**Maricopa County Libertarian Party – Minutes of February 13, 2023 Meeting**

*The Maricopa County Libertarian Party met via Zoom on Monday, February 13, 2023. Eight members were present including all Officers. The following topics were discussed:*

1. **Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda:**

The meeting was called to Order at 7:05 p.m. The Agenda was adopted without revision.

Although time was reserved for public comment, no comments were presented.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Ryan Simon presented the Treasurer’s Report.

$153.41 was received in donations by PayPal.

The previous month-ending balance was $3,220.00; January’s month-ending balance was $3,762.52.

A new bank account was opened at Desert Financial; $500.00 was left in the preexisting Wells Fargo account until such time as the Board instructs the Treasurer to close it. The process is underway to replace PayPal with Stripe and to adjust particulars in the CRM so that donations process directly.

Discussion was held concerning the decision to leave the Wells Fargo account open pending a review of the account history for anomalies. R. Simon and E. Goldberg agreed that the prior years’ statements would be downloaded into a dropbox (or similar share file) and E. Goldberg will review them and commemorate findings in writing.

(n.b. Discussion was held concerning the vote at January’s meeting to use Arizona Financial; the Treasurer clarified that Arizona Financial had informed us that they did not wish to hold accounts belonging to political parties).

1. **Secretary’s Report**

Secretary E. Goldberg presented the minutes of the January 11 meeting, which were adopted by acclamation).

1. **Chair’s Report**

Chairman Brandon Slayton presented the Chair’s Report:

1. **Election-Related Legislation:**

Two bills presently in the legislature related election transparency.

SB 1324 passed today; HB 2560 passed on Thursday.

These relate more to how elections work, than to the root causes of why the public does not trust the election process.

Arizona’s elections are fairly transparent; Arizona has a robust and complex system. 90% of voters choose to vote early – convenience, time, other reasons; there are pros and cons to this.

Public verification is what is needed. People don’t have trust in government or ability to verify votes. The only way to prove that there is no ‘fraction magic’ programming or algorithmic adjustment of totals is through robust audits.

John Brakey [election integrity activist] appointed by MCLP as an observer suggests that public verification means that ballot images should be available. Optical scanners create an image of the ballot, in past years the images are deleted; Brakey has sued alleging that the data that is recorded is a public document (and should be preserved). The maintained data could then be obtained/accessed through a public records request. (Certain counties in Colorado currently do this).

Although the importance in privacy in casting a ballot is recognized, the counting of ballots needs to be public, to prove to the losers who won.

As of now there is multiparty support for these bills; Brandon supports; Brakey supports; Ken Bennett, former Secretary of State (and now legislator); Adrian Fontes (current Secretary of State), and Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richter. Passage of the bills will likely ‘bring down the temperature’ of the election fever in making it more ascertainable that the vote is what counties and the state say that it is.

Certain scenarios may be difficult to weave into the fully imaged ballot cache (the braille ballot printed for a blind person, for example). Tripartisan support – including ours – carries on the election integrity fight (that the party has been involved in for years).

The 2nd Vice Chair noted that we will keep close track of these (and whether they go to a vote or go to committee, and that communications will be posted as relevant; no one wants to see these get vetoed.

The Chair introduced the topic of MCLP email accounts for Board members:

1. **1st Vice Chair’s Report**

The 1st vice Chair presented a spreadsheet chronicling prices and services for several email hositing options, including NameCheap, ZohoMail, and others.

He asked members to consider the relative importance (or not) of file storage, limitation on box numbers, limitation on aliases, collaboration features. Discussion was held concerning changing providers; it is doable if done at a time that avoids issues. Name Cheap (the current webhosting company) does not offer bundle savings for email given that the website is hosted through them.

The 1st Vice Chair clarified that email blasting for information purposes is done through Amazon web services and MailChimp; the email hosting service does not affect this.

Discussion was held; The Treasurer stated his preference to use Zoho for cost savings, and reevaluate later.

**A Motion was made (R. Simon) and seconded (E. Goldberg) to appropriate $160 to contract email boxes and hosting with Zoho for MCLP for the next year.**  A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

1. **2nd Vice Chair’s Report**

2nd Vice Chair Brock Wilson has been monitoring the FB group. He wants it to be more visible, has been deliberate about posting content more often, at times he posts to it several times a day. Group membership has gone up from 865 to 887; our page has almost as many members as LA County LP’s page; he has been tagging the State party’s page and tagging the Governor (to bug her!). He wants to see use use the page for calls to action, notifications, and similar. He believes people will feel more engaged and more posting/sharing information if the group is private and vetted.

**A motion was made (B. Wilson) and seconded ( ) to take the group private.**

Discussion was held; trolls/bad faith actors can be kept out if the group is private.

**A vote was taken; the motion passed.**

1. **Chair’s Report (resumed) – Goal Setting Meeting**

The Chair reintroduced the topic of a goal setting meeting to outline plans and budget, for the sake of maximizing effectiveness in this cycle.

Discussion was held concerning location and date. Originally the notion had been to hold the meeting following the 2A Rally on February 18, but several members were unable to make it to that meeting.

Sunday, February 26 at the Main Ingredient restaurant at noon was chosen as a better date.

1. **Old Business**

An update concerning the Stripe donation interface was given. National is not finished with some of its data migration/data handling.

The 2A Rally is upcoming on Saturday. As of last week the booth is well staffed. Dave Thomas is bringing the pop-up tent from Tucson. Brandon will create a flyer on 3-d printing. Eric will create a QR code to scan for additional information. Prizes for a raffle were not donated, so a raffle is not likely. There will be T-shirts available and other giveaways.

1. **New Business**

The topics of an MCLP 800 telephone number, and MCLP’s mailbox, were raised. The telephone number may piggyback on the state party’s telephone account (for now) – but not having one is creating missed opportunities. The issue of the UPS store mailbox was discussed. The Secretary agreed she would extend the rental on the box one additional month for decisions to be made.

1. **Conclusion**

A motion to adjourn was made (R. Simon) and seconded (B. Wilson) and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

***Emily S. Goldberg. Secretary***