

2. Persons, who are Members of this Organization whose dues are current, and who joined the Organization at least 30 days prior to the date of the State Convention, are eligible to vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention. Persons who were dues-paying Members of the Organization, or Sustaining Members of the National Libertarian Party, within the past three years, including a period at least 90 days before the day of the State Convention, but whose Organization dues are not current, may join or rejoin this Organization at the State Convention by paying their yearly dues. They may then vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention.

3. The State Convention may endorse candidates for office or it may explicitly endorse running no candidate for an office. If it does so, the Organization will support those candidates to within the limits of State and Federal law and other demands on its resources, and will not support any competing candidates for the same office. In the absence of a State Convention endorsement, either for a candidate or for no candidate, the State Committee may support a candidate for that office, again within the limits of law and competition for resources.

4. The convention shall have the authority by two-thirds vote to adopt or amend a platform.

5. If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to

the state committee. In a single calendar year a state party member may not sign more than one petition requesting a special state convention.

The petition shall specify the agenda of the special state convention, and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but may not otherwise change the agenda. The quorum for a special state convention shall be 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership of the party. If one or more dues paying state party members mails or presents to the state committee a written request to assemble a petition requesting a special state convention, then, within 60 days, the state committee must inform the dues paying members of this request, and the names and contact information for the party members who made the request. Other relevant information may also be included. State party members must be informed about the petition by placing the information on the first page of the party newsletter, and prominently on any electronic media controlled by the state committee.

Article III: Candidates

1. The responsibility for meeting the legal requirements for ballot access rests with each candidate.

2. In the event State or Federal Law authorizes this Organization to place candidates on the ballot, whether to replace candidates, fill vacant ballot lines, or for whatever other reason, in the absence of contrary legal specification or directive of the State Convention, the State Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the Organization for this purpose.

Article IV: State Committee

1. Each Regular State Convention shall elect, as provided in the Bylaws, up to nine State Committee members.

2. Within 30 days of their election, the newly-elected State Committee shall meet and elect a Chair, a Treasurer, and such other officers as are specified in the Bylaws.

3. The State Committee shall elect officers to fill any vacancies. The State Committee may by majority vote appoint to itself additional members.

4. All members of the State Committee shall hold office until adjournment of the next State Convention at which their successors are chosen.

5. The State Committee may make rules for its proceedings, for the calling of State Conventions, and for the selection of Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention. Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention shall be chosen at the State Convention held immediately prior to that National Convention.

If elections for State Committee and Convention Delegates happen at the same State Convention, the State Committee is elected first. Persons who will be members of the State Committee at the time of the National Convention are entitled ex officio to be named as Delegates or Alternates, but must so request prior to the election of Delegates and Alternates. The State Convention or State Committee may promulgate Bylaws consistent with this Constitution to ensure a full delegation at the National Convention.

6. To be eligible to be elected as a Massachusetts Delegate to the National Convention, a person must, at the time of the National Convention, be:

a. A legal resident of Massachusetts, and

b. A Member in good standing of the Organization.

7. The State Committee shall have the authority to adopt or amend the Bylaws by a two-thirds vote, two weeks' notice and an opportunity to respond having been given.

8. To be elected or serve as a member or officer of the State Committee, a person must be a Member of the Organization whose dues are current.

9. Every member of the State Committee must make available their name, their office in the Organization if any, and a working way to contact them, in the Organization's newsletter and on the Organization's web site. This may be a physical mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, or some combination of these.

10. The State Committee may by two-thirds vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, for cause, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process. Expiration of membership in the Organization is cause, but payment of membership dues to renew membership, prior to the vote, constitutes an absolute defense.

Article V: Bylaws, Rules and Amendments
1. Bylaws to implement and clarify the authority and duties of persons and bodies authorized by this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a majority vote at a State Convention, or by a two-thirds vote of the State Committee. When each State Committee meets for the first time to organize, any Bylaws previously in force shall remain in force unless a two-thirds vote of the State Committee shall specify otherwise, provided that any amendments to the Bylaws shall be consistent with this Constitution and with actions at State Conventions.

2. Each body authorized by this Constitution may adopt rules for its proceedings.

3. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all persons eligible to vote and registered as attending the State Convention at which the vote is being taken, whether or not voting, provided that there is a quorum, if and only if the following conditions are met:

a. The amendment has been approved beforehand by the State Committee, or has been endorsed beforehand by the signatures of at least ten percent of the Members whose dues are current, which amendment and endorsement shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of the State Committee, and

b. A copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by mail to each Member of the Organization whose dues are current, postmarked at least two weeks prior to the date of the State Convention in which the amendment is to be considered.

