**Maricopa County Libertarian Party – Minutes of December 14, 2022**

**Biennial Organizing Meeting**

*The Maricopa County Libertarian Party met in for its Biennial Organizing Meeting at Peerspace, 221 E. Indianola Ave., Phoenix, 85012. 24 of 34 Maricopa Precinct Committeemen were in attendance. (Sign-in sheets attached to these minutes and incorporated herein).*

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

**Credentials Report**

Secretary E. Goldberg presented the credentials report; 23 of 34 precinct committeemen were present and voting. A 24th arrived as the report was delivered. A motion to amend the report (Z. Doko) was made, to feature 24 of 34 present. The motion was seconded and passed and the amended report was accepted.

**Adoption of Agenda**

 A motion was made (L. Snyder) to adopt the Agenda. The meeting agenda was adopted by acclamation.

1. **Chair’s Report**

Chairman Brandon Slayton gave the Chair’s report. Mr. Slayton described his six-year history in the party. He described being elected to the 2nd Vice Chair slot six years ago, and elected Chair four years ago; and that he expected that this would be his last term as MCLP Chair.

His intention in running was to make the party better. Although a lot has been accomplished in the last two years, he doesn’t say that he is proud; but he does think he knows what is necessary to build for 2024 and beyond.

His focus the last two years has been to solidify the party’s position as a recognized party in the county and the state.

To that end, he sued the Board of Supervisors (when they excluded the party from the mandatory party audit). He participated in the Arizona Senate’s 2020 election audit as the Assistant to former Secretary of State Ken Bennett.

He stressed the importance of organizing and ground game (versus certain years in the past when the party functioned as a social organization or debate club).

He note the importance of growing the PCM count, the roll-out of the PCM Handbook, and the recommendation that other counties around the state adopt it.

He described that future for Libertarianism, and our party, is bright – but that it is not a future that one, or five, or even 12 people can accomplish. Vision, goals, and objectives are all necessary; he alluded to the two-year plan (outlined in Slack) which works to make the party a recognized player in the county and the state.

Chair Slayton introduced Interim Treasurer Ryan Simon, prefacing the introduction with the background information concerning theft by the prior Treasurer at both the state and county levels. Chair Slayton noted that he had requested that the prior Treasurer resign, and that the Treasurer had done so; that when access was sought to the party’s bank account, it was revealed that the original account set up was done in the 1990s.

Diablo PCM Bill Hopkins raised a question of old business, concerning moving the party’s online donation function from PayPal to Stripe. Mr. Hopkins had worked on the county party’s audit of the existing Wells Fargo account, but did not have a final total of monies misappropriated; estimates are a few hundred dollars.

PCM Chad Wolett raised a question about bonding the Treasurer at the county level; discussion was held concerning the proposed AZLP state Bylaw revision which would recommend bonding the state-level Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Interim Treasurer Ryan Simon presented the Treasurer’s Report.

He stressed that this interval in time was a time to put things on the right track, which he intends to do over the next year.

MCLP’s ending bank balance at the end of November was $4,867.00; the expense for tonight’s space use, and for production of the ‘Adopt a Road’ clean up film, will reduce that amount by $1,646.00, leaving $3,220.00.

Going forward, his plans include:

1. Leaving PayPal and moving online donations to Stripe (given PayPal’s political favoritism/particularities);
2. Election of an Assistant Treasurer;
3. MCLP having an independent transactional infrastructure (to extent possible);
4. Move the banking account from Wells Fargo to a local credit union.

Mr. Simon discussed investigation he had done into services provided at certain credit unions; SunWest does not presently offer institutional or business accounts; he had also looked at Arizona Credit Union, One AZ Credit Union, and Copper State Credit Union.

Mr. Simon reported that One AZ offered an account structure for small businesses that avails of 30 transactions per month, but requires a $1500.00 account balance to avoid service fees.

Mr. Simon reported that his goal going forward is for an accounting software package to be used that will make the party’s financials transparent and open.

Valencia PCM Nathan Madden raised questions concerning AZLP’s nonprofit status, and MCLP’s incorporation status?

Mr. Simon described that MCLP is filed as a political committee with the county recorder; that we had been waiting for an EIN number from the IRS for two weeks.

