

Executive Summary of the Ongoing Situation in the Massachusetts Affiliate

May 9, 2022
Rev 1.2

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Summary introduction

The curious thing about the Massachusetts controversy is that no facts are disputed between the two so-called “factions,” other than the question of whether one or two of the 47 petitioners had their dues paid up-to-date.

The key facts in the Massachusetts controversy are that:

- The seven former members of the state committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (hereafter LAMA) were never empowered by the membership, nor by either the LAMA constitution or by-laws, to engage in a mass expulsion for any reason, let alone for members exercising their rights outlined in the LAMA constitution to petition for a special state convention. They had in fact voted against giving themselves that very power just one month earlier.
- The state committee was never empowered by the membership to disregard the petition entirely for a special state convention, and the constitution explicitly compels them to organize a petitioned-for state convention.
- These rogue seven state committee members were not empowered to rule a petition for a special convention “out of order,” as the LAMA constitution makes the power of the membership to petition for a special state convention agenda plenary, and only allows the State Committee to append to the member’s agenda.
- The special state convention completed on February 26 was organized by two members of the state committee, as required by the LAMA constitution, and was open to all LAMA members. And the state convention on April 24 was the only one open to all LAMA members.

Therefore, the state committee elected at the April 24 state convention (the Cordio board) is now the only state committee deriving its authority from a vote of the whole membership in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of LAMA.

The question before the LNC is whether the party belongs to the membership and the rules of the constitution and by-laws, or to whatever faction holds a majority vote on the former state committee who believe they can on a whim reduce the size of the party to a handful of loyal followers through mass expulsions.

The seven former members of the state committee not only shrunk the party in Massachusetts, they treated LAMA as less a political party than as a private yacht club where the rules don’t apply to themselves. The seven former state committee members employed risible “takeover” language in a desperate and vain attempt to hold on to their offices a few more weeks, lazily settling into a habit of deploying vague and detestable slurs against the character of a membership they’ve never bothered to meet and know nothing about. The former state committee members who formed their new organization on February 26 stole all of the LAMA organizational assets in the process of forming their own *de novo* group.

The alleged successor board to the seven state committee members whose offices expired on February 26 – elected at a rump April 23 convention – includes all of board members who attempted the purge and ran for election. This successor board to the *de novo* group has as a group actively sought to vindicate the purge – voting two-to-one in their April 23 convention not to invite any of the 47 “purged” members to apply to their organization. Not one of the new board members has publicly claimed (as of this update, May 7) that the

purge was invalid. Moreover, multiple board members have bizarrely asserted publicly on social media not only that the purge was fully valid, but also that there was and remains no upper numerical limit in the by-laws on mass purges from the party.

Thomas R. Eddlem,
Communications Director, Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

I.1 Chronological statement of facts

November 8

State committee meeting via Zoom (see Appendix A.1.1). State committee member Jeremy Thompson proposes a “Standards of Behavior” addition to the by-laws to be imposed upon the membership (see Appendix A.1.1.1). Without the required two week notice, a by-laws change is adopted to require the affiliates to submit their meeting minutes within a week of their meeting and disaffiliate if no minutes are submitted in a three-month period. LNC Development Officer Tara DeSisto is elected to the state committee by a 6-0 vote (Charlie Larkin, Janel Holmes abstaining) to fill a vacancy.

December 12

Officers of the South Shore Libertarian Party adopt a resolution opposing the “Standards of Behavior” (labeling it “Code of Conduct”). See Appendix A.5.1.

December 13

State committee meeting via Zoom (see Appendix A.1.2). Thompson’s draft “Standards of Behavior” document is substituted by a new code of conduct written by Christopher Thrasher. Meeting minutes record eight members speaking against adoption of the “Alternative Standards of Behavior,” including local affiliate leader Dan Garrity who says he will start a petition drive for a special state convention if the document is adopted into the by-laws. No members (other than those on the state committee) spoke in favor of the “Standards of Behavior” resolution. Adopted 6-2 (Ashley Shade abstaining, Charlie Larkin and Janel Holmes opposed). Proposal on affiliates also passes 7-1 (Janel Holmes opposing, Ashley Shade abstaining).

December 19

Petition of 47 signatories for a special state convention (under Article II, section 5 of the LAMA Constitution, see Appendix A.19.1.1) is delivered to the state committee (see Appendix A.2). Two members of the state committee were among the petitioners, Charlie Larkin and Janel Holmes. The LAMA constitution requires a special state committee petition to be signed by 10% or more of the dues-paying members. The state committee membership director Andrew Moore verbally announced LAMA had 204 dues-paying members at the December 13 state committee meeting and the November minutes record 190 dues-paying members.

December 22

State committee member Tara DeSisto labels the special convention petition an “act of aggression” in Massachusetts Libertarians Facebook group, which was the first indication petitioners had that the state committee majority did not plan to organize a special convention. See Appendix A.3.

January 10

State committee meeting is held in executive session, just 30 minutes after an invitation email was sent to membership to join the Zoom. The minutes do not mention a vote to enter into executive session. State committee votes 6-1 (Janel Holmes opposed, Tara DeSisto and Charlie Larkin abstaining) to expel all 47 petitioners from membership and refund their dues. According to the official minutes, the state committee does not employ or refer to the recently adopted “Standards of Behavior” (which requires a hearing and notice for the member proposed to be expelled), nor to any other power granted by the membership to the state committee in the LAMA constitution or by-laws. Official minutes record the petition was “Signed by 46 people, 1 was not a member, 2 joined after signing,” but petitioners assert they delivered the signatures of 47 dues-paying members to the state committee. The discrepancy

could be explained if one of the 47 signatories was not a dues-paying member. The state committee members do not have a separate vote on removing Charlie Larkin and Janel Holmes from the state committee (presumably because state committee members must be dues-paying members according to the LAMA Constitution - Art. IV, section 6b). Ashley Shade announces resignation as Chair of LAMA in compliance with Massachusetts state law banning candidates or elected officials being the head of political parties. See Appendix A.1.3.

January 11

Worcester County Libertarian Party passes two separate resolutions declaring state committee meeting invalid and resolution of censure for seven state committee members. Appeal to LNC by Janel Holmes, Charlie Larkin and affiliate leaders written and sent to LNC. See Appendix A.4, A.6.1, and A.6.2.

January 15

Middlesex Libertarian Party unanimously adopts resolution of censure for former State Committee Chair Ashley Shade and declares expulsions at Jan. 10 meeting invalid (see Appendix A.7.1). Additionally, the Middlesex LP votes to send representatives in the ongoing planning for the special convention (see Appendix A.7.2). Pioneer Valley affiliate (still in process of formation) votes unanimously “We do not recognize the validity of the expulsion of the petitioners.” (the latter not included in appendices)

Week of January 14 through 18

State Committee members Charlie Larkin and Janel Holmes form an organizational committee with affiliates to hold Special State Convention. Worcester affiliate names Larkin, Holmes and Paul Lynch as their representatives on the committee. Middlesex names Jason Brand, Kenneth Luu and Brian Zakrajsek. South Shore names Thomas Eddlem. Pioneer Valley names Dan Garrity.

January 22

South Shore Libertarian Party unanimously adopts a “Finding of Facts” statement and resolutions declaring the state committee meeting and expulsions invalid at its regular monthly meeting. See Appendix A.5.2.

January 23

Janel Holmes, Brodi Elwood, and Cris Crawford speak before LNC hearing on the Massachusetts controversy. See Appendix A.8 for Holmes’ statements. Crawford’s remarks not in appendices.

January 27

Caryn Ann Harlos, RP submits a document to the State Committee outlining the parliamentary case, and requests that they reinstate all signatories immediately. See Appendix A.8.

February 3

Worcester County Libertarian Party passes resolution to send negotiators to LAMA state committee, naming Ann Reed and Janel Holmes as negotiators, and giving them a timeline of one week to find an acceptable resolution (which would include reinstatement of all members). See Appendix A.6.3. The three South Shore officers pass resolution to nominate Worcester negotiators as their “proxy negotiators.”

February 7

Monthly LAMA state committee meeting (see Appendix A.1.4). Worcester negotiators meet with the LAMA state committee, but do not come to an agreement.

February 8

Worcester formally withdraws its negotiators in a Worcester County Libertarian Party meeting, saying they were “insulted” by LAMA state committee members.

February 12

Special State Convention begins via Zoom, with 38 members in attendance (several identified as “witnesses” and not as members). Convention resolves to nominate members at in-person continuation of the convention on Feb. 26 (see Appendix A.10.1).

February 26

Special state convention resumed at Electric Haze in Worcester. Convention elects new state committee, consisting of Jason Brand, David Burnham, Andrew Cordio, Thomas R. Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Dan Garrity, Scott David Gray, Janel Holmes, Charlie Larkin. See Appendix A.10.2.

March 2

New state committee meeting. Pioneer Valley affiliate formally recognized.

Officers elected

Andrew Cordio, Chair

Charlie Larkin, Treasurer & Archivist

Scott Gray, Recording Secretary

Jason Brand, Membership Director

Janel Holmes, Political Director

David Burnham, Operations Director

Thomas Eddlem, Communications Director

Brodi Elwood, Technology Director

Daniel Garrity, Fundraising Director

See Appendix A.11.1.

March 3

Worcester County Libertarian Party passes resolution recognizing the Feb. 26 special convention and the state committee elected therein (see Appendix A.6.4). WCLP also calls for other state affiliates and the LNC to recognize the proceedings of the special convention.

March 7

Former state committee member Derek Newhall post on LAMA blog “How we got here” (see Appendix A.12.1).

March 12

Communications director for new state committee Thomas R. Eddlem responds to Newhall’s allegations on his personal blog (see Appendix A.13).

March 19

The Libertarian Party of Middlesex passes resolution to recognize the special convention as a valid convention of LAMA and to recognize the Apr. 24 convention as the state convention (see Appendix A.7.3).

March 22

Under the official account on the hijacked LAMA blog, the former State Committee makes a defamatory post under the auspices of announcing the gubernatorial hopeful. The post, reproduced in Appendix A.12.2, speaks of “subversion” by certain undesirable members and advertises a bussing campaign in an attempt to boost convention attendance.

March 23

Rich Bowen, in his capacity as Region 8 Representative, submits a motion to the LNC list regarding recognizing the rightful State Committee of LAMA (Appendix A.14). The motion almost immediately receives co-sponsorship from Susan Hogarth, Joshua Smith, Ken Moellman, Steven Nekhaila, and Erik Raudsep. John Phillips and Chris Luchini call for a ruling of the chair.

March 24

Over a day after the Bowen resolution is submitted, Chair Bilyeu rules the Bowen resolution out of order, citing Article 5.5 of the National Bylaws. Her ruling is challenged, but the LNC upholds her ruling.

April 3

Member appeal filed with the Judicial Committee (see Appendix A.16) by Andrew Cordio, seeking to overturn the sustaining of the chair's ruling. This appeal collected nearly 250 national member signatures in just over a day, possibly a record for a member appeal.

April 15

Appeal hearing delayed from April 16th to April 28th by the JC, at the request of Tara DeSisto for additional time to "reconcile."

April 20

Interim State Committee approves Chair Cordio to enter into the formation of the region including the New England states, New York, and New Jersey (see Appendix A.11.2).

April 23

Regular annual state convention held by the former state committee faction elected in March 2021. The business meeting, in which members were charged to attend, had fewer voting members in attendance than voting members excluded by the Jan. 10 mass expulsion. Moreover, virtual attendance was permitted by a last-minute decision of the former State Committee. Dossiers including social media posts are distributed to defame expelled members. The following motion to reinstate the allegedly expelled members fails with a 8-15-3 vote,

Rescind the decision of the State Committee to expel the members in January, effective immediately, and invite them to rejoin?

Convention attendance, notably, is less than the previous year. A new State Committee is elected, with Don Graham selected as chair. Three from the former State Committee are reelected.

April 24

Regular state convention organized by the state committee elected in February 2022. The business meeting is held without cost to members, and with *all* members having voting rights. Approximately 37 members participate in voting. A new State Committee is elected. Additionally, seventeen delegates are elected to represent the affiliate at the 2022 National Convention. The new State Committee convenes briefly after convention business to select officer positions due to ongoing region formation negotiations. See Appendix A.15 for minutes.

April 25

Region consisting of MA, NH, CT, VT, ME, RI, NY, and NJ is formed, with Andrew Cordio signing as chair for the Massachusetts affiliate. See Appendix A.11.2 or A.17 for the region agreement. Several states in the region reiterate that they will not form a region with the "purge party."

May 5

The Credentials Committee, finding there to be a legitimate dispute in Massachusetts, recognizes the delegation chaired by Andrew Cordio. See Appendix A.18.

Appendices

Supporting Documents

A.1 State Committee meeting minutes

A.1.1 Facsimile of November LAMA State Committee meeting minutes

Minutes of the State Committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

November 8, 2021

Online via Zoom Cloud Meetings.