A.18.2 LAMA Bylaws

BYLAWS

(As amended on December 8, 2018)

Preamble

The purpose of these bylaws is to provide the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts ("Organization") with an organizational structure that will:

1. Recruit candidates and help libertarians to run for office;

2. Organize and support local and topical libertarian groups;

3. Perform non-electoral political acts, e.g., referenda, lobbying, and litigation;

4. Recruit members, helping them to do politics;

5. Educate the public on libertarian political directions;

6. Create circumstances favorable to attaining the Organization's objective, by creating politically-effective legally-independent PACs, 527 organizations, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations;

7. Raise and spend money to do its work; and

8. Perform needed internal operations.

Article I. Membership

1. Eligibility for Membership

Members are all dues-paying persons in Massachusetts, and all non-dues paying Associate members.

2. Responsibilities of Members

Members are responsible for informing the Membership Director of address changes in a timely way.

3. Termination of Membership

All memberships expire on the last day of a calendar month.

The State Committee may for cause by 2/3 secret ballot vote of the entire State Committee expel a person from membership in the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts; an expelled person must receive a 2/3 secret ballot favorable vote from the State Committee to rejoin.

4. Memberships Generally

The State Committee may by majority vote set the dues for any category of membership.

5. Communications with Members

The Organization may from time to time send additional notices or items to some or all members. In doing so, it may use any transmission medium appropriate to the notice or item.

6. Interpretation of Article III section 3 of the Constitution

The Organization interprets the phrase "member of the National Libertarian Party, as defined by the Libertarian National Committee charter and bylaws," to mean that the person has signed the membership pledge of the National Party, in the form extant on the date of adoption of the Organization Constitution.

7. Affiliates

An Affiliate is a person who has provided the Organization with their name and email address, and who wishes to be recorded as an affiliate. Affiliates are sent such information and publications as the State Committee may choose. Affiliates are not Members.

Article II. State Convention

1. Annual Convention

The State Committee shall hold a state convention annually. The State Committee is responsible for scheduling, organizing, and publicizing the convention. It may delegate tasks to such persons as it chooses, but remains responsible for the State Convention's conduct.

2. Notice To Include Writing

At least thirty days before a State Convention is held, the State Committee will notify all Organization Members whose dues are current, of the date, location, and time of the State Convention and the next National Convention. This notification may be sent by whatever forms of communication are likely to reach all members, which shall include printed notification to each member.

3. Eligibility To Participate

Only persons who are Members of the Organization whose dues are current, and who joined the Organization at least one month prior to the date of the state convention, are eligible to vote or participate in the business meeting at the state convention. Persons who were: 1) dues-paying Members of the Organization within the past three years, but whose dues are not current, or 2) persons who are Sustaining Members of the National Party, and who were Sustaining Members of the National Party at least one month prior to the

state convention, may join or renew their Organization Membership at the state convention by paying their yearly dues. They may then participate in the business meeting at the State Convention.

4. Required Agenda

It shall be out of order to adjourn the State Convention (i) before the new State Committee is elected, and (ii) if the national Convention occurs prior to the next State Convention, before at least one delegate to the next National Convention is elected.

The State Convention agenda shall include at least fifteen minutes for presentation of Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. All amendments must be presented to the Corresponding Secretary, by paper or electronic mail, at least 14 days prior to the day of the State Convention, must be posted by the Secretary in a publicly-accessible LPMA-controlled electronic forum at least seven days before the day of the state convention, and must be seconded from the convention floor, before they may be considered. Amendments to amendments made from the convention floor must be germane.

5. Election of State Committee

To elect the new State Committee, the chair asks for nominations from the floor. Self nominations are allowed. Seconds are not required for nominations. Each nominee must accept nomination, or must have submitted to the Recording Secretary a written statement stating that their nomination will be accepted, before their nomination is valid. Nominations for persons ineligible to serve are invalid. When no more nominations are forthcoming from the floor, the Chair invites nominees to speak. Each nominee is allowed up to two minutes to speak. If a nominee is absent, they may designate a substitute to speak for them for up to two minutes. Persons eligible to vote are then given one hour to cast their votes. The Convention may recess or engage in other business during this time. If a recess is taken, the time counts toward the hour, but the convention must be back in session at least ten minutes prior to the close of voting. A ballot collector or collectors and location must be specified, and must remain supervised through the voting period. Votes for persons other than nominees are not valid.