A motion was made (A. Hoffman) and seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report, and the report was accepted by acclamation.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

 Secretary E. Goldberg presented the Secretary’s Report of the November, 2022 meeting, indicating that this was not a cumulative term report.

 A motion was made (B. Wilson) to accept the Secretary’s report, and the report was accepted by acclamation.

[Discussion was held concerning making the ‘Adopt a Road’ video available at the state party’s meeting on January 28; additional discussion was held concerning MCLP’s audit committee and presentation of its report at that time as well).

1. **Officer Elections**
2. **Chairman**

 Bill Hopkins nominated Brandon Slayton; Brock Wilson seconded.

 *[Mr. Slayton passed the gavel to Mr. Simon while speaking to his nomination.]*

Mr. Slayton described that every day in the party gets better and better; that with the body’s help, this would be his last term; and that he hoped to continue to be worthy of the body’s support.

Mr. Slayton was reelected by acclamation.

1. **Treasurer**

Bill Hopkins nominated Ryan Simon.

There were no additional nominations, and no objections.

Mr. Simon was reelected by acclamation.

1. **Secretary**

Mr. Slayton nominated Emily Goldberg.

Sarah Riggle nominated Sheila Shaver. Ms. Shaver declined the nomination.

Ms. Goldberg was reelected by acclamation.

1. **1st Vice Chair**

Lauren Snyder nominated Nathan Madden; Mr. Madden declined the nomination.

Nathan Madden nominated Brock Wilson.

Zhani Doko nominated Lauren Snyder; Ms. Snyder declined the nomination.

Brock Wilson was elected by acclamation.

Mr. Wilson was asked to introduce himself to the body.

Mr. Wilson described that he has been the PCM in the Mystic precinct in Gilbert for two years. He had been a “small l” Libertarian for 20-25 years; he was motivated to get more involved following the 2nd Amendment rally two years ago. He worked the party’s booth at this year’s 2nd Amendment Rally and spearheaded the “Adopt a Road” effort. He looks forward to being a part of a county leadership team that has a plan, sets goals, and prioritizes voter registration and fundraising.

1. **2nd Vice Chair**

Zhani Doko nominated himself.

Eric Fowler nominated himself.

Nathan Madden nominated NOTA.

Bill Hopkins moved to close nominations.

The candidates were given opportunity to speak to their nomination.

Mr. Doko described his involvement with the party over 12 years’ time. He described that he had worked on the state party’s website; that he was on the ballot running for legislature in LD 28 in 2014; that he had worked on the state party’s Bylaws Committee.

Mr. Fowler described that he is a PCM from Paiute precinct. He came into the party in 2008 in the Ron Paul days. He attends Pints n’ Porcupines and worked on the Adopt a Road cleanup. His primary project has been on the state (and now national) party’s IT committee(s), working to make the voter data more accessible and competitive. He’s on the national steering committee transforming the CRM data; he wrote a program to streamline the data ingestion process. Data is critical to political work, he is critical in thinking about data and data use.

A vote was taken, the total was 20 votes for Eric Fowler, 4 votes for Zhani Doko.

1. **State Committee Elections**

Chairman Slayton announced the opening of nominations for Maricopa County’s representatives to the AZLP State Committee.

He noted that Arizona is somewhat unique in state parties across the country, in that state law is specific in determining how the party is organized. Other states require memberships, etc.; in our state, anyone who wants to become a PC can be elected PC, and any PC can run for SC.

The State Committee’s meeting date of January 28, 2023 at GridWorks Phoenix (a similar co-working space to this space) was reiterated.

Discussion was held concerning written instructions received from retiring 1VC Scott Ullery, who wished to be considered in nomination, but was absent this evening.

Mr. Madden raised an objection to allowing a member to vote if not present.

Ms. Goldberg indicated that the proxy process, available to any member, was the available avenue for an absent member to vote.

Mr. Doko made a motion to suspend the rules to consider a candidate who was not present; Mr. Slayton indicated that raised the voting threshold to 25.

Mr. Slayton spoke in favor of the motion, as extending a courtesy to an individual who has worked hard on behalf of the party.

Mr. Wolett spoke against, as setting a dangerous precedent, when other absentee PCMs are not afforded the same option.

Mr. Madden spoke against.

The Secretary and the Chair agreed that as a suspension of the rules, 2/3 was the necessary threshold for the motion to pass.