Present: Derek Newhall, Ashley Shade, Andrew Moore, Michael Burns, Janel Holmes, Cris Crawford, Jeremy Thompson, Charlie Larkin, Ann Reed, Brian Zakrajsek, Brodi Elwood, Kenneth Luu, Connor O'Brien, Erik Yankowsky, John Pazniokas, Josh Richard, Scott Gray, Michael Dalgleish, Kris Wilson, Aaron Morse, Patrick Douglas, Ryan Sullivan, Tom Eddlem, Nicole Richard, Tara DeSisto, Chris Elam.

Start at 8:47 PM.

Janel mentions that the Bylaws change that was voted on last month is out of order per the Constitution

Constitution Article 4, Section 7

There is a question on whether the motion needs to be reintroduced or not.

Cris asks for a ruling from the chair. Ashley rules that since it was publicly introduced last meeting it is in-order to be voted on this meeting.

Any discussion and voting will be pushed to the end of tonight's agenda.

Minutes from last month accepted after striking the Bylaws change vote.

Elections update

150 Libertarians elected to office this season

120 in PA alone

Ashley won her election in North Adams

Treasurer's report by Cris Crawford

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tYEtai5-CsHez_35ctExf6M_-gNbTNoSXNqYNLOI7o/edit

Increase of 540.00 from last month

Membership report by Andrew Moore

190 members

New proposal for membership tiers:

Basic \$30

Premium \$60

Car magnet

Bronze \$150

+T-shirt

Silver \$240

+Coffee mug
Gold \$540
+Convention meal pass
Lifetime \$1,500
Pin, plaque, full convention ticket, monthly call with chair
Student \$15

We voted on Basic and Lifetime tiers previously

Should people who pay monthly get their gifts up front or at end of year?

Ashley says at end

Cris brought up issues with paying for merch vs. when we get paid for it

Andrew says it shouldn't apply since we'll buy as memberships get paid versus being a store

Charlie suggested we ask local vendors to see if we can gain some goodwill that way

Has some suggestions for vendors

Ann Reed suggests we give out membership cards

Andrew thinks that's a great idea and will implement it for all tiers

Tara DeSisto suggests this all be moved to a subcommittee and volunteered to help with it based off her experience with National

Charlie moved to approve Andrew's current plan

Derek seconded

Tiers will be voted on, not the gift specifics

Voting by voice vote: no nays

Convention planning

Anyone interested needs to contact us over Slack or email to be added to it

Charlie and Cris are the heads of the committee

Brodi Elwood wants to volunteer

Jason Brand and Brian Zakrajsek also wants to volunteer

Other notices:

LNC meeting December 4th and 5th in Boston

9AM to 5 PM

Open to the public

Includes budget meeting for 2022

Also organizing another event Saturday night

Fundraiser at alibi lounge (downstairs) at the Liberty Hotel

Breakfast options also under discussion

State committee's choice on whether to do anything for a breakfast

Cris says just going to do Dunkin because the hotel's breakfast options are expensive

Friday night event at Pub 2Twenty2

Cris moves to authorize her to spend \$500+ for this event

Ashley amends to spend \$1,000

Already reserved lounge area
Voting by voice vote: no nays
Now that funding is approved, will officially announce events soon

New business:

Code of Conduct proposed by Jeremy Thompson:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11a6U3bEM1wnFbrQ5QcDIssDFYxRso3Hq?usp=sharing>

Jeremy spoke on why he's proposing this

Encoding things we already follow per Francis' Democratic Rules of Order

Thomas Eddlem objects to Section 2d

Jeremy says that Section 2d is per National guidelines

Tara clarifies that National's guideline is when there's a Libertarian running

Cris concurs with Tara and reiterates that we can't vote on this tonight

Michael Dalgleish questions how board the range of the Scope section is

Brodi Elwood asked about the role of the membership in regards to this proposal

Janel moved that a special convention be called so this be brought before the membership to vote on

Charlie seconded

Ashley ruled out of order since it hasn't been two weeks yet

Janel then amended to simply call a special convention

Derek asked what this entails

Ashley explained that it's a full state convention with pre-published agenda

Jeremy disagrees that a full convention is required

Voting per roll call:

Janel - Yes

Charlie - Yes

Jeremy - No

Cris - No

Michael - No

Derek - No

Andrew - No

Ashley - Abstain

Motion fails because 2/3rds required to call a convention

Patrick Douglas asked whether amendments push the notification time out

Ashley ruled that it wouldn't unless the amendment completely changes the intent of the proposal

Cris clarified that no amendment can change the purpose of the proposal

Ashley explained that enacting proposal requires 2/3rds to pass, amendments on the floor just need majority, but later amendments would require 2/3rds

New business:

Cris moves to elect Tara DeSisto to the State Committee

We have a vacancy on the State Committee

Derek and Andrew seconded

Patrick Douglas asked about the vacancy

Daniel Riek resigned

Two officer positions are vacant: technical director and fundraiser

Tara cannot be fundraiser since she's National's fundraiser

Tara then talked a bit about her qualifications and her vision for the party

Has worked for National for two years

Worked on Jorgensen campaign

Wants to dismantle the two-party system

Brian Zakrajsek asked if Tara's dues are up to date

Andrew verified that she is

Jeremy talked a bit about how she interacted with the Greater Boston affiliate

Voting by roll call:

Andrew - Yes

Jeremy - Yes

Cris - Yes

Derek - Yes

Janel - Abstain

Charlie - Abstain

Michael - Yes

Ashley - Yes

Tara is elected to the State Committee

Tom Eddlem had a question about how affiliates give minutes to the State Committee

We can receive over Slack or email

local-groups channel on Slack

Bylaws changes from last meeting

Ashley proposed we revisit this next month so Tara

No formal objections, tabled until next week

Cris talked briefly about LPMA electoral history

Ashley being elected to city council makes her the highest elected Libertarian in MA history

Ashley then talked a bit about her campaign

Jeremy mentioned that someone else was running as a Libertarian

Janel and Charlie mentioned a Andrew Cordio ran as mayor of Fitchburg

Janel learned about this very late

Charlie said the candidate sent an email to us
Charlie says he apologized to him on the State Committee's behalf
Him, Scott, and Brodi were at the campaign wrap-up party
He's supposed to have received around 26% of the vote
Jeremy thinks it's unacceptable that we weren't told about this since there's
multiple ways to get ahold of us
Ashley said she wasn't aware of anyone else running
She requests that he speak to her directly about this so we can support them in
the future

Adjourned at 10:30 PM.

A.1.1.1 Facsimile of proposed standards of behavior as submitted by Jeremy Thompson at November 8, 2021 State Committee meeting, substituted during December meeting.

Proposed Standards of Behavior

The Libertarian Association of Massachusetts ("LAMA") State Committee is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful, friendly, safe, supportive, and harassment-free environment for members, activists, donors, and all others in association with LAMA.

Therefore on this day, [date of motion's passing] we, the 2021 LAMA State Committee, hereby institute the following Standards of Behavior:

(1) Expected Behavior

- (a) All LAMA members must strive to be civil to other LAMA members and to members of the general public within all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA.
 - (i) "Members must not use any form of personal criticism or ridicule to persuade a meeting. A member may criticize an idea but never a fellow member. A member must never interject or interfere with another member's right to an uninterrupted floor when speaking, except as allowed under a point of order. The chair should insist that this rule be followed" (Democratic rules of order - Fred Francis, Peg Francis. -- 9th ed.) - These are the rules of order that LAMA currently abides by as of LAMA Bylaws Article IV Section 9
- (b) It is hereby required that all LAMA members must ensure that all information given to the LAMA Membership Director remains up to date and as accurate as possible.

(2) Prohibited Behavior

- (a) Harassment, in any form, will not be tolerated.
 - (i) Harassment shall be defined as continued, unwanted actions that serve no reason other than to annoy, hurt, intimidate, or abuse a targeted individual.
 - (ii) Isolated incidents (unless extremely serious or persistent) will not rise to the level of harassment.

- (b) Threats of violence, and violence itself, will not be tolerated.
 - (i) This is to reiterate and further codify the Nolan pledge we require for all who wish to remain in affiliation with LAMA.
- (c) Any behaviors which target, in an adverse manner, others based on age, ancestry, color, religion, disability, gender-identity, gender expression, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, or any other involuntary class of an individual or group of individuals.
- (d) Attacking the campaigns of LAMA-endorsed Libertarian candidates running for public office shall be in violation of this Code of Conduct.
 - (i) "Attacking" shall not be defined as philosophical, policy, legal, or strategy disagreements. It means purposely undermining the campaign of a LAMA-endorsed candidate, for any reason, including endorsing the candidates of other political parties over our own.
- (e) Instigating or participating in deliberate actions that interfere with LAMA goals, as mentioned in the Preamble to our Bylaws, herein listed as:
 - (i) Recruiting candidates and helping Libertarians to run for office;
 - (ii) Organizing and supporting local and topical Libertarian groups;
 - (iii) Performing non-electoral political acts, e.g., referenda, lobbying, and litigation;"
 - (iv) Recruiting members, helping them to do politics;
 - (v) Educating the public on Libertarian political directions;
 - (vi) Creating circumstances favorable to attaining the Organization's objective, by creating politically-effective legally-independent PACs, 527 organizations, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations;
 - (vii) Raising and spending money to do its work;
 - (viii) And performing needed internal operations.

(3) Scope

- (a) These Standards of Behavior shall apply to all public spaces (including those online), anywhere LAMA business is conducted, all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA.

(4) Sanctions

- (a) Engaging in prohibited behavior in any capacity may result in the immediate suspension or termination of membership as considered by the LAMA State Committee after the accused has received access to due process.
 - (i) Due process shall be defined as an executive session whereby the member(s) in question shall be provided ample opportunity, no less than 7 days, to present their case to the State Committee before a State Committee decision has been finalized.
 - (ii) Violations of expected and prohibited behavior shall constitute the only criterion of defining the phrase "for cause" in LAMA Bylaws Article 1 Section 3 with regards to the termination of membership
- (b) If a LAMA State Committee member has been found to have violated the Standards of Behavior, they must be disciplined as outlined in Article IV, section 10 of the LAMA Constitution.

A.1.2 Facsimile of December LAMA State Committee meeting minutes

Minutes of the State Committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

December 13, 2021

Online via Zoom Cloud Meetings.

Present: Derek Newhall, Ashley Shade, Andrew Moore, Michael Burns, Cris Crawford, Jeremy Thompson, Tara DeSisto, Charlie Larkin, Janel Holmes, Ann Reed, Daniel Garrity, David Redding, Kenneth Luu, Kris Wilsom, Michael Dalgeish, Christopher Thrasher, Joshua Bromage, Brodi Elwood, Brian Zakrajsek, Jason Brand, Patrick Douglas, Erik Yankowsky, Thomas Eddlem, Connor O'Brien, Ryan Sullivan, Bryanna Clancy.

Start at 8:30 PM.

Minutes from last month accepted after correcting a typo discovered by Ann Reed.

Treasurer's report by Cris Crawford:

Pretty standard.
\$260 spent on walking tour for LNC meeting
\$222 spent on food. Will be in next report
~\$220 spent on donuts for LNC. Will be in next report
Deposit for convention will also be in next report
New account totals:
LAMA Federal Account: 20,382.79
LAMA State PAC: 7,173.46
MALP State Account: 1,698.98

Membership report by Andrew Moore:

Andrew is awaiting responses from our potential swag vendors

Convention planning:

Jo Jorgensen only speaker confirmed
Trying to get Justin Amash, but unlikely as of right now
Will be at Framingham Sheraton
Sat. April 23

LNC Meeting report:

Successful from LAMA's perspective
Saturday event went very well
Cris talked about the events of the weekend
Spent ~\$750 to host them
Tara also talked about the events of the weekend
National picked up some of the cost for the Friday event at 2Twenty2

Ashley talked to LPNH members represented our state committee well and were very civil

National left a bunch of t-shirts at Tara's house for fundraising purposes at our convention

Ann asked for clarification about the relationship between the LNC, National, and us

Derek commented that the open bar was nice at the fundraiser

Ashley pointed out that the LNC meeting is online on YouTube

Affiliates bylaws proposal from October meeting:

Originally proposed by Cris Crawford

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dcc0kt6qe3354dcipTNIzvYzzTpKENmgsSWdRj07bf4/edit>

Motion to amend article VIII, sub-affiliates, of the LAMA Bylaws, to add paragraph 2 and renumber the following paragraphs.

1. Charter

The State Committee upon majority approval at a State Committee meeting may charter a sub-affiliate when 3 members of LAMA file bylaws with the State Committee. Bylaws shall not be inconsistent with LAMA bylaws, and members shall qualify as members of LAMA according to Article IX, section 1 of the LAMA bylaws. There must be a minimum of three meetings before the affiliate shall be recognized by LAMA.