6. Voting for State Committee

Each person present and eligible to vote at the State Convention may cast a ballot for electing State Committee members. The ballot will list the names, and a vote of YES, NO, or ABSTAIN for each nominee. If a particular candidate is not listed on a particular ballot, the vote is recorded as "ABSTAIN".

7. Procedure in Case of Failure to Elect

The nominees who receive the most votes, computed as number of YES votes are elected, up to a total of nine persons elected. If there is a tie, in such a way that not all persons in the tie can be elected without exceeding the size limit of the State Committee, a fresh vote is taken with only the persons in the tie placed on the ballot. The nominees who receive the most votes, computed as number of YES votes are again elected, up to a total of nine persons elected in both rounds of voting. If there is a further tie, in such a way that not all persons in the tie can be elected without exceeding the size limit of the State Committee, the persons in the tie are not elected.

8. Manner of Voting

Proxy votes are not allowed at the State Convention. However, a person who is in attendance at the State Convention, and who is eligible to vote, may cast a ballot for state committee at any time prior to the close of voting, even if nominations have not yet been completed.

9. Special State Conventions

a. Call by the State Committee

The State Committee may by two-thirds vote call a Special State Convention to resolve questions that in its judgement require a decision of the membership. The State Committee shall give thirty days notice to all members eligible to vote at the Special State Convention that there is a Special State Convention, including time and place. To be eligible to vote at a Special State Convention, a person must have been a member

in good standing of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts on the date of mailing of the call to the Special State Convention.

b. Agenda

The Agenda of the Special State Convention, including necessary Rules of Business, shall be transmitted by the State Committee to all members with the call to the convention. The Agenda may not be amended by the insertion of topics or issues not germane to the issues proposed in the original agenda.

Article III. Candidates

1. (CONVENTION 2008) Declaration of Independence

Resolved that the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts is a free and independent body, and as such, it reserves the right to accept or reject any candidate chosen by the Libertarian National Party, or other entity with which the LAMA chooses to affiliate; and if a nationally chosen candidate is rejected, to run no candidate, or such alternative candidate as it may choose.

2. (CONVENTION 2008) Candidate Prioritization

The State Committee shall prioritize running candidates for offices funded by the OCPF account over those funded by the FEC account.

Article IV. State Committee

1. Eligibility for State Committee

Eligibility to be elected or serve as a Member of the State Committee is governed by Article IV, section 8 of the Constitution.

2. Privileges of State Committee Members

Each Member of the State Committee has one vote on all motions before the State Committee. At the Chair's discretion, votes taken by the Members of the State Committee may be cast electronically through a method prescribed by the Technology Director that meets the following requirements:

a. Each Member of the State Committee shall be informed immediately upon the opening of voting for each vote taken.

b. Voting shall not be open for a duration longer than seven (7) days.

c. There shall be no mechanism by which a Member of the State Committee can alter their vote once it has been cast.

3. Responsibilities of State Committee Members

Each Member of the State Committee shall diligently work with all other Members to advance the interests of the Organization.

Each Member of the State Committee shall diligently seek to attend all State Committee meetings. A State Committee Member who misses three consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned from the State Committee.

Each Member of the State Committee shall disclose in writing to the full State Committee any and all conflicts of interest.

No Member of the State Committee shall endorse or support a candidate of another party in a Libertarian party primary, or in a partisan race in which a Libertarian Party member is a candidate. This Bylaw does not apply to the immediate family or significant others of State Committee Members. This Bylaw does not apply to State Committee Members supplying commercial services as part of and during the course of their usual and regular business.

4. Discipline of State Committee Members

Discipline of State Committee Members is governed by Article IV, section 10 of the Constitution.

5. (CONVENTION 2007) Platform Presentation

In presenting the platform to the public, the State Committee shall re-order the planks to group them by subject and present them with appropriate subject headings.

6. (CONVENTION 2009) Use of Party Name

The name change from Libertarian Party to Libertarian Association was made out of an abundance of caution regarding the State law that defines a "political party." The Organization shall continue to publicly use the name "Libertarian Party of Massachusetts."

