

# IT COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2014

Committee work has been slow this past quarter with some members focused on elections and other outside commitments requiring time away.

We did meet last week via conference software. Alicia made herself available to run the Adobe Connect software. It has the necessary features to run a meeting, including conducting votes and sharing documents. Overall the system ran smoothly and is much better than a straight voice conference for an actual meeting or to review a proposal or look at a spreadsheet.

We have not named a replacement for Laura Delhomme. She was focused on the website, so we may pick her replacement based on that need once the LNC has decided on a direction for LP.org. Sam and Rich will send out inquiries to a subset of our applicant pool by year end.

Drew Hutton summarized his evaluations of free/cheap project collaboration and project management software. He found that with free you usually get what you pay for, and some free tools don't scale up so well. Rich provided some criteria for typical LP/LNC use cases and needs to narrow down the list. They had come up with some of the same tools in early evaluations.

An open question is what tools are used to track ballot access and petition drives? We are looking at 20+ states with petition drives in 2016 and that could mean managing 100+ petitioners, so it would be good to know how we can do that effectively so nothing gets missed. We recommend a repository filled with all the info Bill Redpath and others have accumulated so it doesn't get lost.

**The IT budget request:** The latest proposed budget has \$25,000 allocated across two categories. We don't have a specific packages to recommend as yet, but the main items we'd be looking to spend on are a website upgrade/redesign, the shared database project, and upgrades and/or new modules for Raiser's Edge. These seem to be the highest priority and have the most prep work done. The next set would be licensing for new tools and software such as Adobe Connect and some project management software. Those shouldn't be pricey per utility, usually <\$500 each. We will continue looking at more opportunities for savings in our back office and IT operations.

Sam will ask Wes Benedict for details on the Raiser's Edge add-ons we can get along with pricing. We may meet with him before the LNC meeting to go over them.

**LP.org:** The LNC will have a working lunch to discuss changes to LP.org. To date there have been a number of complaints but not much in the way of specific fixes. We need a serious discussion of the needs and purpose of LP.org before we commit to an RFP. Rich will take point on that discussion, focusing on requirements, usability, audience and transactions.

We're most likely looking at a front-end revamp rather than much with the back-end, though that may change if we decide new modules or integration with Raiser's Edge are needed and possible. The RFP will go out to party members and outside firms once we have a sense of what the LNC wants and settles on how the website fits into the party's strategic goals and growth plans. This should not be anywhere near as expensive as prior bids the LNC has gotten. There is a way to integrate CiviCRM with RE, but it may lock in the versions used for a while, so it should be done after any updates are completed. The consultant LPTexas used said they'd done it.