2. Meetings

Meetings of LAMA sub-affiliates are open to all members of LAMA. The date, time and location of meetings shall be submitted to the state committee for posting on the lpmass.org calendar at least one week in advance. Meeting minutes shall be submitted to the state committee for publication on the member area of the LAMA web site within one week after a meeting. If a sub-affiliate has no meetings for a three-month period, it will be considered to be disbanded. A sub-affiliate can be reinstated after it holds a regular meeting by a majority vote of the state committee.

Tara talked about the state committee's responsibility for openness

Michael Dalgleish asked if the state committee follows the same rule

Ashley confirmed that it is

Cris commented that minutes are posted in the members areas, about how we're switching to CiviCRM, and if affiliates have issues with privacy they should talk to us

Tara said we should make more of our notices public

Ashley reminded people to stay on topic to the motion

Thomas Eddlem asked a couple questions

He had concerns about the privacy of guests listed in the minutes
Brought up point that the week requirement seems antithetical to ratifying the minutes the next meeting
Ashley clarified saying the minutes are not public, only to members, and the week issue doesn't affect

Ann Reed disagreed with Tara that we should limit our meetings only to LP members to prevent bad actors from showing up similar to the Dems and GOP

Ashley reiterated that the minutes are private to LAMA members and notices are public, and reminded people to stay on topic

Patrick Douglas asked if we should put in language to protect the privacy for the CiviCRM migration

Also if they meet at people's houses, the address shouldn't be public

Chris Thrasher asked about the three meeting requirement

Also asked about the wording of the Charter section, specifically the word "may"

Ashley explained her rationale for the three meeting requirement

It's to make sure that people who want to participate are able to before the bylaws are submitted

Brodi Elwood expressed concern that the language saying "all LAMA members" might override local affiliates expelling members

Ashley reiterated the need for inclusiveness at local level

Cris said participation and attending meetings are two separate things

Brian Zakrajsek asked about groups already in the process of forming

Ashley confirmed that, yes, it will

Ashley said it doesn't affect any affiliate she knows about right now

Patrick Douglas asked why all of this needs to be in the Bylaws if affiliate formation is already at the discretion of the state committee

Ashley

Voting on full text:

Derek - Yes

Andrew - Yes

Charlie - Yes

Cris - Yes

Tara - Yes

Janel - Nay

Jeremy - Yes

Michael - Yes

Ashley - Abstain

Motion passes

Code of conduct proposal:

Proposed Motion:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_Xdnx6-qYc9lwVTGfFFErdjW7OctqaY3crl-oZilfP0/edit?pli=1

Proposed Standards of Behavior:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mgEU-4Nluhs93XsozL957cGOMxt_o8T31FMIErY8hAw/edit

Cris and Andrew seconded

Ashley proposed removing 2d the section on attacking LAMA-endorsed candidates

David Redding spoke against it

Said it's in violation of free speech

Said Jeremy was himself in violation of it

Ashley muted David over this comment as not germane to the motion itself

Cris spoke in favor of striking the section on attacking LAMA-endorsed candidates

Brian Zakrajsek spoke about requirement of keeping info up to date and who/how it applies to

Also had reservations about "interfering with LAMA goals"

Used the example of Bill Weld (the LAMA-endorsed candidate)

"endorsing" Hillary Clinton in 2016

Thinks this produces an problem of possible competing goals and might be used to attack other people

Ashley said in this example Bill Weld would be in violation of this document

Also has concerns that due process is vaguely defined

Jeremy clarified by citing 4ai

Cris also said this is a new requirement

Thinks this needs to be expanded/further clarified

What does "present their case" mean?

Michael Dalgleish had a question about updating information: What does this mean?

What are we looking for?

Jeremy spoke about the membership director needing information and is defined by them and SC

Asked for concerns. Ashley ruled out of order.

Janel says she has many issues with it

It's a loaded document

"Words have meaning, not intention"

Personal criticism is subjective

Ashley clarified that it's in Francis' Democratic Rules of Order

"Any behaviors which target" is vague

Says we can't always tell what people mean

Not up to legal standards

Wants to table until convention

Tara spoke to many of Janel's points

Once had many of same concerns as Janel

The "be courteous" part is part of LAMA's Bylaws

Supporting candidates is a tricky line to walk since we are an explicitly partisan organization

This is not a legal document, "due process" is internal not legal

In favor of adding language to specify/clarify it more

Nolan pledge should be part of our membership form

An important part of our political heritage and must be upheld

Diversity of thought is important, but we must be welcoming

Chris Thrasher talked about his concerns

Thanked the SC for taking comments

While actions have warranted this in the past, he has concerns about document

Ghost of Lee Wrights says no libertarian document should say "Prohibited"

Concerned about how the SC may interpret

Membership in organizations could be

Thinks this prevents people from disagreeing with others

Applying this to membership seems like overreach

Thinks "for cause" restricts SC

If we pass this, make it specific to harassment

Jeremy responded

Likes Thrasher's amended document

But thinks "for cause" should remain as it is

Derek thinks John Dixson's proposed amendment would be out of order

Tried to do a motion to postpone

Ashley ruled out of order

Brodi Elwood thinks this should be brought before a full convention

Ann Reed thinks this is a "heavy" document

"No human degradation" should be enough

Final document should be friendly

A motion to replace Jeremy's version with Chris Thrasher's amended version:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aOwokngLD3zJnQ_UBKCckZbMIURD7DecpSp1EzE2deE/edit

No objections from the State Committee

Jeremy asked if amending pushed the deadline back

Ashley explained it does not

Cris spoke in favor of the new version

Condensed version of what Jeremy was trying to do

Andrew thanked everyone for their work

Tara thanked Chris for his work for National

Janel wanted clarification on how this affects our bylaws

Ashley and Jeremy explained this is an addition to our bylaws, not a replacement

Daniel Garrity thinks this is an unlibertarian document

Said he has the votes to push this into a special convention

Jeremy responded that most libertarian organizations have standards of conduct

Andrew agreed

Examples: Students for Liberty, Young Americans for Liberty, Ludwig von Mises Institute

Private organizations having the right to set their standards is a cornerstone of libertarian principles

Ashley said all organization should have an anti-harassment policy

Thanked everyone who contributed

Chris Thrasher reiterated that this would be better passed at convention

David Redding wants it noted that only the State Committee has spoken in favor of this and everyone from the membership wants this tabled or is against it

No org has this for donating members

And this is a legal document

Cris spoke to Ann's objection

It would be great if everyone was as nice as Ann

The abuse we have experienced from people is the worst in memory

Appears coordinated and from people who have done no work for LAMA or the LP

Tara spoke regarding some of Cris' points

We must be a big tent organization, this document does not go against that principle

We must divorce ourself from any organization or individuals who are bigoted or violent

While this does have some legal weight (per David Redding's point), Chris

Thrasher, the author, is in law school

Voting for the new version of the proposal:

Andrew - Yes

Charlie - No

Cris - Yes

Derek - Yes

Jeremy - Yes

Janel - No

Michael - Yes

Tara - Yes

Ashley - Abstain

Motion passes.

Cris and Jeremy thanked Chris Thrasher again.

Jeremy expressed his intention to amend this document next meeting.

Full text of the passed motion:

Alternative Standards of Behavior Proposal for the LAMA

The Libertarian Association of Massachusetts ("LAMA") State Committee is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful, friendly, safe, supportive, and harassment-free environment for members, activists, donors, and all others in association with LAMA.

Therefore on this day, [date of motion's passing] we, the 2021 LAMA State Committee, hereby institute the following:

I. Standards of Behavior for LAMA Members

1. All LAMA members must strive to be civil to other LAMA members and to members of the general public, within all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA or individual LAMA members, including online spaces.
2. Threats of violence, and violence itself, will not be tolerated.
3. Harassment, in any form, will not be tolerated.
 - a. Harassment shall be defined as continued, unwanted actions that serve no reason other than to annoy, hurt, intimidate, or abuse a targeted individual.
 - b. Isolated minor incidents shall not be considered to rise to the level of harassment as defined in these standards of behavior.
4. Any behaviors which target, in an adverse manner, others based on age, ancestry, color, religion, disability, gender-identity, gender expression, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, or any other involuntary class of an individual or group of individuals shall be deemed to be in violation of these Standards of Behavior.
5. As per LAMA Bylaws Article IV Section 9 and Francis and Francis Democratic Rules of Order:
 - a. LAMA members must not use any form of personal criticism or ridicule to persuade a meeting.
 - b. LAMA members may criticize an idea but never a fellow member.

c. LAMA members must never interject or interfere with another member's right to an uninterrupted floor when speaking during a meeting, except as allowed under a point of order.

II. Sanctions

1. A violation of any of these standards of behavior by a LAMA State Committee member shall be considered adequate "cause" for the purposes of an action under Article IV, Section 10 of the LAMA Constitution.

2. A violation of these Standards of Behavior by a non-state committee LAMA member may result in the suspension or termination of membership if the LAMA State Committee, by two-thirds vote of its entire membership, suspends or terminates the membership of a LAMA member after the member has received access to due process.

a. Due process shall be defined as an executive session in which the member in question shall be provided ample opportunity to present their case to the State Committee, with the member receiving adequate notice no less than 7 days prior to such an executive session.

Reminders:

Jeremy:

Liberty in Action: How Change Happens
April 2 at Harvard
Urges libertarians to run in Boston

Tara:

Association of Libertarian Educators
March 25-27 at Doubletree Hotel where LNC meeting occurred
MA is big in education
96% of educators identify as "liberal"
If anyone wants to help, let Tara know
Want to limit participation to mostly educators, but any volunteers for setting up/running the event would be helpful
Ann Reed asked whether this would touch on COVID mandates

Tara does not know the exact agenda, but it primarily focuses on issues inside academic institutions
While Tara has not seen it on the agenda yet, it is very possible it will be at least partially addressed

Ashley said that people who record this meeting without the express consent of all those who are present are in violation of Massachusetts law

New business:

Jeremy proposes that sections 1b, 2e, 3 and 4a2 from the original standards of behavior be added to the document just passed.

Will be discussed and voted on next meeting

Text of relevant sections:

(1) Expected Behavior

(b) It is hereby required that all LAMA members must ensure that all information given to the LAMA Membership Director remains up to date and as accurate as possible.

(2) Prohibited Behavior

(e) Instigating or participating in deliberate actions that interfere with LAMA goals, as mentioned in the Preamble to our Bylaws, herein listed as:

- (i) Recruiting candidates and helping Libertarians to run for office;
- (ii) Organizing and supporting local and topical Libertarian groups;
- (iii) Performing non-electoral political acts, e.g., referenda, lobbying, and litigation;”
- (iv) Recruiting members, helping them to do politics;
- (v) Educating the public on Libertarian political directions;
- (vi) Creating circumstances favorable to attaining the Organization’s objective, by creating politically-effective legally-independent PACs, 527 organizations, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations;
- (vii) Raising and spending money to do its work;
- (viii) And performing needed internal operations.

(3) Scope

(a) These Standards of Behavior shall apply to all public spaces (including those online), anywhere LAMA business is conducted, all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA.

(4) Sanctions

- (a) Engaging in prohibited behavior in any capacity may result in the immediate suspension or termination of membership as considered by the LAMA State Committee after the accused has received access to due process.
- (ii) Violations of expected and prohibited behavior shall constitute the only

criterion of defining the phrase "for cause" in LAMA Bylaws Article 1 Section 3
with regards to the termination of membership

Adjourned at 10:50.

A.1.3 Facsimile of January LAMA State Committee meeting minutes

Minutes of the State Committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

January 10, 2022

Online via Zoom Cloud Meetings.

Present: Derek Newhall, Ashley Shade, Andrew Moore, Michael Burns, Cris Crawford, Jeremy Thompson, Tara DeSisto, Charlie Larkin, Janel Holmes. Closed to other participants.

Start at 8:35 PM.

