

Executive Committee Teleconference
May 1, 2013

Status: Approved June 26, 2014

Mr. Neale called the meeting to order at 8:37 PM (all times Eastern Daylight Time).

Executive Committee members in attendance: Geoff Neale (chair), Lee Wrights (vice-chair), David Blau (secretary), Bill Redpath (at-large), Dan Wiener (Region 4), Jim Lark (Region 5S).

Tim Hagan (treasurer) joined the call following the call to order.

Other LNC members in attendance: Mark Hinkle (at-large), Norm Olsen (Region 1), Vicki Kirkland (Region 2), Brett Pojunis (Region 4), Audrey Capozzi (Region 4 alternate), Gary Johnson (Region 7), Paul Frankel (Region 7 alternate). Non-LNC members listening: Carla Howell (LP executive director), David Colborne (NV), Debra Dedmon (NV), Phil Dinoto (NV), Evan McMahan (IN), Larry Nicholas (WA chair), Michael Pickens (WA).

The meeting was called to discuss the following four topics:

1. Does staff have the authority to decide our branding strategy?
2. Trademark issues with LibertarianPartyNews.com
3. The recent Washington bylaws amendment regarding endorsement of non-Libertarians
4. The situation in Nevada

Without objection, Mr. Neale began the meeting with agenda item #2. He read Article 6, Section 1 from the Bylaws (concerning use of the name "Libertarian Party"). He indicated that he wanted to engage counsel to enforce actively our trademark rights. He then asked for any objections or comments from the rest of the EC. No EC member made any comment or objection.

Mr. Neale moved to agenda item #3. He read Article 6, Section 4 from the LP Bylaws (concerning affiliate party endorsement of non-Libertarians). He expressed his opinion that an affiliate merely passing a bylaws amendment permitting an act contrary to the national bylaws itself does not rise to the level of a violation; only the act itself is a violation. At this time, Mr. Hagan joined the call. Mr. Wiener asked whether "Top Two" in Washington allows for any kind of party endorsement at all. Mr. Neale stated that he did not know, and he asked Mr. Olsen to work with Mr. Nicholas to prepare a written report. Without objection, Mr. Nicholas was recognized to provide an explanation of the Washington state bylaws amendment and party registration laws in the state, with the understanding that this would not take the place of the written report. The EC took no formal action on this item.

Mr. Neale moved to agenda item #4. He mentioned the petition that has been sent to the LNC by members in Nevada, and stated that he has no intent to act on it without involving the entire LNC. He noted that Robert Kraus ran a query against our financial database and found that no money had been forwarded from the LP of Nevada in the last year, while their financial statements show they have forwarded money. Mr. Neale proposed to ask Joseph Silvestri (Nevada chair) for a list of names of members whose dues have been forwarded; no EC member objected. He then stated that the LNC has no authority to intercede in affiliate affairs, although LNC members may attend an upcoming convention if it is open to the public. The EC took no formal action on this item.

Mr. Neale returned to agenda item #1. After discussion, it was agreed that staff should have policy guidance from the entire LNC regarding branding. In the absence of such a policy, Mr. Neale will issue an executive order directing the ED not to make branding changes without prior clearance. The details of the executive order will be committed to writing. The EC took no formal action on this item.

At 9:35 PM, Mr. Neale asked the non-LNC members to leave the call; they did so. Mr. Blau consulted the teleconferencing software and named aloud the 14 LNC members who remained on the call. Mr. Neale asked for permission to discuss a confidential topic that would be considered in executive session if the call were an in-person LNC meeting; there was no objection.

The confidential discussion ended at 10:46 PM. No action was taken as a result. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 PM.