7. Restrictions on manner and use of funds

a. Appropriation required

State Committee funds may only be spent after authorization by the State Committee. Authorizations are by majority vote of the Committee. Consistent with FEC and OCPF reporting standards, the State Committee shall maintain all financial records and reports on a cash basis.

b. Long-term obligations

To make a contract that persists more than three months beyond the next Regular State Convention, the State Committee must sequester enough money from its current Treasury to pay the full cost of the contract. The State Committee may not vote to sequester in total more than 15% of the State Committee's funds to pay contracts. While, as a result of changes in fund balances, more than 15% of the State Committee's funds are sequestered, the sequestered funds remain sequestered, but no additional funds may be sequestered. If money has been raised to pay for a project, and is sequestered to pay for that project, that money when sequestered does not count against the 15% limit.

c. Neutrality

State Committee funds and employees may not be used to support candidates for election to the State Committee.

d. Employment

State Committee Members may not be paid for their work for the State Committee. They may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses if the State Committee approves funds for the purpose.

e. Self-dealing

Firms owned by State Committee Members may do business with the State Committee, but the State Committee or its designees shall demonstrate to the Membership that the State Committee is paying no more than normal commercial rates.

8. Suspension

The State Committee may not vote to suspend the Bylaws.

9. Rules of Order

All State Committee Meetings are run under Francis and Francis Democratic Rules of Order as interpreted by the voting members of the Committee unless specifically otherwise provided. Application of the Rules of Order shall facilitate, not obstruct, the advance of business.

Article V. Bylaws, Rules, and Amendments

[This section intentionally left blank.]

Article VI. Delegates to National Convention

1. Eligibility

Eligibility of persons to be elected as delegates to a National Convention is governed by Article IV, section 6 of the Constitution.

2. Privileges of Delegates

A delegate may promise their vote for or against a candidate, but such promises are not enforceable except by the delegate's conscience.

3. Responsibilities of Delegates

No Region formation agreement involving Massachusetts may be approved by any person unless the exact agreement has already been approved by the State Committee or the National Convention Delegation; however the National Convention Delegation shall not form a region if a region including Massachusetts has already been formed.

State Committee approval or disapproval is by majority vote at a properly called State Committee meeting held in Massachusetts. National Convention Delegation approval requires an affirmative majority vote by an absolute majority of all persons appointed by the State Convention to serve as Massachusetts delegates, as described elsewhere in these Bylaws, and who are in attendance at the National Convention.

The Libertarian Association of Massachusetts henceforth deems any agreement purporting to bind Massachusetts but signed without voted approval to be invalid, as a violation of the party statement of principles, namely as a use of fraud for political purposes.

4. Discipline of Delegates

[This section intentionally left blank.]

5. Election at the State Convention

Delegates are nominated from the floor of the convention. Any person eligible to vote at the State Convention may make up to two nominations. Any person eligible to serve may rise and state that they volunteer to serve as a delegate; volunteering counts as a nomination. Nominations do not require seconds.

Before any votes are taken, each nominee may speak to, and be questioned by the delegates. The time allotted to each delegates for statements and questions shall be set be the chair, to be the same for all delegates and strictly enforced, but not to be less than one minute. After each nominee has spoken, nominations are declared closed. The time between which nominations are closed and ballots are accepted shall be at least two hours.

Election of National Convention delegates is made by approval voting. Each person in attendance at the State Convention and eligible to vote may cast votes for as many persons as Massachusetts is entitled to send delegates. The nominees who receive the most votes, up to the number of delegates that Massachusetts is entitled to send to the National Convention, are elected. No nominee shall be considered elected if they do not achieve 50% of the votes at the convention. Remaining nominees, up to a number equal to the number of delegates that Massachusetts is entitled to send to the National Convention, are elected as alternates.

If any part of the number of delegates that Massachusetts is entitled to send to the National Convention has not been computed by the National Libertarian Party prior to the State Convention, the Recording Secretary shall make the identical computation based on the most recent election or membership data available at least two weeks prior to the convention. Delegates will be chosen as stated in this section with the additional consideration that the official delegate seats will be filled first by the ex Officio state committee members and the delegate candidates with the highest vote totals, and the conditional delegate positions will be filled next by the candidates with the next highest vote totals. If the official delegation is less than the conditional delegation, the delegates that were elected with the lowest vote totals will have their status changed to

alternate, but they will have precedence over the other alternates for filling vacant delegate seats at the National Convention. In this case the number of alternates will be allowed to exceed the number of delegates.

The persons elected as Delegates or Alternates to the National Convention comprise the State Delegation.

Delegates and alternates shall be notified by the Chair via e-mail about their status and eligibility to attend the national LP convention, at least 30 days prior to the national LP convention and at any time that their status as delegate or alternate changes.