Convention planning

Cris wants to set the price to break even at \$60 for day, \$40 for banquet, \$100 for both
Voted by voice. No objections. Passed

Treasurer's report by Cris Crawford

Income: \$857.50

Expenses: \$2,000: deposit for the convention hotel, ~\$700: NB transitions fees and LNC weekend (\$634.90)

Petition for special convention

Signed by 46 people, 1 was not a member, 2 joined after signing

Agenda proposed is not compliant with constitution

Agenda: Elect new state committee, Set number of committee numbers

Article 4.1 lays out requirements for those two points

Since agenda does not have constitutional change to contravene Article 4.1, agenda cannot be valid

Also out of order because date, agenda, location already selected for electing new state committee

Michael Burns as Political Director takes over the meeting from Ashley Shade who wishes to participate in debate

New business:

Jeremy spoke

Time to take action and remove members who signed the petition

It is not fair to usurp the will of the last convention for a malicious caucus

Janel then spoke

She disagreed with Jeremy's account

Tom Eddlem for example is someone who cares, Brodi is someone who welcomes

Janel is concerned on what is going on

Expected us to expel all members who signed the petition

Janel is going to resign after this meeting
She cannot continue to work for an organization that controls from the top down
She brought up the work to create local affiliates that has been done
Her phone microphone then cut out
John Dixson signed and has no affiliation with Mises
Not someone who is looking to usurp
Must treat people as individuals and not as a group
Discussion on what the purpose of the goal of the party
To grow the party? Or have a private club
Cris then spoke
This is not a difference of opinion, this is Mises Caucus trying to pack the national convention
She can read emails and quotes from Michael Heisse detailing that this is the point
Janel said Brodi Elwood has not talked about a takeover
Ashley Shade:
Ashley agreed with Janel that we should treat as individuals, not everyone who signed is part of the "takeover"
Read the preamble of the Constitution to describe what we are supposed to do as a party
Agreed with Cris on the delegates issue
We are responsible to the people who elected us to prevent a takeover
Everyone who signed the petition is not in the wrong, only the organizers
She suggest to expel all the members and let them back in on a case-by-case basis
Any action to expel is purely to protect against takeover
Became a libertarian to set people free and fight against government and oppression
The majority of people who signed the petition joined the state party specifically to takeover
Ashley moves to expel all members who signed the petition and refund their dues, and at the end of the meeting resign
Jeremy seconds
Voting by secret ballot over Zoom
6 yes, 1 no, 0 abstentions.
Charlie Larkin and Tara DeSisto were not present for the vote

Ashley will resign officially at midnight.

Adjourned 9:25.

A.1.4 Facsimile of minutes of February 7 LAMA state committee meeting

Minutes of the State Committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

February 7, 2022

Online via Zoom Cloud Meetings.

Present: Derek Newhall, Cris Crawford, Michael Burns, Tara DeSisto, Ann Reed, Michael Isenberg, Don Graham, George Phillis, John Pierce, Christopher Thrasher, Gabrielle Weatherbee.

Start at 8:10 PM.

Minutes from last month accepted.

No Treasurer's or Membership Director's report this month.

Convention:

Confirmed speakers include: Dan Fishman, Whitney, Jo, Miron

Trying to get Amash

Talked about marketing the event in our last meeting

Tara asked for opinions from the members

Brief discussion of Porcupine app

Still discussing whether to do hybrid or just in-person

Michael asked about hotel restrictions

Cris says hotel doesn't know yet

Tara talked about expectations based on other conventions' experience

Cris reiterated that we always need volunteers

Tara asked to make a motion

Gave a fair overview of the petition vs. SC

Called some petitioners and asked if they wanted to be reinstated

4 people said they will not reinstate

[Correction 3/14/2022: Originally this said "all petitioners", but this has since been clarified to be "some petitioners".]

Made motion to reinstate Daniel Burnham

Lifetime member of National

LAMA-adjacent since 2004

Even though Mises Caucus affiliated, he does not engage in their behavior

Cris asked to discuss

Thinks we should table this until after we discuss criteria to be let back in

Derek agrees

Jeremy says you don't need to be a member of LAMA to help with campaigns

His vote will always be against reinstating Mises Caucus

Ann says only proper decision tonight would be reinstate all expelled members
Thinks calling them "conspirators" and racists is besmirching them politically
Should not be reinstating members piecemeal
Their only motive was to set up affiliates
Cris says we have not called all petitioners Mises or racists
Ann said that was incorrect per the National meeting
Tara disagrees with reinstating all members
Thinks it is close to legal grounds for harassment
The level of toxicity from the Mises Caucus is harmful
Them branding their actions/goals as a "takeover" is specifically harmful
[Correction 3/15/2022: Clarified who was branding what.]
Seen racism, trans-/homophobia, and misogyny from them
Only 46 were expelled, 1 wasn't a member, 14 only paid \$2 in dues
Not everyone who signed the petition was Mises and some had real grievances
[Correction 3/15/2022: Clarified part of sentence saying "some had real grievances".]
Cris called the question
Tara disagrees
Michael pointed out that the motion was never seconded
Motion fails for lack of second
Chris Thrasher asked for clarifications
About paying dues, and who wasn't a member
Michael tried to explain the rationale for why the petition was out of order
Derek jumped in and gave a small description
Tara and Chris had a brief discussion on the membership dues criteria
Chris agrees that elements of the Mises Caucus are disgusting
Has serious concern regarding the code of conduct which would affect all LAMA members
[Correction 3/15/2022: Added "affect all LAMA members"]
Expelling seems overreach for them exercising their right to petition
A very disappointing action in his mind
Thinks we should just treat the expulsion as not happening
Thinks there's an issue of state law regarding Ashley Shade being the head of a PAC
Clearly members of that group who have engaged in abhorrent harassment should be expelled
Don Graham had a two-part question
Will the SC entertain either of the motions?
And can we move to discussing them?
Daniel Riek talked
Sympathizes with Ann Reed and Chris Thrasher's comments
Doesn't not support a "takeover"

[Correction 3/15/2022: The end of the sentence read “and agrees that they are”, which was removed instead of clarified.]

LPMA must not become LPNH

Question is how do we get there and how do we fix things?

Cris made a motion to adopt the Worcester County statement

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RFIH6E6ysHL1aqiLY8SYZRz2AAbwSZca_p8w4y

PONrc/edit

Tara objects

Cris thinks it's the best approach to reinstating members

Thinks some members didn't understand what the Mises Caucus was trying to do

Tara and Michael mentioned that people don't understand how abusive the Mises Caucus was

Jeremy jumped in that people must not be paying attention to not notice the Mises Caucus' racism

Tara it's not our job to present all the evidence to the body and be judged

Ann says she has not seen any of the mentioned behavior

It is often a political parlor trick to call something “racism”

[Correction 3/14/2022: Language clarified. Ann believes this statement happened later; sometime after where these minutes state “Tara interrupted and called Ann an apologist for racism”.]

Thinks that our description of their behavior is a caricature of them

But even if true, should have been dealt with individually

Consensus appears to be that the expulsion is invalid

Wanted to be at the last meeting, but discovered it was a closed-door session

It being a closed-door session is a big red flag for her

[Correction 3/14/2022: Ann clarified that the red flag was not that the session was a closed-door session, the red flag was that the session did not begin as an open-door session before continuing as a closed-door session.]

Daniel Riek talked regarding both Jeremy and Ann's comments

There's a gap in understanding and the SC should explain themselves

Agrees with Ann, but wants to defend the SC because he's seen the abuse they've witnessed

Complicated on both sides

SC was right to address the problems, but summary expulsion is wrong move, but hard to do with anonymous accounts

As manager of the Twitter account, he saw everything that was directed against the party

Cris explained her opinion

SC members know more about what's going on than general membership

Mises Caucus is really a political action committee (PAC), not a caucus

Detailed Michael Heisse's plan to stuff affiliates with non-libertarians to take control and how it worked in LPNH

Talked about how terrible Jeffrey Kauffman and Karlyn Borysenko were

[Correction 3/14/2022: Karlyn Borysenko's name was inserted where an obvious placeholder existed previously.]

These are examples of what happens when the Mises Caucus takes over

The behavior around the petition was the same pattern

Considers people joining just for this petition as fraud

Derek read part of his statement to the LNC

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S6vcyAtbBS9HNmaZBoO1tbIAfM3Vbg0qHpBnU67Kh0c/edit>

[Correction 3/15/2022: Link added to public version of statements.]

Michael corrected a few points

George Phillies

Politics is about image

We need to accumulate all the evidence and make it public

Our actions for expulsion were valid

We will only static meeting with the LNC, Cris did well in the meeting, but need someone who's a better politician

Claim that we needed to vote 47 times is absurd, for example

[Correction 3/15/2022: Clarified that Cris did well "in the meeting", and that the static applied to "meeting with the LNC".]

Worcester County proposal is a waste of time

Contact each person for a statement, and if they don't respond, they've accepted their expulsion

Need to be recruiting candidates for office

Don Graham

Thinks we are wasting time

People had other reasons for signing the petition besides replacing the SC

[Correction 3/15/2022: Added "for signing the petition besides replacing the SC"]

George's proposal is unfair if they think they are in the right

Should have negotiators or rescind motion to expel and then treat each member as individual case

5 people wouldn't have been bad, but 25% is a large number of members and does reputational harm

Can we get some negotiations going?

Tara talked about the proposal

Not 25% of the membership, because they are all recent members

The SC has made it a priority to run races

Papers have not been released yet, so it's unfair to say we're not recruiting yet

Objects, because she's already talked to many of these individuals

Been told personally by MC members that she should kill herself, seen people be subjected to vile racial slurs

Barriers are antithetical to liberty, but freedom of association is how we protect ourselves from those who oppose liberty

We should not treat the petitioners as a monolith

She is interested in negotiating

Will have to leave at 9:30, but recommends a meeting in two weeks, and wants to move in a positive direction

Jeremy discussed Don's statements

Thinks Don is on the side of petitioners

Thinks the new SC has done more now than during Don's tenure

Don asked to address these comments since he was addressed by name

Don responded to Jeremy's statements

Doesn't know why he's being attacked by a SC member

Thinks the groundwork he set up is why the SC did good work

Can not take credit for people forming the chapters

When he was chair, set out 2-year road map

A lot of attacking is going on by both sides

It isn't good when a SC member attacks another current/former SC member publicly

He himself has never done it

[Correction 3/15/2022: Reworded the above for clarity.]

Wants to maintain a sense of decorum

He is running for SC and ideally state chair

Platform is to move forward, not about the past

Jeremy interjected that his statements were supposed to be an attack on Don

Just like the SC has been attacked a lot recently

We had a takeover by the "clown caucus" to get Vermin Supreme elected

He had people run for office

Cris and Tara asked why this discussion is going on

Cris talked about a couple points brought up

Jeremy was out there recruiting candidates, so at least 3 SC members are out there doing work for the party

[Correction 3/15/2022: Added "doing work for the party"]

MC members didn't want to do anything

Vermin is not a racist. If he wants to takeover, it's less dangerous than those who talk about black people or the holocaust

The things that the SC does are not being communicated

[Correction 3/15/2022: Replaced "we do" with "what the SC does".]

Last two communication directors signed the petition

To speak to this proposal:

Cris wants to negotiate a solution

Ann

Thanked Cris for the kind words and newsletter
Charlie Larkin does wish to be reinstated
Appreciates Tara reaching out, but someone else should help
Reinstate across the board or open the door to all of them
Daniel (out-of-order) supported both points Ann brought up

Tara

LNC Region 9 rep hasn't contacted any members of the SC
[Correction 3/15/2022: Clarified who hadn't contacted who.]
Dan and Ann are negotiating on the petitioners behalf, but she doesn't believe
Charlie wants to be reinstated because he helped damage the party
Ann being uneducated about the Mises Caucus makes her a poor negotiator
Janel is not a good-faith negotiator
Voted no on the Worcester proposal and wants to continue individual motion to
reinstate people
The petitioners can't be treated as monolith, for both good or bad reasons
[Correction 3/15/2022: Clarified who can't be treated as a monolith.]
Dan responded since he was mentioned by name
Agreed with most of Tara's points
Agrees the petition was in bad faith
The SC then treated them as a monolith which creates a problem
[Correction 3/15/2022: Clarified who treated who.]
We need to find a path forward
It's going to be a big issue
Could be voted on at convention
[Correction 3/15/2022: Added "at convention".]
Further escalation until then since they have no reason to believe
or trust us and will continue the ludicrous special convention
Overall this will all harm LAMA, and that's his concern

Michael Isenberg talked

Worceter proposal is the best
Neutral negotiators are needed
Some issues will never be solved in 1 or 2 SC meetings
Cris hinted that Michael Isenberg would be a good neutral negotiator
[Correction 3/15/2022: Added "negotiator".]

Daniel Riek

Doesn't know what the right path forward is
Asked if doing this proposal with all the subaffiliates is possible

Ann Reed

Ann said she thought that everyone [??]
[Correction 3/15/2022: This sentence was incomplete with no indication of
what was intended.]
Derek asked where it was
Tara interrupted and called Ann an apologist for racism

Bunch of outbursts
Ann yielded the floor to Don Graham
Don talked
 Everyone is interested in negotiating
 If we get 2-3 people in the room, some arrangement can be made
Cris read the text of the proposal to clarify everything
Derek digressed about similar motions and amendments
 Agrees that negotiation might be useful
Tara asked about delegation from SC
 Cris recommended Chris Thrasher as the neutral third party
 [Correction 3/15/2022: Added "party".]
 He said he would accept
 Thinks talking about "negotiations" are ridiculous; sounds like
 hostage negotiations
 [Correction 3/15/2022: Added "negotiations" at end.]
Michael Isenberg asked for clarifications on Tara's statement
 Daniel Riek doesn't want to be a negotiator
Derek called the question
 Cris - Yes
 Derek - Yes
 Tara - Yes
 Jeremy - No
 Michael - Abstain
Motion passes

Cris made a motion to decide who the SC negotiators are
 Derek thinks we should do this later in Slack
Motion dies for lack of second

Daniel rescinded his proposal
 Ann spoke in defense of his proposal

Motion to adjourn by Cris
 Seconded by Tara
Motion passed by voice vote

Adjourned at 10:05.