A vote was taken, with 16 in favor, 6 opposed, and 2 absentions, the motion passed, and Mr. Ullery’s name was placed in nomination as Candidate #1 (and his intended votes would be recorded).

Each candidate for the SC was given the opportunity to speak to his/her candidacy:

2. Kyle Kerby – Mr. Kerby indicated he is a PC from Mesa. He got involved with the LP a couple of years ago. He served as a delegate from AZLP in Reno. The area where he lives is a county island, a small area, with big messes! He wants to clean them up.

3. Bill Hopkins – Mr. Hopkins described he has been on the SC the last two years. He joined the party 3 years ago. He saw the SC as something he could “help out” in. He indicated he’s a finance guy.

4. Jeffrey West – Mr. West described that he has been a Republican PC/SC in the past; he’s “repented”. He’s done signature gathering for candidates for a living in in the past; he eventually came to realize that the Republican Party was working for “all the wrong things,” he’s in the place now to set it right.

5. Nathan Madden – Mr. Madden described himself as MCLP’s “unofficial fixer.” He describes that he has stepped up wherever the party needed him; IT, events, data. He is an elected School Board member.

6. Lauren Snyder – Ms. Snyder currently serves as AZLP’s 2nd VC. She does not want a Board position this time (she is about to deliver a baby); but she sees the SC role as valuable and holding power.

7. Zhani Doko – Mr. Doko described his work in past years on the party’s website, the 2017 Platform Committee, and the Bylaws Committee.

8. Justin Baker – Mr. Baker is a PCM from the Century district in N. Scottsdale; he’s been involved with the party for two years, and wants to see it grow and help it grow.

9. Jason Gillam – Mr. Gillam came in to the party in 2012 with Ron Paul. He attended the 2016 state convention. He has been more actively involved since 2017. He likes our direction in Arizona. He would like to work more with our social media.

10. (Nathan Madden nominates) David Morris – Mr. Madden described that Mr. Morris is a member of the party’s Legislative Committee. He noted Mr. Morris’ work on pending ‘sandbox expansion’ legislation related to extending the life of patents. Mr. Morris has lobbying background.

11. Eric Fowler – Mr. Fowler reiterated his work on the CRM and data migration processes for the state and national parties.

12. Kyle Stephenson – Mr. Stephenson is PC in the Shena (sp?) district in Moon Valley/North Mountain. He is new to MCLP, he has been around the national LP and is a Lifetime member. His brings experience with nonprofits and start up companies – valuations of $2k to $3M – to the table, he wants to put those skills to work on behalf of the party.

13. Emily Goldberg – Ms. Goldberg noted that MCLP’s PCs had just elected her to her sixth term as MCLP Secretary; that she will be retiring as AZLP Chair, in which she served one term, and had served three prior terms as AZLP Secretary and two prior terms as Assistant Secretary, and 10 years as Events Committee chair. She is aware that Bylaws Com. has emphasized the role of SCs as chairs of committees, and she wants to work on Events Committee and to develop the party’s history through a historical committee.

14. Brock Wilson – Mr. Wilson thanked the body for electing him to the Vice Chair role.

15. Sheila Shaver – Ms. Shaver noted that she presently serves as AZLP’s Assistant Secretary. She wants to increase the party’s media profile, get the word out, and focus on ballot access.

16. Ryan Simon – Mr. Simon reiterated several of the goals he’d mentioned related to his Treasurer role, and indicated that if elected to the SC, he wants to focus on fundraising.

17. Aaron Hoffman – Mr. Hoffman echoed his “FREEDOM!” cry from the January 2022 state meeting. He indicated that is his objective, but he also wants to focus on fundraising.

18. David Keahey – Mr. Keahey described that he wants to be on the SC to defeat apathy; that he hears people say they are not interested in politics, but, he tells them, “Politics is interested in YOU!”

Ms. Riggle asked if she could speak in support of certain nominees, believing that the nominees’ speeches were too humble.

Chair Slayton initially ruled Ms. Riggle’s request out of order, but, at the input of the body, decided she should be heard.

Ms. Riggle indicated she wished to speak for Ms. Snyder’s work in elevating the party’s social media presence, and in representing the party at the legislature.

