

Maricopa County Libertarian Party – Minutes of October 12, 2022 Meeting

The Maricopa County Libertarian Party met in a countywide meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. Nine precinct committeemen were present, along with the Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, and nominee for Treasurer. The following topics were discussed:

Call to Order/Adoption of Agenda:

The meeting was called to Order at 7:05 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was reviewed. A credentials canvas, indicating that nine out of twenty-nine eligible Precinct Committeemen were present. The Agenda was adopted without revision at 7:07 p.m.

I. Nomination/Election of MCLP Treasurer, Ryan Simon:

Chair Brandon Slayton nominated Ryan Simon to serve as MCLP's Treasurer for the remainder of the 2020-2022 Board of Directors' term. Nathan Madden seconded the nomination.

Chair Slayton asked if there were any additional interim treasurer candidate nominations, none were forthcoming. Chair Slayton asked if there were any objections to the election of Ryan Simon as MCLP (Interim) Treasurer, none were voiced.

Chair Slayton announced that Ryan Simon was elected by acclamation to serve as MCLP's treasurer for the remainder of the present BOD term. He noted that Justin Baker has agreed to serve as Asst. Treasurer.

Chair Slayton asked Mr. Simon to introduce himself and share his background:

Mr. Simon noted that he had posted a summary bio in the MCLP Slack channel. He noted that he is a born and bred Phoenician. He noted that he is excited for the new PC term and the MCLP's future. He noted that he had completed nearly all of the Q3 campaign finance report due on October 15; he had some questions related to gross versus net of donations received through the party's electronic portal (i.e. the fees subtracted by the portal host). Chair Slayton responded to clarify these.

II. Audit Committee Update

Chair Slayton gave an update concerning the staffing of MCLP's audit committee (which had been discussed at the September 28 meeting). He noted that two of three original audit committee volunteers had contacted him to describe that they would be unable to serve. The individuals who remain able to work on MCLP's audit committee include Justin Baker and Bill Hopkins. Chair Slayton noted that he had reviewed the MCLP bank statements for the last few

years and does not believe that any funds were misappropriated in earlier years. He expects that the audit committee will resolve the amount of any missing funds by the December organizing meeting.

A question was raised concerning bringing an MCLP censure against former treasurer Pepiton related to the misappropriation(s), Chair Slayton encouraged the bringing of that censure motion at the December meeting.

III. Treasurer's Report

Chair Slayton presented the September balance sheet, reflecting \$4500 remaining in MCLP's bank account. Chair Slayton reported that two thousand postcards had been mailed after the appropriation for postcard mailing for primary voters in August, 2022.

IV. Secretary's Report

Secretary E. Goldberg presented the Secretary's Report of the September 28, 2022 (rescheduled) monthly meeting. The minutes were adopted without revision.

V. Chair's Report

Chair Brandon Slayton presented the Chair's report:

1. General Election Preparation/Logic and Accuracy Test Report:

Chair Slayton noted that he had attended the in-depth, and more than previously involved, Logic and Accuracy Test of voting machine equipment overseen by Maricopa County and the Arizona Secretary of State.

This particular test was paused for three hours, related to flaws in the technical provisions for blind voters, and for Spanish-speaking blind voters, which required technical reprogramming to remedy.

Chair Slayton was present for the portions of the test held before the pause. He did not return to the reconvene of the test after the accessibility options were reprogrammed.

Chair Slayton noted that early ballots were mailed today; that elections have evolved to a month long process, with 90% of Maricopa County voters voting early. He encouraged attendees to work to elevate Marc Victor's profile over the next month.

Chair Slayton noted that he is assembling MCLP's list of election observers and hand-count observers. He noted that Maricopa County Recorder Stephen Richter is sympathetic to MCLP's cause.

2. Arizona Senate Race:

Chair Slayton commented on the aftermath of the Arizona Senate Race PBS debate, drama and distracting allegations had been launched at LBT Senate candidate Marc Victor, in a race where Blake Masters had spent \$20M, and Marc Kelly spent \$40M. In the era of social media people are easy to distract and demoralize; our philosophy is one filled with nuance (which many do not take the time to explore).

Chair Slayton noted that candidate Victor is a defense attorney, had appeared on Justin O'Donnell's podcast the night before, that comments coming out of the video of the original debate were either vested interest hyper-partisan, or clear conviction that Marc won.

Brock Wilson suggested post of noteworthy clips of Victor's salient points on the party's social media channels.