[Note 3/15/2022:
These minutes were edited after the fact for clarity and accuracy based on the input from the attendees. Changes to spelling, spacing, punctuation, and grammar are not noted, unless

significant. All significant changes are noted, and any other changes were carefully made to avoid any changes in meaning.]

A.2 A reproduction of the December 19, 2022 petition for a special convention of LAMA

A petition for a Special State Convention of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts to elect a State Committee:

With this call we, the undersigned members of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, call on the State Committee to organize a special meeting of the State Convention between thirty and sixty days of this call being presented, as provided in Article II of the Constitution of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, at a time and place that is convenient to the membership of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

We, the undersigned, call on the State Committee to work in good faith to find a date and time that makes it possible for the greatest number of members to attend; in particular, to avoid holidays, school vacation weeks, or before 6 PM if the convention is to be held on a weekday. We expect a physical venue to be selected; if the State Committee has difficulty finding a physical venue to host the meeting, the first names on the list of signatures offer to help find one.

With this call, we place these items on the agenda for the Special State Convention to consider:

Special Orders:

Move:

That the following Special Order is adopted for this meeting, if held in an electronic forum: In order to retain the ability to rise on a point of order a side-by-side chat will be maintained, to which all members may post or reply.

Motion to Set the Number of Seats on the State Committee:

Move:

To set the number of seats on the State Committee at nine.

NOTE: This is the maximum number of seats to be elected at a regular meeting, and the number who were elected at the last regular meeting of the Association.

Election of a new State Committee:

Nominations are open from the floor.

NOTE: As provided for in Article IV, Section 5, of the Constitution, all of the current members of the State Committee will hold office until the adjournment of this meeting.

A.3 Tara DeSisto's December 22 comment in Massachusetts Libertarians Facebook group.



Brodi Elwood

[Tara DeSisto](#) Where have I shown aggression?

5h Like Reply



Tara DeSisto

[Brodi Elwood](#) the petition itself if an act of aggression against the SC.

4h Like Reply



A.4 Reproduction of the petition to the LNC by Charlie Larkin, Janel Holmes, and affiliate leadership

Petition to the Libertarian National Committee for relief:

January 11, 2022

A tiny faction of seven members of the LAMA state committee have failed in their responsibilities under the LAMA constitution of their open and declared intention [not to follow the state LAMA constitution](#). And we, who remain loyal members of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, ask the national party to intervene on our behalf.

The rogue LAMA State Committee violated its own constitution yesterday, January 10, to wit

Article II, Section 5. "If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee. In a single calendar year a state party member may not sign more than one petition requesting a special state convention.

The petition shall specify the agenda of the special state convention, and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but may not otherwise change the agenda. The quorum for a special state convention shall be 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the

current dues paying membership of the party. If one or more dues paying state party members mails or presents to the state committee a written request to assemble a petition requesting a special state convention, then, within 60 days, the state committee must inform the dues paying members of this request, and the names and contact information for the party members who made the request. Other relevant information may also be included. State party members must be informed about the petition by placing the information on the first page of the party newsletter, and prominently on any electronic media controlled by the state committee.

Indeed, 46 LAMA members (of 204 total state members the month the signatures were received) signed a petition for the special convention, 22.3% of the dues-paying membership, did sign the petition and delivered it to the State Committee. That fact is not in dispute.

Also not in dispute is the fact that every one of the signatories has allegedly been ejected from the party for exercising their constitutional right to petition for this special convention. During an email broadcast to the members in the morning after the meeting Ashley Shade acknowledged that “In regards to the petition, the members have every right to submit a petition to request a Special State Convention.” But at the same time the former chair admitted the rump state committee has no intention of holding the convention for which it was legitimately petitioned and required by the LAMA constitution to hold.

Note that the power of the membership to call a special convention and determine its agenda is plenary; there are no restrictions on what the petitioners may call for as an agenda. Indeed, the LAMA constitution redundantly notes that the State Committee is prohibited from restricting the agenda in any way, noting that “and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but **may not otherwise change the agenda.**”

Any claim that a petition for a special convention to call for new leadership as unconstitutional is false on its face by anyone with the power to read plain English.

But the meeting minutes from the January 10 Zoom meeting show a desperation by committee members to maintain their positions, and a filial loyalty by the chair to enable their retention in office, regardless of what rules they would have to break.

Cris Crawford remarked: “This is not a difference of opinion, this is Mises Caucus trying to pack the national convention”

Jeremy Thompson complained “It is not fair to usurp the will of the last convention for a malicious caucus”

The minutes of the meeting show Chair Ashley Shade commenting that “We are responsible to the people who elected us to prevent a takeover.”

It should be stressed that the very members who elected them are the ones they have allegedly removed from membership. About a third of those who elected the current rump State Committee were among those allegedly kicked out of the party without cause, hearing or notice. No fewer than 10 of the signatories who were allegedly ejected from LAMA for signing the petition had also voted for the existing State Committee in March 2021. Moreover, the rump state committee members did not validate the election of two of its own state committee members, whom they voted to remove from office as a result of their support of the members’ petition rights for a special state convention under the LAMA constitution.

By this action, the rogue LAMA State Committee would reduce by one-quarter its total dues-paying membership.

This leadership **fully validated** the petitioners’ concerns, and made obvious why a special convention was necessary. Indeed, the petitioners only called the special convention because this tiny cabal has consistently and constantly conspired with corrupt intent to remain in leadership against the will of the membership, and has had their laser-like focus bearing down upon removing members for the past six months, rather than growing membership.

They have mutually pledged to each other to make the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts membership as small and irrelevant as necessary in order for them to retain their State

Committee positions.

Make no mistake, this action by the rump state committee members was not about a takeover, nor was it to validate the votes of the earlier March 2021 regular state convention. We know they are dissembling; they know it, and they know we know it.

We do not want to see the Libertarian Party utterly destroyed in Massachusetts by this tiny faction of less than a dozen bad actors. We represent the two remaining legitimate members of the State Committee and the elected leadership of most of the state's local affiliates, the South Shore Libertarian Party, Worcester County Libertarian Party, Middlesex County Libertarian Party, Pioneer Valley Libertarian Party.

We also represent one of only three public office holders in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who are Libertarian, a chairman of the Dighton-Rehoboth regional school committee.

We believe that the rules – the constitution – apply to all, in stark contrast with the rump state committee members who think no rules apply to them. We believe in a growing, vigorous Libertarian Party, in contrast with the insular cabal who never once talked about increasing membership in the past six months of State Committee meetings (review the meeting notes for yourself), but instead limited their focus to removing members and making the party smaller.

Indeed, with only 204 dues-paying members in a state of six million (now reduced by a quarter) the rump state committee members have acknowledged by their actions that they have not brought new members into the party in any significant way during their tenure. If they had, there'd be no fake, fevered concern about a "takeover." They'd have already brought in the votes for their own re-elections.

It is our view that the meeting of rump state committee members January 10 was not a legal meeting in terms of the LAMA constitution, because (1) it was held exclusively in executive session without a vote, and the LAMA requirement for parliamentary proceedings (Francis & Francis) does not account for executive sessions, (2) because any political party meeting chaired by a candidate for office or public official is in violation of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, (3) there are no provisions in the LAMA constitution or by-laws for the mass expulsion of members without due process.

The Special Convention will be held

We, the undersigned, remain committed to holding that special state convention in line with the LAMA Constitution, and in fidelity to it, within the deadline required by the petitioners, with the remaining legitimate members of the LAMA State Committee.

We – along with an invitation to all members – plan to hold that special convention with the remaining legitimate members of the State Committee, within the timeline specified by the LAMA Constitution. We ask the rump state committee faction to share the membership roster for notification of the special convention. But whether they assist or not, we will make every possible attempt to contact and welcome all LAMA members to the convention. It will be open to all persons, and all dues-paying members of LAMA at the time the petition was presented to the State Committee shall have a vote, including the rump members of the state committee if they should choose to attend.

It should be stressed: We do not ask the LNC to dis-affiliate Massachusetts; to the contrary, we ask them to validate the results of the legitimate, required special convention under the LAMA charter.

And we ask the Libertarian National Committee to validate the results of that convention, whomever is elected, and to certify those new leaders as the legitimate State Committee for the Libertarian Party in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Signed,

[State Committee members & Worcester Affiliate officers]

Charles H. Larkin

In-exile State Archivist, member, Worcester County Libertarian Party

Janel Holmes
Elected Massachusetts State Committee member, Chair Worcester County Libertarian Party

Vivian Eliza Nichols
Secretary, Worcester County Libertarian Party

[Other Local Affiliates]

Thomas R. Eddlem
Chairman, South Shore Libertarian Party

James Parent
Vice Chairman, South Shore Libertarian Party

Ryan Sullivan
Secretary, South Shore Libertarian Party

Brodi Elwood
Chair, Libertarian Party of Middlesex County

Jason Brand
Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Middlesex County

Scott David Gray
Secretary, Libertarian Party of Middlesex County

Dan Garrity
Organizer, Pioneer Valley Libertarian Party (in formation)

A.5 Libertarian Party of South Shore resolutions

A.5.1 Reproduction of the South Shore Libertarian Party resolution against Code of Conduct/Standards of Behavior proposal

Resolution of the South Shore Libertarian Party

Unanimously adopted at the monthly meeting, December 12, 2021

After enduring some witheringly crass ridicule, members of the LAMA executive committee have proposed a “Code of Conduct” that would require the following behavior:

Required Behaviour

1(a) It is hereby required that all LAMA members be courteous to other LAMA members and to members of the general public within all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA.” https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mgEU-4NIuhs93XsozL957cGOMxt_o8T31FMIErY8hAw/edit?usp=sharing

While the South Shore Libertarian Party expresses sympathy for executive committee members thus insulted and ridiculed, we oppose the proposed code of conduct for both specific and general reasons. Generally speaking, being an adult means having to work with difficult, often crass people, and being in the leadership of a political party means working with people with whom you disagree and who are criticizing you.

There’s a benefit in a broad, vigorous public discourse, especially within a political party, which this resolution seems to overlook and would unintentionally suppress.

It should also be stressed that LAMA is a group of donors, not an exhaustive list of people publicly affiliated with the Libertarian Party; anyone in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can publicly register as a Libertarian Party member on the voter rolls. Banishing a rude donor does not help protect the public image of the Libertarian Party, particularly in an atmosphere of unfriendly establishment media. Mere party

registration with the registrar of voters will cement the image of a person much more publicly than the private membership rolls of LAMA. Moreover, a competent leadership should be able to make use of that rude donor's membership fee to grow the party regardless of his/her language.

We need only to look at the Delaware situation discussed just last week by the Libertarian Party National Committee to find examples of such naked corruption.

More specifically, the existing proposal is fraught with loose language with a potential for abuse. It is certainly likely that this resolution would eventually be used by future LAMA leadership -- not necessarily this leadership -- to cover up crimes. A LAMA member will eventually witness something illegal in an LP-endorsed campaign, whether a bribe, illegal donation, pay-for-play, etc., though we should hope it will be many decades down the road. Publicly revealing/reporting this could be considered an "attack" on the campaign (it certainly wouldn't be a favor), lobbying effort or other work in "raising and spending money" and could serve as a cover-up mechanism.

Indeed, the language in the proposed LAMA resolution is so general that this resolution by the South Shore Libertarian Party opposing it could reasonably be perceived as being within the purview of "Instigating or participating in deliberate actions that interfere with LAMA goals" or "Performing needed internal operations."

This proposed LAMA resolution is troubling not just because of the specific potential for abuse, but because it exposes a party leadership more engaged in throwing people out of the party than in bringing in new people. It distracts from the party's main mission of opposing government intrusion in our daily lives more effectively, especially opposing vaccine and mask mandates, US imperialism abroad and looming rampant inflation that will devastate the working poor and middle classes. It's those latter things the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States most need from the Libertarian Party.

A political party limited to "courteous" members is inevitably a very small party, one too small to be effective in the work of lessening the burden of government (whose agents and media vassals are not courteous") upon the common person.

Therefore, the South Shore Libertarian Party urges the executive committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) to reject the proposal on the table and substitute it with a resolution reaffirming the national Libertarian Party code of conduct.

