

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Date: May 3, 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 members comprising at least 1% of the national Libertarian Party's Sustaining Members as allowed 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

The Libertarian National Committee

Relief Requested: That the LNC hear and decide on the matter of the Resolution submitted by Rich Bowen and co-sponsored by Susan Hogarth, Ken Moellman, Steven Nekhaila, Joshua Smith, and Erik Raudsep as put forth below and supported by the **Notice of Filing Exhibit 1** which was filed separately and can found here: <https://tinyurl.com/MA-Exhibit-1-Timeline>.

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

Amicus Brief of Brodi Elwood in Support of Cordio and Membership Appeal

To the Judicial Committee:

I would like to add some perspective on reconciliation efforts between the more inclusive LAMA and the former State Committee that attempted to usurp the organization for political gain.

On the matter of the most recent chance of reconciliation over the April 23rd and April 24th conventions, the legitimate LAMA made every attempt to disseminate notice. Further, the interim SC did not charge anyone to attend business that day, as is the precedent in LAMA. In addition, through now-chairman Don Graham and by other means, it was made clear to leaders in the other organization that the legitimate LAMA accepts the full LAMA membership, not just some politically favored subset.

Contrast this open stance with what transpired at the other LAMA's convention: dossiers were distributed with the intention of defaming the allegedly expelled members, mostly by affiliation, by framing certain social media posts as indicative of personal character or merit. Rather than trying to defend their actions on a legal or ethical basis, the dossier writers and former SC attempted blatant character assassination. Most of the included social media posts are from satirical accounts which have no known relation to persons in MA or are taken completely out of context. Furthermore, of the people who are affiliated with LAMA and had posts included in the dossier, none were present. I do not know who compiled or distributed the dossier, but the fact that it was passed around and discussed without pushback from the former State Committee is indicative of the type of exclusionary behavior that has permeated so-called reconciliation discussions originating from the former State Committee.

Unfortunately, the members of the former state committee had previously resorted to character assassination. I will point you to the Timeline document (Exhibit 1) where Worcester LP's representative and South Shore LP's proxy attended a Feb 7 meeting of the former SC to negotiate. During this meeting, members of the former SC impugned motives and defamed the representative for her simply coming to the defense of the allegedly expelled members. The abuse was so severe that the Worcester LP swiftly resolved to end negotiations. Moreover, Pat Ford, in his capacity as the Region 8 Alternate, attempted to attend that same meeting in order to further negotiations, but was not permitted in the meeting.

I have also attached the notice sent out to members of the other LAMA before the Feb meeting. Of special note is that this was only sent to the membership; no invitation was extended to the allegedly expelled members, denying them the opportunity to counter the baseless accusations thrown out in that self-same email.

Yet again, amid what Ms. Desisto has called "reconciliation," the other LAMA publishes a blog post containing fantastical tales of a particularly undesirable underclass of libertarian, prowling the nation "subverting" state parties to their whim. The blog post can be found, posted on March 22nd and archived on March 23rd, [here](#). As of this writing it remains on the former LAMA's website. I will point out a rather troublesome section of that post:

"The Mises Caucus has **conducted acts of subversion** on state party committees of the Libertarian party by voting long-serving party members out to leave seats vacant and nullify candidates in an attempt to ward off ballot access. The assumption is that this may be a coordinated attack to keep Libertarians off the ballot as retaliation for the 1.2% of votes that went to the party's candidate Jo Jorgensen. There is an assumption that these votes could have been the difference maker **to help President Trump in the 2020 elections**. This assault is an attempt to assure the party will not be a spoiler again.

After watching the **events that hijacked and upended the candidates and committees** in the states of Colorado, Nevada, California, and Pennsylvania; Kevin Reed is deciding to work with the party and **build a defensive wall by busing in delegates** to participate in the state convention. Alongside making contact with registered Libertarians in the state, he has green-lighted a campaign documentary." (emphasis mine)

This statement, coupled with Ms. Crawford's stated purpose for the expulsion at the January LNC meeting (also mentioned in Ms. Harlo's amicus), demonstrates severe prejudice towards a particularly politically undesirable subset of the membership. While the former SC may have readmitted a few members, they certainly would not have readmitted the bulk of them, and this sentiment pervaded negotiations. During reconciliation efforts I was firm that the purge itself should be identified plainly: an extreme violation of member rights in order to ensure a particular political outcome. Any possible reconciliation had to involve the complete reversal of all action taken on January 10th. After a complete restoration, the expelled, as full members of the organization, could debate internal political differences in hopes of coming to a productive resolution.