Ms. Riggle also spoke in favor of Mr. Madden, saying that he attends all state meetings, and is not wrong to say he is a ‘fixer’.

Chair Slayton echoed Ms. Riggle’s remarks.

Nominations were closed.

1. **Resolutions**

*(While votes were tallied for the SC election, Resolutions from the floor were heard).*

Mr. Madden introduced a Motion/Resolution to be able to suspend the party’s constitution by a vote of the PCMs. He clarified for some questioning that there is currently no provision for suspension of the constitution by any threshold.

Discussion was held, with opinions voiced that allowing the constitution to be suspended changes the character of the party; Mr. Madden countered that anything which is a rule of order is suspendable under Roberts’.

Mr. Doko indicated the practical effect of this resolution would be to increase the threshold requirement for suspension.

Additional discussion was held, which noted that the Constitution is amendable only with a 7/8 vote; Chair Slayton made a friendly amendment to suggest that the threshold be made 7/8.

Ms. Goldberg made an additional friendly amendment, to suggest using affirmative, rather than negative, language for the resolution.

The amended language was put forward:

“**Suspensions of the provisions of MCLP’s Constitution shall require a vote of 7/8 of the party’s precinct committeemen.”**

A vote was taken on the proposed language, **with 18 in favor, 2 opposed, and 4 absentions,** the motion passed.

1. **Old Business**

Video - Chair Slayton noted that the video of the road cleanup would be used as marketing on the party’s website.

Literature – Mr. Kerby requested party literature that he could distribute. Discussion was held concerning literature produced by national and created by MCLP. Reference was made to the card stock handouts that were created on particular topics (Juneteenth, 2nd Amendment, School Choice, etc.)

Chair Slayton encouraged creation of additional topic issue cards – if we don’t have one, let’s make one!

Candidates – Mr. Madden noted that very few candidates at the county level had come forward in the last election cycle. He described that he is “on a crusade” to increase awareness of vacant positions, and positions available for appointment.

2022 Election Hand Count/Audit – Chair Slayton described his (and Ms. Shaver’s) participation in the hand count. He indicated his initial surprise that the election system was not as bad as he had come to expect. It is sophisticated, generally runs as predicted, but not perfect.

He echoed the need for elections to be (1) Transparent, (2) Trackable, (3) Publicly verifiable.

He noted Ken Bennett’s intention to submit a bill to make ballot images public record. He noted that we could each then audit our own precincts.

Chair Slayton referenced the 2022 controversies about early voting; he noted that AZ has done early voting for a very long time (and that voters are not eager to give it up).

Prior audits have not been robust as needed (why there is minimal confidence in them).

1. **New Business**
2. **Assistant Officer Nominations**

Chair Slayton indicated that the time would be ripe for nomination of assistant officers to work with the Treasurer and Secretary.

 Justin Baker was nominated to serve as Assistant Treasurer, and Sheila Shaver to serve as Assistant Secretary.

1. **SubCommittees**

 Discussion concerning subcommittees of the county party was held. Chair Slayton encouraged attendees to consider what we need?

 Ideas voiced included Outreach, Volunteers, Media, Fundraising.

1. **Bank Selection**

Additional discussion was held concerning selection of the party’s new banking facility.

Location was discussed. A North Dakota bank with a branch in the east valley was discussed.

Mr. Hopkins submitted that the decision for the new facility should be deferred to the new board.

A vote was taken, that selection of the new banking facility should be obtained by the end of the month (*n.b. believe this was 1/23, but was it 12/22****?****);* **two abstentions, everyone else in favor**.

1. **Results of State Committeemen Election**

 *[Pinal PC Corey Tallman and Liz Baker assisted as tellers in tallying the vote*.]

 The results of the State Committeemen election were reported as follows:

* 1. **Eric Fowler**
* **2. Emily Goldberg**
* **3. Kyle Stephenson**
* **4. Scott Ullery**
* **5. Justin Baker**
* **6. Brock Wilson**
* **7. Kyle Kerby**
* **8. Ryan Simon**
* **9. Jason Gillam**
* **10. Aaron Hoffman**
* **11. David Keahey**
* **12. Jeffrey West**

(and Brandon Slayton, ex officio).

1. **Adjournment**

With the results of the SC Election announced, Jason Baker moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

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