Approved December 12

Thomas R. Eddlem, Chairman
James Parent, Vice-Chairman
Ryan Sullivan, Secretary

A.5.2 January 22, 2022 Statement of SSLP concerning the actions of the State Committee on January 10

Finding of Facts:

The state committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) in its regular January meeting of Jan. 10, 2022 was held entirely in executive session, without even a vote to go into executive session, even though Francis & Francis, the parliamentary rules LAMA has adopted to govern itself, makes no provision at all for executive sessions; and

More importantly, the LAMA Constitution was further violated when seven members of the state committee did with corrupt intent vote to expel 47 members of LAMA whose sole alleged misdeed was signing a petition for a special state convention under the LAMA Constitution, because the seven members of the state committee perceived their own re-election at the special convention in danger, and neither the LAMA Constitution nor the by-laws authorize the state committee to either remove large numbers of members in order to preserve titles of officers nor to suppress a valid petition for a special state convention, and

Furthermore, the LAMA by-laws only authorize the state committee to remove “a person” – not many at once – and “for cause,” and petitioning the state committee for a special state convention in line with the LAMA Constitution cannot possibly be considered “cause” for expulsion, and

Moreover, the minutes of the January 10 meeting record the Chair Ashley Shade acknowledging “not everyone who signed is part of the ‘takeover,’” admitting, even in the fevered conspiracy-mongering minds of the seven state committee members, they were expelling members solely for petitioning under the LAMA Constitution; and

The LAMA Constitution was further violated in the expulsion of two of its state committee members, namely Janel Holmes and Charlie Larkin, without cause or due process, the only alleged “cause” being support of a special state convention under the LAMA Constitution, even though the LAMA Constitution explicitly requires cause and due process: “The State Committee may by two-thirds vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, **for cause**, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process.”

All three officers of the South Shore Libertarian Party and the only elected Libertarian Party public official in the South Shore (Chairman of Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School Committee Aaron Morse), as well as many as 10 other local members, were allegedly expelled by the vote of the seven rogue state committee members.

Resolutions:

The South Shore Libertarian Party therefore regards the actions of the state committee (which can only be labeled a “Death Spiral Caucus” of the Libertarian Party) on January 10 as null and void, and the alleged “expulsions” of members invalid; and

The South Shore Libertarian Party also calls for the LAMA special state convention set for February 12 via Zoom to go on unimpeded, and for all LAMA members and the Libertarian National Committee to recognize as validly elected leaders of LAMA whomever the special state convention nominates for a new state committee; and

The South Shore Libertarian Party adopts a formal censure of all seven rogue members of the state committee, as mass expulsions lowering membership down from an organization of 204 members among a population of six million is not a sign of a vibrant and growing Libertarian Party; and

The South Shore Libertarian Party further calls upon the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) to:

- (1) Censure the seven members of the LAMA State Committee, and
- (2) Direct the LAMA State Committee to advertise the February 12 special state convention being organized by the petitioners among the LAMA membership, and
- (3) Investigate the role of LNC staffer Tara DeSisto in the failed and illicit attempt to suppress the valid special state convention, as she was appointed to the state committee board and led the charge among the rogue cabal on social media against the special state convention, calling it an “act of aggression,” and
- (4) Further investigate if there is any link between Massachusetts and similar Death Spiral Caucus mass expulsions and/or closure of new enrollments into the party in Delaware, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The South Shore Libertarian Party also acknowledges the Middlesex, Worcester, and Pioneer Valley Libertarian Parties have adopted similar resolutions.

Approved unanimously (5-0) at regular meeting Saturday January 22, 2022

Thomas R. Eddlem, Chairman
James Parent, Vice-Chairman
Ryan Sullivan, Secretary

A.6 Libertarian Party of Worcester County resolutions

A.6.1 Reproduction of Libertarian Party of Worcester County resolution on Jan. 10 state committee meeting

Resolution to Dismiss Recognition of the January 10th LAMA State Committee Meeting

Whereas, on January 10th 2022 the LAMA State Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting in which they voted to terminate the membership of 47 members who petitioned for a special convention in accordance with the process outlined in the LAMA constitution.

Whereas, This meeting was held without agenda and was opened in a closed session and

Whereas, The standing of multiple Committee Members at the time of the vote is now in question with regard to the LAMA Constitution, LAMA By-laws, and/or Massachusetts General Law.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Libertarian Party of Worcester County by unanimous vote does not recognize the January 10th meeting of the LAMA SC to have been properly held and does not recognize actions proposed or passed at this meeting as any such actions are void as it was only an informal gathering.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Libertarian Party of Worcester County recognizes the proper state committee to consist of State committee members who were supposed by the acting State Committee to have been expelled and does not recognize State Committee Members who are not eligible to serve as State Committee Members due to violations of the LAMA Constitution, LAMA Bylaws, and/or Massachusetts General Law and furthermore will not recognize any further action taken by the existing partial State Committee.

Libertarian Party of Worcester County
January 11, 2022

A.6.2 Reproduction of Libertarian Party of Worcester County resolution of censure on state committee members

Public Letter of Censure of the LAMA State Committee

Whereas, On January 10th 2022 the LAMA State Committee voted to terminate the membership of 47 members who petitioned for a special convention according to the process outlined in the LAMA constitution.

Whereas, This meeting to expel was held without agenda and opened in a closed session and

Whereas, The standing of multiple Committee Members at the time of the vote is now in question with regard to the LAMA Constitution, LAMA Bylaws, and/or Massachusetts General Law.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Libertarian Party of Worcester County by unanimous vote censures the LAMA State Committee for their actions taken in an effort to enact a mass expulsion of LAMA members.

Libertarian Party of Worcester County
January 11, 2022

A.6.3 Worcester Libertarian Party resolution to send negotiators to LAMA state committee Feb. 3, 2022

Resolution for Negotiations with the LAMA State Committee

In the spirit of unity and for the purpose of repairing damages within the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) the members of the Libertarian Party of Worcester county have voted to put forth a

delegation to represent the members of Worcester County Libertarian Party (LPWC) who were allegedly removed from LAMA.

- This delegation is authorized to speak for and negotiate on behalf of the LPWC members who are no longer recognized by the acting State Committee (SC) in any negotiations with the LAMA SC regarding the events that lead to or are a result of the expulsion of the members from LAMA.
- This delegation is authorized to work with any portion of the SC with the authority to reach and approve a deal that brings unity to LAMA.

This delegation being authorized to speak on behalf of LPWC does not however speak for each member removed from LAMA membership; each individual will need to personally agree to any agreements reached between LPWC and the SC.

- This delegation is not permitted to enter into any agreement that is not expressly available to all LAMA members no longer recognized by the acting SC regardless of their association with LPWC.
- The delegation is not permitted to enter into negotiations with the SC without the presence of a mutually agreed upon third party which may include but is not limited to neutral LAMA members, Libertarians from other states, or professional mediators at the expense of the SC.

The offer for this delegation to enter into negotiations with the SC to find resolutions to the LAMA fracture is in no way an admission of any wrongdoing by the members no longer recognized by the acting SC or by the SC however formal admissions of wrongdoing may be considered as part of negotiations. The SC, if willing to present a delegation to negotiate, should respond to one of the emails sent to them containing this notice and may in addition reach out to members of LPWC to coordinate negotiations.

- If no response from the SC is received within one week of the publication of this notice the delegation will be dissolved.
- If no resolution is approved or is possible to enact at least one month prior to the selection of delegates to the LP National Convention by the SC, removed members, any portion of LPMA, or any group that intends to send delegates from Massachusetts to the National LP convention negotiations will be ended and this delegation will be dissolved.
- If any portion of an approved resolution is found to be in violation of any federal or state laws, the LAMA Constitution, the LAMA bylaws, the LPWC Constitution, or the LPWC bylaws the resolution will be void.

Libertarian Party of Worcester County
February 3, 2022

A.6.4 Reproduction of Libertarian Party of Worcester County resolution on Feb. 26 special convention

Resolution to Confirm LAMA State Committee as Elected on February 26, 2022

Whereas, on December 19, 2021, LAMA membership submitted a petition for a special convention to re-elect the LAMA State Committee and

Whereas, the petition contained greater than the 10% of valid member signatures required for a special convention as provided for in Article 2 Section 5 of the LAMA Constitution.

Whereas, the vote to expel LAMA members who signed the petition on January 10, 2022, was taken during a supposed LAMA State Committee meeting that had no agenda and was improperly called to order in closed session and

Whereas, the vote to expel included the expulsion of two state Committee Members without due process in direct violation of Article 4 Section 10 of the LAMA Constitution and

Whereas, a former State Committee member who voted cast their vote while serving in violation of Article 1 section 1 of the LAMA Bylaws and

Whereas, a former State Committee member who voted cast their vote while serving in violation of Chapter 55 Section 5A of Massachusetts General Law.

Whereas, a petition for a special convention as provided for in Article 2 Section 5 of the LAMA Constitution does not require any portion of the State Committee to recognize the petition.

Whereas, two duly elected members of the 2021 LAMA State Committee did organize and conduct the special convention as obligated to do so by Article 2 Section 5 of the LAMA Constitution.

Whereas, a new State Committee was elected at special convention on February 26,, 2022, in accordance with the LAMA bylaws Article 2 and the LAMA Constitution Article 2 to the extent possible given deliberate obstructive actions and omissions by former State Committee members.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Libertarian Party of Worcester County, a fully recognized sub-affiliate of LAMA, does confirm the LAMA state Committee as elected at the special convention held in person on February 26, 2022, in Worcester Massachusetts.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Libertarian Party of Worcester County will recognize proceedings from the newly elected State Committee as official LAMA business including but not limited to any demands that all LAMA assets, properties, accounts, and information be delivered immediately by former State Committee members to the new State Committee as duly elected by the LAMA membership.

Further, the Libertarian Party of Worcester County encourages all other Sub-affiliates of LAMA to also Confirm the State Committee as elected at special convention and

Further, encourages the LNC and other Libertarian affiliates and organizations around the country to resolve to recognize the LAMA State Committee as those elected in accordance with the LAMA Constitution and bylaws and in accordance with the will of the membership of LAMA at special convention on February 26, 2022.

Libertarian Party of Worcester County
March 3, 2022

A.7 Libertarian Party of Middlesex resolutions

A.7.1 Reproduction of Libertarian Party of Middlesex Motion of Censure of Ashley Shade on January 15, 2022

The following motion was duly made and seconded: That the LP of Middlesex censures Ashley Shade. She acted as chair of the State Party after having been elected to office, ignoring legal standards with respect to conflicts of interest. She attempted a coup against the membership. She illegally opened a meeting of the State Committee in Executive Session. She attempted to use the illegal meeting to expel 47 members who had exerted their Constitutional authority to call a Special Convention. She proceeded with the vote to expel en masse without any due process or representation.

Passed unanimously.

A.7.2 Reproduction of Libertarian Party of Middlesex motion on January 15, 2022 to send representatives to plan the special convention

The following motion was duly made and seconded: To send Jason Brand, Kenneth Luu and Brian Zakrajsek as delegates to the group of members planning a Special Convention.

Passed unanimously.

A.7.3 Reproduction of the March 19 Libertarian Party of Middlesex resolution to recognize the special convention and April 24 regular convention

The following motion was duly made and seconded: To recognize the special convention held in Worcester on February 26th, 2022, as a Libertarian Association of Massachusetts convention, and the state committee elected at the convention as the state committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts. And to recognize the the convention being organized by that state committee for April 24th, 2022, in Natick, MA, as the regular convention of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

A.8 Facsimile of prepared remarks of LAMA State Committee member Janel Holmes before the LNC on Jan. 23, 2022 (via Zoom)

Hello everyone. First, I would like to thank everyone for your time. My name is Janel Holmes, I am the duly elected Communications Director of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts. I am from Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts and I first joined LAMA as a volunteer in the summer of 2020, when the Political Director reached out to me to see if I would be interested in setting up a local affiliate. Having worked towards that goal, the Libertarian Party of Worcester County just celebrated its one year anniversary in December of 2021, and currently we are the largest sub-affiliate which is continuing to grow.

I am here today in concert with multiple other sub-affiliates across the state of Massachusetts to ask that the LNC exercise its discretionary right to endorse in writing reinstatement of 47 wrongly ousted members of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts by its State Committee.

As reason, therefore:

We dispute the validity of the vote to expel as well as the legality of the meeting in regards to standards of official meeting protocol. The meeting did not initially convene in open session and there was no roll call vote to enter executive session nor was there an announcement of the official reason for entering closed session. Furthermore, the Agenda was never posted prior to the meeting and was withheld from at least the 2 State Committee Members which were later expelled in said meeting.

The Constitution also provides reasonable access to due process for State Committee members facing expulsion:

Per Article IV Section 10

“The State Committee may by two-thirds vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, for cause, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process. Expiration of membership in the Organization is cause, but payment of membership dues to renew membership, prior to the vote, constitutes an absolute defense.”

