**Maricopa County Libertarian Party – Minutes of September 28, 2022 Meeting**

*The Maricopa County Libertarian Party met via Zoom on Wednesday, September 28, 2022. Fifteen members, including the Chair, First Vice Chair, and Secretary were present. The following topics were discussed:*

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

The meeting was called to Order at 7:03 p.m. A motion was made (C. Ullery) to adopt the Agenda. The Agenda was adopted without revision.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Chair Brandon Slayton noted that the bank balance should be the same as was featured

at the August meeting, and that he would provide additional details concerning the treasury at his own report. (The attached August balance sheet reflects a month beginning balance of $5,882.07, with $1,258.76 spent at stamps.com related to the primary election postcard mailing, for a month end balance of $5,142.47).

1. **Secretary’s Report**

Secretary E. Goldberg presented the Secretary’s Reports of the August 10, 2022 monthly meeting, the August 18 electronic vote for postcard appropriation, and September 2, 2022 special meeting. The August 10, 2022 report was adopted with one redlined revision as reflected. The August 18, 2022 and September 2, 2022 minutes were adopted without revision.

1. **Chair’s Report**

Chair Brandon Slayton presented the Chair’s report:

1. **Treasurer Vacancy (Recap of September 2, 2022 Special Meeting, and related)**

In that the special meeting held September 2, 2022 was Board members only, Chair

Brandon Slayton information reviewed at that meeting for the body (which included several PCs, having been announced as a county meeting).

 That information included that:

* In July, 2022, Robert Allen Pepiton resigned as the state party’s Treasurer

(but remained MCLP’s Treasurer of record).

* His resignation was preceded by a year and a half of resistance to placing

the Asst. Treasurer on the bank account as provided by the Bylaws.

* Brandon went with Robert to Wells Fargo for the sake of attempting to

obtain Chair access to the MCLP banking accounts.

* Wells Fargo had the account in a personal business account status,

featuring Joe Cobb as the account owner (since 2007), with signers added since that time of Bill Barker and Jim Ianuzzo.

* The Chair reported (following information coming to light concerning

unauthorized transactions related to AZLP’s banking accounts), along with Robert Allen’s absence at a significant number of MCLP meetings in the recent year, that he asked Robert Allen to resign.

* The Chair did not delve into details concerning the state party’s treasury

when asking Robert Allen to resign.

* Robert Allen resigned willingly.
* Bill Barker was able to provide access to Wells Fargo bank statements going back to 2021. At least one unauthorized withdrawal between that time and this meeting was observed in a cursory review.
1. **Decisionmaking and Upcoming Implications Related to these Events Include:**
* The Treasurer’s position is now vacant.
* An election for a new treasurer was contemplated for this meeting but the time interval was too short to announce.
* Pre- and post-election campaign finance reports will need to be filed.
* The Chair wishes to conduct a 6-year audit of MCLP’s banking account, and
* Work to recoup any amounts found to be missing in unauthorized withdrawals.
* In January, withdrawing remaining funds from the Wells Fargo account and opening a new account for MCLP at a separate institution (possibly a credit union; suggestions were made concerning institutions).
1. **Discussion**

The Chair asked the PCMs in attendance to consider if any were motivated to serve as Acting/Interim Treasurer for the remainder of this Board’s term (only two more months.).

N. Madden asserted the importance of executive oversight of the treasurer within the Board, and a requirement to attach bank statements to monthly financial reports for transparency.

J. Baker described that the addition of an Assistant Treasurer role would add another set of eyes to track the information and create accountability.

The Chair described that he did not want the Treasurer’s job to feature a job description so demanding that a volunteer could not reasonably expect to meet its requirements. He also described that roles like Treasurer don’t generate a lot of PR or visibility (and hence relatively low competition for them).

R. Simon suggested the use of an accounting software package that would make the tasks assigned more manageable.

N. Madden echoed the need for an accounting software package and suggested names of open source packages, and asserted the need to get away from use of PayPal for electronic transactions.

An audit committee was convened. N. Giver will chair the initial committee.

The Chair discussed avenues of handling MCLP’s finances in the event that there are no nominees for the Interim Treasurer role at the upcoming October meeting.

1. **Plan of Action for October to December**

The Chair then reviewed options with the body related to recoupment of funds that are found to be missing. He reiterated the options which were placed before the state party’s board:

* A demand letter may be mailed to Robert Allen and his wife, chronicling the transactions and asking for return of the funds;
* A police report can be made (with a willingness to refer for criminal prosecution);
* A civil suit can be filed, depending on the amount, in small claims court or municipal court.

Discussion was held on these options. N. Giver and L. Snyder liked the notion of a demand letter. N. Madden encouraged a formal resolution of censure. M. Tendler described that in prior collections suits she had undertaken, demand letters sent first were effective.

Following discussion, the body agreed that **Chair Brandon Slayton would make a Phoenix Police Report concerning the unauthorized withdrawals. N. Giver agreed that she would draft the censure motion.**

1. **Old/New Business**
2. **Old Business**
3. Events – Phoenix Pride – The Secretary reported that she had spoken to Eva Steele of Phoenix Pride Committee; *Phoenix Pride will take place on October 16 this year; Pride*

*Committee did not notify former vendors of the date change and there is now a 70-organization wait list for vendor spots).*

1. LD 22 Legislative Race – The Chair noted that the deadline to run as a write-in in that race is tomorrow, and no candidate had stepped forward.
2. **New Business**
3. PayPal Disassociation Motion – Valencia PCM N. Madden drafted a resolution disassociating the party’s business from PayPal Holdings, Inc. given its lack of political neutrality.

In the absence of a Treasurer or acting treasurer (and the lateness of the hour), this motion/resolution was tabled to the upcoming October meeting.

1. **Conclusion**

A motion to adjourn was made (M. Tendler) and and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

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