6. Election Following the State Convention

Between the close of the most recent State Convention and the National Convention, the State Committee may by majority vote elect additional delegates or alternates to the National Convention as needed to complete the delegation. Within one week before the National Convention, the State Delegation may meet at the convention site and by two-thirds vote elect additional delegates or alternates to the National Convention as needed to complete the delegation. In the event that the number of delegates and alternates at the National Convention exceeds the number of delegates to which Massachusetts is entitled, delegates and alternates elected at the state convention shall be seated before delegates and alternates elected by the state committee, with delegates elected by the State Delegation being seated only after all other delegates are seated. To be elected as a Massachusetts Delegate by the State Committee or by the State Delegation, a person must have been eligible to be elected by the State Convention as a delegate.

7. Seating Order of Delegates

a. Generally

In the event that more persons are present at the National Convention, wishing to be seated as delegates, than there are available seats, delegates shall be seated in the following order:

i. Current State Committee Members who exercised their right to be named as delegates ex-officio at the State Convention.

ii. All other persons elected as delegates at the State Convention.

iii. All persons elected as alternates at the State Convention.

iv. Other State Committee Members.

v. Any person elected as a delegate by the State Committee after the State Convention, but before the National Convention.

vi. Any person elected as an alternate by the State Committee after the State Convention, but before the National Convention.

vii. Any person elected as a delegate by the State Delegation at the National convention.

viii. Any person elected as an alternate by the State Delegation at the National convention.

b. Intra-class order

With each of the above classes of person, the order of seating shall be:

i. State Committee members-in order of total votes received for their own election.

ii. Persons elected by the convention-in order of total votes received.

iii. Persons elected by the State Committee or the State Delegation-in chronological order of election.

c. Remaining conflicts

Any conflict in seating remaining, after the above priorities have been applied, shall be resolved by the Chair of the State Delegation or their designee using a draw of playing cards or other agreeable method of random selection.

Article VII. State Committee Officers

1. Eligibility

Pursuant to Article IV, section 2 of the Constitution, the Officers of the State Committee are: the Chair, the Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, the Membership Director, the Political Director, the Operations Director, the Fundraising Director, the Communications Director, the Technology Director, and the Archivist.

Eligibility to be elected or serve as an Officer of the State Committee is governed by Article IV, section 8 of the Constitution. Officers are elected by majority vote of the voting Members of the State Committee.

Only Voting Members of the State Committee may serve as Chair, Political Director, Operations Director, Fundraising Director, or Treasurer. All other Offices may be held by any member of the Organization. Officers who are not Voting Members of the State Committee may speak in State Committee debates involving their areas of responsibility on the same basis as Voting members.

No person may concurrently serve as more than one of Political Director, Operations Director, or Treasurer. The Chair may not serve as Treasurer.

2. Privileges of Officers

Each Officer may form a committee of Organization members and other volunteers to help perform their duties, but the Officer remains entirely responsible for seeing that those duties are performed.

The primary signatory on Organization bank accounts shall be the Chair, or another State Committee member designated by the Chair and approved by majority vote of the State Committee. The Treasurer shall be a signatory, but shall not serve as primary signatory once the primary signatory has been legally established.

3. Responsibilities of Officers

a. Generally

No Officer may spend or commit the spending of Organization funds unless those funds first have been appropriated by the State Committee. The State Committee may appropriate contingency funds for an Officer or Officers, to be spent as the Officer or Officers specify, subject to State Committee rules on documentation of expenditures. The State Committee may authorize the payment of regularly recurring bills without separate appropriations.

Each Officer shall provide to the State Committee a monthly report summarizing the Officer's activities since the last such report and such other items as the State Committee deems relevant.

b. The Chair

i. presides at all State Committee meetings at which they are present, unless they recuse themselves;

ii. proposes the agenda for all State Committee meetings;

iii. is the honorary spokesperson for the Organization;

iv. assists and inspires LPMA Members and Chapters to work to achieve our political goals; and

v. is primary signatory on Organization bank accounts.

c. The Treasurer

i. maintains the Organization's financial records;

ii. manages the Organization's financial accounts and donation systems;

iii. files Federal, State and other financial reports as required by Federal or State law or regulation;

iv. is a co-signatory on Organization bank accounts;

v. serves as comptroller, ensuring that funds are received, spent, and reported in compliance with Law and Organization By-Laws and State Committee actions; and

vi. at each regular state convention, provides a financial report including income and expenditures for the immediately prior October 1 to September 30, and for any immediately prior year on which no report has yet been made.

