**Maricopa County Libertarian Party – Minutes of January 11, 2023 Meeting**

*The Maricopa County Libertarian Party met via Zoom on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Thirteen members, including all members of the Board were present. The following topics were discussed:*

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

The meeting was called to Order at 7:02 p.m. The Agenda was adopted by acclamation without revision.

1. **Public Comment**

A brief period of public comment was designated, with purpose indicated to be input that moves the party in a more free direction. Mr. Madden spoke briefly concerning Gov. Hobbs’ stated intent to overturn educational choice accounts.

1. **Chair’s Introduction**

Chair Brandon Slayton noted that his remarks are primarily a welcome message.

He thanked all volunteers for stepping up, being counted in their grassroots, PC, SC, and party stakeholder roles.

He reiterated that this will be his last term as MCLP Chair; to that end he considers it one of his primary tasks to identify future leaders, put the party on a great trajectory. He encouraged all on the Board/working with the party now to be on the lookout for new future leadership, including those who are present, but not on the Board, and those who aren’t yet known – it is in finding and recruiting those future leaders that the party will grow.

The Chair noted that he sees a great crop of new talent; that he recognizes that taking on the burdens and responsibilities are part of our purpose, that taking the purpose seriously over the next two years is critical; that will be uncomfortable for some.

The Chair gave a recap of recent happenings in the few weeks since the 12/14 Biennial Meeting. He noted that the video produced by Mike Chesworth should be available to present by the AZLP’s annual meeting on January 28. He also noted that fomer (GA) Senate Candidate/presidential hopeful Chase Oliver would be present that day.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Ryan Simon presented the Treasurer’s Report. $605.00 was received in donations since the last meeting.

Mr. Simon spoke to his findings on the topic of bonding the Treasurer and Chair. He noted that before bonding was realistic, there were steps to take to have MCLP’s fiscal house in order, including: (1) a way to monitor internal finances; (2) the monitoring person/people being people who cannot withdraw funds; (3) double signatures to be required on checks above a certain dollar amount; (4) insurance coverage for crime or for officers and directors.

A motion was made (B. Slayton) and seconded (R. Simon) to reimburse Secretary E. Goldberg $120.00 for funds expended for pizza at the Biennial meeting.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

Secretary E. Goldberg presented the minutes of the December Biennial meeting. With small corrections made while the minutes were viewed, the minutes were accepted.

1. **New Bank Issues**

Treasurer Ryan Simon presented information he had obtained concerning the selection of a new bank. He described that the process had been complicated by the nature of the corporate creature that MCLP is; it is not a nonprofit, it is not presently registered with the Secretary of State or with the AZCC.

He described his (along with Asst. Treas. J. Baker’s) visits to several credit unions, including Copper State, AZ Financial, Desert Financial, Bell Bank, and One AZ. Desert Financial required a minimum balance of $1500.00. at at all times. Arizona Financial required only $100.00 be kept in the accounts.

Mr. Simon presented a spreadsheet comparing the requirements and charges at each institution. None charged for the first 10 transactions; but charges for more than 10 transactions (including deposits) were $.20/transaction in some instances; some went up to $.40 per transaction after 50 transactions. Discussion was held comparing the services available at each. It was noted that AZ Financial provided for three signers.

N. Madden raised the question concerning whether lack of separate incorporation was causing difficulty?

A motion was made by the Treasurer (and seconded by the Chair) to: (1) utilize Arizona Financial for MCLP’s banking needs during the 2023-2025 term, and (2) that the Chair, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer are directed to work with Bill Barker to close the Wells Fargo account, and to transfer funds to AZ Financial.

Discussion was held concerning whether, and when, to close the Wells Fargo account.

Perspectives were raised concerning whether there was utility in maintaining the Wells Fargo account through this Board’s term; whether there was utility in keeping the account open for a period of several months to allow for review and audit of past activity.

After discussion, consensus evolved that the statements from 2017 to 2022 should be downloaded from the Wells Fargo account and placed in an accessible sharefile for audit purposes, and that closing the Wells Fargo account by the end of Q2 2023 would be the reasonable goal.

With those caveats, a vote was taken on the motion which passed unanimously.

1. **Legislative Topics**

The Chair noted the opening of the legislature’s session earlier this week.

Discussion was held concerning the ‘Defend the Guard’ legislation sponsored by Wendy Rogers (to keep Arizona’s national guard members home from wars of foreign aggression).

The Chair encouraged members to contact their reps to introduce themselves and to indicate support for this legislation.

The Chair noted that 2nd VC Brock Wilson and Asst. Sec. Sheila Shaver and himself had registered for the ‘RTS’ – Request to Speak – roster at the legislature, and that with the RTS system, speaking remotely was possible.

1. **Goal Setting Meeting**

The Chair noted that he had created the basics for a 2-year plan, but wanted to discuss and brainstorm implementation of the party’s approach to the next two years; he suggested that this be done before the end of Q1.

Discussion about the kind of meeting, and when/where to conduct it, was held.

After some discussion, the body agreed that an in-person meeting was more desirable than online. It was suggested that members be prepared to present goals at the February 8 Board meeting, but that the discussion/implementation and brainstorming session would be held in the afternoon of February 18 after the conclusion of the 2nd Amendment Rally.

1. **Committees and Committee Staffing**

The Chair mentioned existing committees and some members involved on each.

1. Media – Presently the Chair, S. Shaver, L. Snyder and N. Madden work on the Media Committee. The Chair hoped that the media committee will be dencentralized further and that as more channels are developed, additional people can contribute their passions and skillset.

At the moment, MCLP’s media outreach includes Twitter, FB, a content calendar, a newsletter; goals include subject matter expert content pieces on the website, more earned media, and expansion into TikTok, Instagram, and similar.

1. **Old/New Business**
2. **2A Rally on 02/18**

Plans for the MCLP/AZLP booth at the 2A rally were discussed. Raffling an ‘anti ATF’ gift basket, or raffling a firearm (or gift certificate to a gun shop) were discussed. Members mentioned contacts they had in gun shops, breweries, smoke shops, etc.

1. **Vacancies on Appointed Board and Commissions**

N. Madden reencouraged attendees to consider applying for appointment to vacancies existing in local, and state, boards and commissions. He noted local planning & zoning boards as most important; he considered property tax appeals next. Discussion was held concerning the need to aggregate information concerning the vacancies in a place that is accessible to members (like on the MCLP website).

1. **Conclusion**

A motion to adjourn was made (E. Fowler) and seconded (J. Baker) and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

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