This would mean that the expulsion of the 2 State Committee Members should have been held as separate motions and reasonable access to due process afforded, not simply by revocation of their membership as the Constitution is the governing document over the Bylaws. I think most would agree that a closed meeting in which the Agenda was hidden from the accused members, does not constitute due process.

As to the vote to expel, we call into question the validity of the Membership Director's eligibility to vote as he was no longer in Massachusetts.

As provided in the LAMA Bylaws:

Article I. Membership

1. Eligibility for Membership

*Members are all dues-paying persons **in Massachusetts**, and all non-dues paying Associate members.*

As well as citing the LAMA Constitution Article IV Section 8

*To be elected **or serve as a member or officer** of the State Committee, a person must be a Member of the Organization whose dues are current.*

We argue that although still contributing dues, that his role on the State Committee was ineligible once he left the State of Massachusetts.

The final vote by secret ballot read 6-1. But should correctly have read 6-1-2 (2 absent). There are 9 members on the State Committee, 2 of which were not present, and as provided in the Bylaws, the vote requires 2/3rds of the ENTIRE State Committee. Without the vote of the Membership director, who was present that evening, and I can assure you, I did not vote in favor of my own expulsion, the vote would read 5-1-2. Motion fails to meet the 2/3rds required.

As an aside from that fact, it has been brought to the members attention that Ms. Shade was in violation of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 55 Section 5a:

Section 5A. No candidate or individual holding elective public office shall establish, finance, maintain, control or serve as a principal officer of a political action committee; provided, however, that each of the following may authorize one such political committee to which this section shall not apply: a majority of the members of each political party who are members of the house of representatives, and a majority of the members of each political party who are members of the senate.

Given this fact, we question the validity of Ms. Shade's vote, not only for this meeting, but for any motion in any meeting after she announced her candidacy in which her vote was the deciding factor. For the purpose of this argument the vote to expel could potentially have read 4-1-2. Motion again fails to pass.

Finally, I would like to cite the recently adopted Standards of Behavior, which provides for due process, that has yet to be added to the LAMA Bylaws public document:

I. Standards of Behavior for LAMA Members

1. All LAMA members must strive to be civil to other LAMA members and to members of the general public, within all modes of LAMA communications, during LAMA endorsed events, and in any general setting associated with LAMA or individual LAMA members, including online spaces.

2. Threats of violence, and violence itself, will not be tolerated.

3. Harassment, in any form, will not be tolerated.

a. Harassment shall be defined as continued, unwanted actions that serve no reason other than to annoy, hurt, intimidate, or abuse a targeted individual.

b. Isolated minor incidents shall not be considered to rise to the level of harassment as defined in these standards of behavior.

4. Any behaviors which target, in an adverse manner, others based on age, ancestry, color, religion, disability, gender-identity, gender expression, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, or any other involuntary class of an individual or group of individuals shall be deemed to be in violation of these Standards of Behavior.

5. As per LAMA Bylaws Article IV Section 9 and Francis and Francis Democratic Rules of Order:

a. LAMA members must not use any form of personal criticism or ridicule to persuade a meeting.

b. *LAMA members may criticize an idea but never a fellow member.*

c. *LAMA members must never interject or interfere with another member's right to an uninterrupted floor when speaking during a meeting, except as allowed under a point of order.*

II. Sanctions

A violation of any of these standards of behavior by a LAMA State Committee member shall be considered adequate "cause" for the purposes of an action under Article IV, Section 10 of the LAMA Constitution.

A violation of these Standards of Behavior by a non-state committee LAMA member may result in the suspension or termination of membership if the LAMA State Committee, by two-thirds vote of its entire membership, suspends or terminates the membership of a LAMA member after the member has received access to due process.

a. Due process shall be defined as an executive session in which the member in question shall be provided ample opportunity to present their case to the State Committee, with the member receiving adequate notice no less than 7 days prior to such an executive session.

The argument for passing these Standards of Behavior was to outline exactly what constitutes grounds for expulsion, explaining the "for cause" language in the LAMA Bylaws. Yet, conveniently this document has not been updated in the official Bylaws to date, when it was passed in December.

Not only are we dealing with a committee that is willing to expel members simply for petitioning them for their grievances, but one that has operated outside the bounds of the law, their own bylaws and their own constitution. Imagine if the state were to remove voting rights for issuing a petition against them. If we don't want the state doing something to us we certainly shouldn't be doing it to other libertarians. This action was unconscionable, unethical and unbecoming of libertarian leadership.

In addition to asking for the endorsement to reinstate the aggrieved members, we ask that the LNC pass a resolution recommending the next elected LNC take up the matter in their first meeting should this not be resolved by the April 23 convention in Massachusetts.

In Liberty,

Janel Holmes

A.9 Letter by Caryn Ann Harlos, RP to LAMA State Committee members

January 27, 2022

State Committee Members:

I have been retained as advisory parliamentarian by Brodi Elwood and certain other select members of the group of LAMA members who were signatories to the Petition for a Special Convention. I am not writing solely as a parliamentarian, however, but also as a Libertarian, committed to this Party and its principles. I will try to clearly state to which “hat” I am referring to in this communication.

To say that your actions of January 10, 2022, were beyond any bounds of Libertarian ethical principles, parliamentary protocol, and potentially the laws of the state of Massachusetts would be an understatement. I am not an attorney and while I may express some personal opinions about legal matters in this letter, none of that should be taken as legal opinion or advice which I am not qualified nor licensed to give. I have advised my client to seek legal representation and assert any legal rights they have that are within the bounds of their Libertarian consciences. At a minimum, to me, this Committee is guilty of potentially actionable defamation for which you may be personally liable if any of the people so defamed believe this is a Libertarian legal cause of action. In addition, there may be a cause of action for fraud since there was an exchange of money involved in these memberships which may be deemed to create a quasi-contractual relationship which you breached. Further, it seems like the former Chair, Ashley Shade, breached the state laws of Massachusetts (Title VIII, Chapter 55, Section 5A) which is intended to prevent PAC officers from diverting funds and activities to their own personal campaigns to the detriment of other goals of the PAC. This charge is being claimed by multiple members of the LAMA, and if true, this might be very serious indeed. A properly credentialed attorney would need to review these issues and make a legal determination.

I understand that your organization has adopted the Democratic Rules of Order (DRO) as its parliamentary authority **for state committee meetings**. Whether this was the intent or not, there is no adopted parliamentary authority for any other setting. In cases where the governing documents and the parliamentary authority are silent (or there is no parliamentary authority), issues are ruled by custom and general parliamentary law. In researching the prior parliamentary authority, I have confirmed it was Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR), and not just for state committee meetings but for the entirety of LAMA business. This is important because DRO is lacking many critical details and because you have no adopted parliamentary authority in settings outside of state committee meetings. The past use of RONR makes it the default custom, and as the gold standard in parliamentary authority, RONR generally articulates general parliamentary law. DRO is wholly inadequate for political entities and puts you under principles that are general and wide-reaching rather than tailored specifically for your organization.

There are multiple areas of violation that I will detail out here for you with the demand of my client to recognize your meeting and decisions of January 10, 2022, null and void, with the

immediate recognition of the valid membership of all 47 allegedly expelled individuals, and to set the date of the Special Convention to be published within five (5) days of this letter.

1. The meeting was “illegal,” and all decisions made were thus void ab initio as the chairwoman was disqualified by law from that position and no chair pro tem was ever appointed

Whether or not we enjoy this idea as Libertarians, the laws of the land are superior to our governing documents and parliamentary authority and general parliamentary law also presumes this basic fact. And since this particular law is intended to protect members from fraud and misuse of authority in an unequal power relationship, it can be argued to have at least a minarchist justification. A meeting must be validly called and chaired, and since the Chairwoman was disqualified (even prohibited) by law from serving as Chair of the LAMA there was no valid meeting, and all actions taken therein are as if they never happened. It is deeply disturbing that Chairwoman Shade exposed the LAMA to this potential legal liability with impunity and instead of resigning on the spot the minute this was brought to her attention, she instead made her resignation effective at midnight on the night she wrote the potentially defamatory letter.

2. Two of the members of the State Committee were ineligible for said Committee and thus, even if the expulsion action was in order, the 2/3 vote was not achieved

As stated above, Chairwoman Shade was not eligible to serve as Chair and an additional member of the State Committee was not a Massachusetts resident for the past approximately six months and thus also ineligible for the State Committee bringing the entire State Committee membership to seven. A 2/3 vote of the seven eligible members would be five. Out of the six affirmative votes, only four were eligible to serve on the State Committee and thus the 2/3 required vote was not achieved.

3. The State Committee violated member rights by refusing to set the Special Convention on the pretext that the agenda violated the Constitution and/or Bylaws.

The LAMA Constitution provides in Article II.5 the following (emphasis added):

If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee **must organize a state convention** to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee. In a single calendar year a state party member may not sign more than one petition requesting a special state convention.

The Constitution says this **MUST** happen upon the submission of the petition. It gives no authority to invalidate upon the grounds that the agenda is out of order. In fact, if the agenda is out of order, that is a decision that **MUST** be rendered at the Call to Order of the Special Convention so that it can be appealed by the people who have the authority to do so; *i.e.*, the

members in convention. Despite former Chairwoman Shade's prior assertions, the DRO and general parliamentary law do allow appeals from her decisions. The Board is NOT the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution. The members are. The State Committee violated their rights by not giving them the opportunity to decide this issue themselves. Further, the agenda does not violate the governing documents as they do not prohibit elections at special conventions and nothing in the agenda is attempting to prevent the elections of the State Committee at the Regular Convention in the ordinary case of business nor does it prohibit the members at the special convention from choosing to affirm the election of the current State Committee by re-electing them.

This right to a special convention is rendered toothless if it is claimed, absent a specific Bylaws or Constitution provision, that a recall election is not allowed since it is obvious that the main reason for having a right to call a special convention is specifically to address member dissatisfaction with a State Committee to the extent that they feel they have to take matters into their own hands. By unilaterally rejecting the petition (and then expelling the petitioners!) on the grounds that they may replace the State Committee merely proves that they had good reason to be dissatisfied and concerned enough to take such a drastic action.

4. The State Committee grossly violated the basic principles of Libertarian justice by expelling members in secret, without notice, and without an opportunity for their defense.

While the Bylaws do provide the authority to expel a member for cause, there is no warrant for a mass expulsion for merely signing a petition to exercise a right that the Constitution gives them. There is no warrant for a mass expulsion at all, and that is completely repugnant to the Libertarian principle of individualism. Signing a petition is not in any reasonable universe cause for expulsion; it certainly gives the appearance of gross retaliation for exercising a right, one that threatened titles and positions. Additionally, this alleged "misconduct" did not occur at a State Committee meeting and thus is not governed by DRO but by custom (RONR) and general parliamentary law. RONR (12th Ed.) 61:22 details the rules governing expulsion for offenses that occur outside of a meeting:

Offenses Elsewhere Than in a Meeting; Trials

If improper conduct by a member of a society occurs elsewhere than at a meeting, the members generally have no first-hand knowledge of the case. Therefore, if disciplinary action is to be taken, charges must be preferred and a formal trial held before the assembly of the society, or before a committee—standing or special—which is then required to report its findings and recommendations to the assembly for action. In addition, even when improper conduct occurs at a meeting, in order for disciplinary action to be taken *other than promptly after the breach occurs*, charges must be preferred and a formal trial held. However, the only way in which a member may be disciplined for words spoken in debate is through the procedure described in 61:10–18, which may be employed only promptly after the breach occurs. In some societies

(depending on particular provisions of the bylaws, as explained in 62), the same steps must also be employed if an officer of the society is to be removed from office. The procedures governing all such cases are described in detail in 63.

The State Committee quite obviously did not employ this procedure and instead never notified the subject members that they were being considered for expulsion, never gave individual evidence for valid cause for suspension, and never gave individual opportunity for defense at a minimum. Additionally, there is zero authority for mass expulsions, and even if all the due process protocols were followed, there must have been individual motions for each expulsion instead of a collectivist mass expulsion for thought crime (Bylaws Article I.3).

It is also noted that two of the expelled members were members of the State Committee which have these rights explicitly spelled out in the Constitution (Article IV. 10).

Please consider this letter a demand for the immediate reinstatement of ALL of the signatories and the setting of the special convention within five (5) days of this letter.

Caryn Ann Harlos

A.10 LAMA Special Convention minutes

A.10.1 Facsimile of minutes of LAMA Special Convention on February 12 (over Zoom)

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
Minutes of the Special Convention of February 12th, 2022

Minutes of the February 12th 2022 Special Convention of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

The meeting was held electronically via ZOOM at 2:00 PM Eastern Time on Saturday, February 12th, 2022, as described in the call for the meeting sent to the members via direct email, social media accounts, and other means.

