



## *LNC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*

### *CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES*

*JUNE 17, 2015*

DISTRIBUTION DATE: JUNE 19, 2015

CURRENT STATUS: **CANDIDATE FOR AUTO-APPROVAL**

#### *CALL TO ORDER*

Nick Sarwark called the meeting to order at 9:07 p.m. Eastern.

#### *ATTENDANCE*

Executive Committee members participating were: Nick Sarwark (Chair), Alicia Mattson (Secretary), Tim Hagan (Treasurer), Sam Goldstein (At-Large), Jim Lark (Region 5), Bill Redpath (At-Large). Arvin Vohra (Vice-Chair) joined the call at 9:23 p.m.

Other LNC participants were: Gary Johnson (At-Large), Joshua Katz (Region 8 Alternate)

Staff participants were: Wes Benedict (Executive Director), Carla Howell (Political Director)

#### *PURPOSE*

The meeting was called for the purposes of discussing (a) joining another lawsuit against the Commission on Presidential Debates, and (b) supporting the Oklahoma Libertarian Party ballot access petition drive.

#### *LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD LAWSUIT*

Mr. Sarwark had forwarded to the Executive Committee documents regarding the potential Level the Playing Field lawsuit against the Federal Election Commission (FEC) for its failure to respond to a rule-making petition submitted by Level the Playing Field, and against the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) for violations of FEC rules due to their partisan standards for debate participation. Peter Ackerman is funding the lawsuit in its entirety, and there will be no cost to the LNC to join as a co-plaintiff. The Green Party has already joined as a co-plaintiff.

The specific debate participation rule sought by Level the Playing Field as a remedy to the complaint would negatively impact the Libertarian Party presidential ticket if actually enacted. However, it has been made very clear that the Green Party and the Libertarian Party would have the right to argue for different remedies to the

same complaint. Level the Playing Field needed either the Libertarians or the Greens as plaintiffs to improve standing for the suit. Since the Green Party has joined as a plaintiff, Libertarian Party participation brings no additional legal benefit. This suit is similar to the Our America Initiative lawsuit for which the LNC is already a co-plaintiff, but the grounds for this suit are very different.

Following discussion, Mr. Redpath moved that the LNC join as co-plaintiff the lawsuit to be filed by Mr. Ackerman and Level the Playing Field against the FEC and the CPD.

The vote on the main motion was as follows:

Voting "aye": Goldstein, Redpath, Sarwark, Vohra

Voting "no": Hagan, Mattson

Abstaining: Lark

The motion passed with a vote total of 4-2.

## *OKLAHOMA BALLOT ACCESS*

The Oklahoma legislature recently improved the state's ballot access rules somewhat. Specifically, the number of valid signatures needed to qualify as a new party for 2016 is less than 25,000, thus providing the opportunity to achieve party-label ballot access there for our 2016 presidential ticket.

Mr. Redpath and Mr. Sarwark have spoken with the Oklahoma affiliate leadership about their ability to start, coordinate, and fund a ballot access petition drive. The affiliate's Executive Committee has no funds to put toward such an effort at this time. Each LPOK Executive Committee member has committed to 500 signatures (either gathered or paid for). In addition, the LPOK will work with the Green Party where appropriate. Mr. Redpath estimates that a successful ballot access drive will cost \$65,000. Richard Winger has offered to contribute or raise \$30,000 for the drive, which must be completed by March 2016. Mr. Redpath is willing to contribute \$1,000 as well.

The LNC Executive Committee cannot authorize this expenditure on its own, as it is not part of what has been previously budgeted for ballot access this year. There was general discussion regarding designing an email ballot for the full LNC which would ask them to authorize a petition drive in Oklahoma only if the LNC raises \$30,000 to match Mr. Winger's pledge.

Following discussion, there was no objection to attempting to raise funds for an Oklahoma petition drive, contingent on LNC approval.

## *ADJOURNMENT*

The meeting adjourned without objection at 10:10 p.m. Eastern.