d. The Recording Secretary

i. takes minutes of all State Committee meetings;

ii. circulates State Committee minutes to the Membership via the Organization Newsletter, web pages, and other means generally accessible to members; and

iii. maintains the electronic archival record of state committee minutes in a form and location generally accessible to members.

e. The Membership Director

i. maintains the membership and mailing list records of the Organization. Records include but are not limited to records of current and past members, people who contacted LPMA, donors, and volunteers, including names, addresses, other contact information, and volunteer tasks;

ii. attracts new members, seeks to improve the membership experience, responds to member questions and concerns, and notifies members that their memberships have or will expire; and

iii. supplies membership and other information, for the good of the Organization, consistent with State Committee policy.

f. The Political Director

i. oversees and supports candidate recruitment, candidate support, public education, and other political activities;

ii. presides at State Committee meetings if the Chair is absent; and

iii. performs the duties of Chair if the post is vacant.

g. The Operations Director

i. oversees and supports the non-political activities of the State Committee.

h. The Fundraising Director

i. conducts fundraising for the Organization.

i. The Communications Director

The Communications Director shall be in charge of official communications in print or electronic format from the LPMA, including the monthly Newsletter, Press Inquiries, and content represented on Social Media Platforms. The Communications Director shall have the ability to appoint deputies in the form of a Press Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Social Media Manager, and other assistants titled as necessary.

j. The Technology Director

i. maintains the Organization website and other electronic sites; and

ii. ensures that Organization electronic sites are appropriately owned or registered by the Organization, and that multiple officers have an archival record of electronic site passwords and other needful ownership data.

k. The Archivist

i. maintains a dated physical file of all State Committee minutes, mailings, and other documents, and associated audio and video recordings.

4. Discipline of Officers

The State Committee may remove an Officer from office by a simple majority vote.

5. Authorization to Create Subordinate Office

The State Committee and its Officers shall have the ability to create subordinate offices to facilitate organizational structure and tasking, to include deputies, assistants, and team leaders who shall be given appropriate title, assigned specific duties and accountable to a particular Officer of the State Committee or designee. These positions shall have only that authority which is specifically delegated to them by their supervising Officer, which shall not exceed the authority given to that Officer by the Constitution or By-Laws of the Association and shall not include representing that Officer in any capacity on the State Committee.

Article VIII. Sub-Affiliates

The bylaws of the National Libertarian Party state:

"No person, group or organization may use the name 'Libertarian Party' or any confusingly similar designation except the Party or an organization to which the Party grants affiliate party status or as otherwise provided in these bylaws. (Article V section 1)

"There shall be no more than one state-level affiliate party in any one state. Each state-level affiliate party shall, in accordance with its own Bylaws and these Bylaws, determine who shall be its delegates to all Regular Conventions. A state-level affiliate party may charter sub-affiliate parties within the state, which will entitle such sub-affiliates to use the name 'Libertarian Party.' " (Article V section 3)

1. Charter

The State Committee upon majority approval at a State Committee meeting may charter a sub-affiliate when 3 members of LAMA file bylaws with the State Committee. Bylaws shall not be inconsistent with LAMA bylaws, and members shall qualify as members of LAMA according to Article IX, section 1 of the LAMA bylaws.

2. Membership

All subsequent members of a sub-affiliate who qualify for membership in LAMA according to LAMA requirements shall be deemed members of LAMA unless they opt out.

3. Revocation

The State Committee may revoke the charter of a sub-affiliate for cause by 3/4 vote of State Committee members at a State Committee meeting.

Article IX. Statutory Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

1. Applicability

Article IX applies only when the Libertarian Party has recognized status as a "political party" according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

2. Initial Statutory Party

When political party status is first obtained, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts authorizes only the LAMA State Committee to form a political party organization. At that time, the State Committee of LAMA shall form a "political committee" called the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts (LPMA) having bylaws in accordance with state law, the LAMA Constitution and Bylaws, and the National Party Bylaws. The State Committee of LAMA shall be the initial State Committee of LPMA.

3. Bylaws

LPMA shall submit its bylaws to the LAMA State Committee and be chartered as a sub-affiliate as specified in Article VIII.

4. Loss of Party Status

Upon loss of recognized status as a "political party," the charter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts shall be revoked automatically.

Standing Rules

1. Membership Dues

In setting dues for each category of membership, the State Committee shall regularly confirm that the amount paid more than covers the marginal cost of the membership.

2. Resolutions

Members may propose non-binding resolutions to the State Committee. Approval requires 2/3rd of committee members. Members may propose non-binding resolutions at State Convention. Approval requires 2/3rd of voting members.