For the some of the above reasons, I personally decided not to attend the April 23rd convention to receive more abuse at the hands of so-called leadership. Why would I pay to attend the convention of an organization where leadership removed me in a wholly illegitimate manner, just for the privilege to come to my own defense and possibly beg to receive reinstatement? I am not alone in sensing the overall sentiment of exclusion fomented by the former SC.

Lastly, I also mentioned in the hearing that a member, who is a lifetime member of national and an active member of the Libertarian Party of Middlesex, had a single phone call with Ms. Desisto. Without receiving positive affirmation that this member wanted to be "reinstated" by the illegitimate board, Ms. DeSisto motioned to have him reinstated, and proudly touted on social media how open and successful negotiations had been. I am sure she was unaware he had been elected to the interim LAMA board on Feb 26th.

In short, reinstatement to the former State Committee amounted to accepting their illegitimate meeting and expulsions, as well as accepting only their terms for reinstatement. However, true reconciliation would have been undoing their illegal acts on January 10th and opening discourse amongst the aggrieved.

To conclude, I reiterate the urgency of this matter. We have been waiting for a resolution to this conflict for nearly four months. Unfortunately, MA does not have a JC. As all negotiations have deteriorated and the LNC has refused to even consider our case, we are forced to turn to an appellate body. I appreciate your time in considering this matter, and truly hope we in MA can return fully to fighting the State in the near future.

Take Human Action,
Brodi Elwood

Chair, LP Middlesex
Tech Director, LAMA

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts Meeting this Monday 2/7

The State Committee is having an open meeting for all Libertarian Association of Massachusetts members this coming Monday, Feb. 7 at 8:00 PM.

We know this is somewhat sudden, but our usually scheduled monthly meeting falls on Valentine's Day and so to promote engagement and feedback from our members, we've moved the date to next Monday, Feb. 7th.

As many of you know, the State Committee expelled some members at the end of last year. This was in response to a petition attempt to remove the State Committee organized by an external PAC hoping to "takeover" the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts' resources. This group constantly engaged in actions and behavior that certainly crossed—or at least skirted—the lines of harassment and racism.

However, not everyone who signed this petition were members of this group. Some people think the Committee's action was overbroad or unfair to these members; some people worry about what this means for Party growth; and some people just want to know what all this is about.

And so, we are inviting all members of LAMA to give us their thoughts on the matter, listen to the differing viewpoints, and listen to some proposals for reconciliation.

To register for the meeting, please sign up here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkd-CpqTloEtzB4DKw3NKErtSQ4mx1o902>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

LAMA 2022 State Convention

https://www.lpmass.org/convention_2022

Early bird registration is now open for the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts yearly convention! This year it is happening April 23, 2022 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM EDT at the Sheraton Framingham.

We have a stellar lineup of speakers and are continuing to add as many as we are able to pack into a full day of talks, workshops, and fine catering. After opening the convention with a keynote speaker, the official convention business will be scheduled for the morning. After lunch an impressive array of speakers and workshops will be available for members and non-members both.

Please consider becoming a sponsor. Bronze (\$250), Silver (\$500), Gold (\$1250) and Platinum (\$2500) sponsors help us compensate our great speakers, and they come with benefits. All sponsorships include the price of a full convention package. All sponsors have reserved seating at the banquet, and Silver, Gold and Platinum sponsors are invited to a VIP cocktail reception. Gold sponsors can bring two guests, and Platinum sponsors can fill an entire table for eight - a great way to sponsor students and activists! Sponsorships are available for purchase on the Eventbrite ticketing site here:

**Convention
Registration**

We hope to see you at the meeting and the convention!

Editor

<http://www.lpmass.org/>