3. Post Redistricting Realities/Future Planning

Chair Slayton reflected further that Marc Victor was the first candidate on the ballot in several years; that although there had been significant candidate interest in 2021, the 2020 redistricting had left many potential candidates confused, not knowing where boundaries were.

Chair Slayton noted his advocacy that the county and state parties come up with a 'two year plan' approaching the next election cycle, beginning now and ending when candidate signatures are due in that cycle.

He noted that this cycle was skewed in that some county races did not hold routine elections; some vacancies are open for appointment; we need to become more aware of the process for appointment to the appointed positions (and queue up for them). We additionally need to be more aware, earlier, of the positions open for election at the county level.

VI. IT Committee Report

Mr. Fowler gave an update concerning the county's complement of voter data. He indicated that the ingestion of the voter data into the LP's CRM system was not yet complete (due to delays in national's data migration).

Mr. Fowler asked if there was anything to consider to do with the local voter data before the election? In particular, he would like to do outreach to the independent/PND voters.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Madden's motion concerning navigation away from PayPal (proposed in September) was revisited. Mr. Madden noted that he had not withdrawn his motion, he wished the matter to be handled because would like a substitute for PayPal to be chosen.

Mr. Hopkins stated his feeling that the language contained in Mr. Madden's motion was more suitable to a press release; Mr. Hopkins stated his request that any financial portal used be practical, easy to use, and FDIC insured.

Mr. Madden noted that Stripe is the most readily available alternative. He noted that PayPal does not have any relationship with the CRM, and that Stripe would be a good recommendation.

Mr. Hopkins advocated that language of the motion be amended to reflect that MCLP would move from PayPal to Stripe as the online donation portal. Paul seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

VIII. New Business

1. Financial/Banking Topics

The Chair noted that given the particulars associated with the history of the Wells Fargo banking account, that there would be no way for new key executives to get access to the account. He recommended that the new Treasurer open a new account at a new institution.

(Brief discussion was held concerning the utility of corporation document filing for MCLP, and the usefulness of those documents in any future banking controversy; that discussion was deferred to December.)

Discussion was held concerning alternative banking institutions; it was suggested that discussion could be ongoing in the Slack channel. The Chair encouraged that the Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer have access to the new account, and that future Boards of Directors be able to adjust who has access to the account (as opposed to Wells Fargo, which featured an 'account owner' who was the Treasurer in 2007).

Suggestion was made concerning Sun West Credit Union, for its accessibility.

The Chair advocated that the Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer assemble recommendations, to present the same to the County Committee in December.

2. December 14, 2022 County Organizing Meeting

Chair Slayton noted that the County Organizing Meeting would need to be held in person on December 14, 2022 (and noted his hope that additional planning for the meeting would take place in Slack).

December 14 will be a traditional Wednesday meeting; the Chair contemplated starting earlier (potentially 6:00 p.m.). He noted a letter would be sent to PCs to announce the meeting. Elections will be held at that meeting; he encouraged those who are running for a position to assemble a bio for inclusion in the letter, and a PowerPoint to present at the meeting. He raised the topic of whether there should be debate between competitive candidates.

He noted that the MCLP Bylaws do not require election of the Assistant positions, but was open to the body choosing the assistants in this way – but favored discussion of the issue in Slack and outside the meeting.

In addition to election of officers, 7 to 9 State Committeemen will be elected at the meeting.

IX. Additional Old Business

The Chair noted that MCLP's PCM Handbook – compiled earlier in the Spring by 1st VC Scott Ullery, with graphics and production help by Nellie Mullins – had been on the back burner.

Secretary E. Goldberg noted that she had submitted grammatical and graphic edits which were not reflected in the version shown on the Chair's screen.

The Chair moved, and Mr. Madden seconded, to accept the PCM Handbook in its current permutation with current content.

The Chair noted that certain graphic adjustments (kerning, block overlaps) could be made even if this version was ratified.

A vote was taken, and the current PC Handbook was ratified.

X. Additional New Business

Discussion was held concerning the Victor candidacy and protest voters finding the LP on social media. Sheila Shaver noted that there was very different attitude and energy appearing on Twitter, versus other platforms, that it was very positive and refreshing.

Discussion was held concerning additional video to introduce new protest voters to our brand; further discussion was held concerning positive video about Marc Victor.

Developing coalition partners to share sponsorships with was discussed.

XI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made (Mr. Madden) and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily S. Goldberg. Secretary