Members in attendance: Jason Brand, Nathan Brand, Joshua Bromage, Brianna Clancy, Andrew Cordio, David Coelho, Justin Costa, Adam Cray, Michael Dalgleish, John Dixon, Patrick Douglas, Thomas Eddlem, Chris Elam, Brodi Elwood, Pat Ford, Daniel Garrity, Don Graham, Justice Graves, Scott Gray, La'Tisha Greene, Janel Holmes, Charlie Larkin, Luke Letter, Kenneth Luu, Paul Lynch, Aaron Morse, Jacob Nemchenok, James Parent, John Pazinokas, Stephanie Pazniokas, Ted Petingell, David Redding, Josh Richard, Joseph Stivaletta, Thom Sylvia, Christopher Thrasher, Kristopher Wilson, Erik Yankowski, and Brian Zakrajsek.

Also present: Masha Ksendzova, George Phillies

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Larkin.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and amended:

Move: To schedule a meeting for Saturday, February 26th 2022 at 2:00 PM at The Electric Haze in Worcester.

Move: To amend the motion to schedule a meeting for Saturday, February 26th 2022 at 10:00 AM at The Electric Haze in Worcester. PASSED ¹ ²

MOTION: PASSED as amended

Discussed: Reasons to not adjourn without electing a State Committee

Upon motion duly made, seconded:

MOVE: To appoint a Chair Pro Tem for the next meeting, with the authority to change venue or time of the meeting if needed.

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
Minutes of the Special Convention of February 12th, 2022

MOTION PASSED

Upon motion duly made, seconded:

Motion: To name Jason Brand as Chairman Pro tem by Acclamation

MOTION PASSED

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion to adjourn was presented and PASSED

Note: From the discussion, it was clear that the motion was to adjourn until the meeting of February 26th

ADJOUNED

A True Record

Attest:



Scott David Gray, Secretary

February 12th, 2022

- 1 From the discussion and proceedings, it is clear that the motion was made in order to continue the rest of the Special Convention business at the scheduled meeting.
- 2 Per the discussion, many reasons were given to postpone the business until an in-person meeting after two weeks; to permit face-to-face meetings with people who are interested in serving on a State Committee if a new one is elected, to leave time if the Affiliates manage to come to terms with the remaining rump State Committee, and to leave more time to gather more membership lists and addresses of Party Members to make credentialing easier.

A.10.2 Facsimile of minutes of LAMA Special Convention on February 26

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
Minutes of the Special Convention of February 26th, 2022

Minutes of the February 26th 2022 Special Convention of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

Pursuant to call and notice duly given, the meeting was held at the Electric Haze, 26 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA, at 10:00 AM Eastern Time on Saturday, February 26th, 2022. An agenda, named The Agenda of the Special Meeting of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, from the petition that called this meeting, which began on the 12th of February 2022, and adjourned until reconvened on February 26th 2022, is attached to these minutes.

Members in attendance: Jason Brand, David Burnham, Bryanna Clancy, Andrew Cordio, Justin Costa, Adam Crary, Michael Dalglish, John Dixson, Patrick Douglas, Chris Elam, Thomas Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Daniel Garrity, Pat Garrity, Justice JH Graves, Scott David Gray, Janel Holmes, Charlie Larkin, Luke Letter, Kenneth Luu, Paul Lynch, Jacob Nemchenok, Connor O'Brien, James Parent, John Pazniokas, Stephanie Pazniokas, Ted Petingell, Josh Richard, Thom Sylvia, Kim Sullivan, Ryan Sullivan, Kris Wilson, Erik Yankowsky, and Brian Zakrajsex

Also present: Pat Ford, Masha Ksendzova, Neil Roy, and one more guest who wished to retain anonymity.

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Larkin.

Corrections to the minutes of the February 12th meeting were made on the floor.

Upon motion duly made and seconded

The corrected minutes of the February 12th meeting were APPROVED.

The next order of business was a motion in the agenda to set the number of seats on the State Committee.

MOVE: To set the number of seats on the State Committee at nine. PASSED

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
Minutes of the Special Convention of February 26th, 2022

Nominations were then open. The following nominations were duly made and seconded:

NOMINATED: Jason brand, David Burnham, Andrew Cordio, Thomas Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Daniel Garrity, Scott Gray, Janel Holmes, and Charlie Larkin.

Upon motion duly made and seconded,

Nominations were CLOSED.

There was debate and discussion of the candidates.

Upon motion was duly made and seconded:

MOVE: To declare the slate of nominees elected by unanimous consent. UNANIMOUS
CONSENT GIVEN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion to adjourn was presented and PASSED

ADJOURNED

A True Record

Attest:



Scott David Gray, Secretary

February 26th, 2022

The Agenda of the Special Meeting of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, from the petition that called this meeting, which began on the 12th of February 2022, and adjourned until reconvened on February 26th 2022:

SPECIAL ORDERS:

Move:

That the following Special Order is adopted for this meeting, if held in an electronic forum:

In order to retain the ability to rise on a point of order a side-by-side chat will be maintained, to which all members may post or reply.

MOTION TO SET THE NUMBER OF SEATS ON THE STATE COMMITTEE:

Move:

To set the number of seats on the State Committee at nine.

NOTE: This is the maximum number of seats to be elected at a regular meeting, and the number who were elected at the last regular meeting of the Association.

ELECTION OF A NEW STATE COMMITTEE:

NOMINATIONS OPEN FROM THE FLOOR.

NOTE: As provided for in Article IV, Section 5, of the Constitution, all of the current members of the State Committee will hold office until the adjournment of this meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES from February 12, 2022

Minutes of the February 12th 2022 Special Convention of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

The meeting was held in electronically via ZOOM at 2:00 PM Eastern Time on Saturday, February 12th, 2022, as described in the call for the meeting sent to the members via direct email, social media accounts, and other means.

Members in attendance: Jason Brand, Nathan Brand, Joshua Bromage, Brianna Clancy, Andrew Cordio, David Coelho, Justin Costa, Adam Crary, Michael Dalgleish, John Dixon, Patrick Douglas, Thomas Eddlem, Chris Elam, Brodi Elwood, Pat Ford, Daniel Garrity, Don Graham, Justice Graves, Scott Gray, La'Tisha Greene, Janel Holmes, Charlie Larkin, Luke Letter, Kenneth Luu, Paul Lynch, Aaron Morse, Jacob Nemchenok, Connor O'Brien, James Parent, John Pazinokas, Stephanie Pazniokas, Ted Petingell, David Redding, Josh Richard, Joseph Stivalletta, Thom Sylvia, Christopher Thrasher, Kristopher Wilson, Erik Yankowski, and Brian Zakrajsek.

Also present: Masha Ksendzova, George Phillies

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Larkin.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and amended:

Move: To schedule a meeting for Saturday, February 26th 2022 at 2:00 PM at The Electric Haze in Worcester.

Move: To amend the motion to schedule a meeting for Saturday, February 26th 2022 at 10:00 AM at The Electric Haze in Worcester. PASSED ^{1 2}

MOTION: PASSED as amended

Discussed: Reasons to not adjourn without electing a State Committee

Upon motion duly made, seconded:

MOVE: To appoint a Chair Pro Tem for the next meeting, with the authority to change venue or time of the meeting if needed.

MOTION PASSED

Upon motion duly made, seconded:

Motion: To name Jason Brand as Chairman Pro tem by Acclamation

MOTION PASSED

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion to adjourn was presented and PASSED

Note: From the discussion, it was clear that the motion was to adjourn until the meeting of February 26th

ADJOURNED

-
- 1 From the discussion and proceedings, it is clear that the motion was made in order to continue the rest of the Special Convention business at the scheduled meeting.
 - 2 Per the discussion, many reasons were given to postpone the business until an in-person meeting after two weeks; to permit face-to-face meetings with people who are interested in serving on a State Committee if a new one is elected, to leave time if the Affiliates manage to come to terms with the remaining rump State Committee, and to leave more time to gather more membership lists and addresses of Party Members to make credentialing easier.

A.11 Interim LAMA State Committee minutes

A.11.1 Facsimile of interim LAMA State Committee meeting on March 2, 2022

Minutes of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts state committee Meeting, from March 2nd, 2022.

The meeting was held electronically via ZOOM at 8:00 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022, as described in the call for the meeting sent to the committee members via direct email.

state committee members present: Jason Brand, David Burnham, Andrew Cordio, Thomas Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Daniel Garrity, Scott David Gray, Janel Holmes, and Charlie Larkin.

Also present: Mike Brigham, Patrick Douglas, Ann Reed, Kimberly Sullivan, Brian Zakrajsek

Called to order by Brodi Elwood

The following motions were duly made and seconded, and were debated on the floor:

Move: To elect Andrew Cordio Chairman. PASSED

Move: To elect Charlie Larkin Treasurer. PASSED

Move: To elect Scott Gray Recording Secretary. PASSED

Move: To elect Jason Brand Membership Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Janel Holmes Political Director. PASSED

Move: To elect David Burnham, operations Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Tom Eddlem Communications Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Brodi Elwood Technology Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Daniel Garrity Fund-raising Director. PASSED

Move: To elect Charlie Larkin Archivist. PASSED

Upon motion duly made and seconded

The minutes for the Special Convention of February 26th, 2022, were APPROVED.

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

Move: To accept the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Party as an affiliate of LAMA. PASSED

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

Move: To create a Committee of the Whole, chaired by Jason Brand, with the authority to determine the location, date, and time for our regular convention. PASSED

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

Move: That in light of the lack of due process or cause, we vacate the motion to expel Masha Ksendzova, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

Move: To adopt the attached statement (appendix 1) as the position of the State Committee. PASSED

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

Move: to authorize the Treasurer to make financial arrangements with banks and other institutions, as needed. PASSED

The following motion was duly made and seconded, and was debated on the floor:

Move: Schedule next meeting for March 16th 8:00 PM, PASSED

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion to adjourn was presented and PASSED

ADJOURNED

A True Record

Attest:



Scott David Gray, Secretary

March 2nd, 2022

APPENDIX I

Statement by State Committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

LAMA has a new interim State Committee, elected at the Special Convention of February 12th and 26th, 2022. The new committee will serve only a very short time -- only until the next regular convention in April, and the new State Committee is working to arrange that convention.

The interim State Committee will be faithful stewards until that convention. We expect to restore confidence that LAMA is a party for all in Massachusetts who love liberty; we expect to vacate the Code of Conduct passed by the last State Committee; we expect to plan a welcoming and unsegregated convention for the membership with entertaining speakers; we expect to present a real platform to be debated and amended by the members at the regular convention; and we expect to present motions to the membership for organizational changes that will clarify and modernize the Bylaws, and that make plain that LAMA is the members, while the State Committee is only there as a steward for those members.

We plan to plunge forward in support of liberty and in opposition to tyranny, with a focus on the COVID regime, the Military-Industrial-Surveillance Complex, the welfare state, corporate cronyism and the threat of rising currency inflation to the poor and middle classes.

We will continue to push forward the single issue coalitions that the affiliates have already started, such as Defend the Guard, opposition to mask and vax mandates, and other areas of crossover interest. We will use our shared goals on these issues to bring more Democrats, Republicans and independents into the party, getting them working on and excited about libertarian issues.

We ask the Libertarian National Committee members, individually and as spokespeople for the National party, to use their influence to smooth the transition of officers after considerable rancor preceding this last State Committee election. We also ask the Committee to share information that they have about present and past Libertarian Party membership in Massachusetts with us, so that it is easier to bring lapsed members back to the cause of liberty.

We want LAMA to be an actual force for liberty, not just a bumper sticker. If you do too, then this State Committee is here to work with you.

Andrew Cordio, Chairman

Charlie Larkin, Treasurer

Jason Brand

David Burnham

Thomas R. Eddlem

Brodi Elwood

Dan Garrity

Scott David Gray

Janel Holmes

Unanimously adopted March 2, 2022

A.11.2 Facsimile of interim LAMA State Committee meeting on April 20, 2022

Minutes of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts state committee Meeting, from April 20th, 2022.

The meeting was held electronically via ZOOM at 8:00 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, April 20th, 2022, as described in the call for the meeting sent to the committee members via direct email.

state committee members present: Jason Brand, Dave Burnham, Andrew Cordio, Thomas Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Dan Garrity, Scott Gray, Janel Holmes, and Charlie Larkin.

Also present: Aimee Brigham, Mike Brigham, Patrick Douglas, and Ann Reed.

Called to order by Andrew Cordio.

Upon motion duly made and seconded

The minutes for the State Committee Meeting of April 6th, 2022, were APPROVED.

Andrew presented about the region eight agreement.

Upon motion duly made and seconded

The State Committee endorses the Region Eight agreement, and asks Andrew to sign for LAMA.
APPROVED.

Brodi presented about our appeals at the JC.

Charlie presented about getting an EIN number and setting up bank accounts.

Scott presented about balloting at the coming regular convention.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a motion to adjourn was presented and PASSED

ADJOURNED

A True Record

Attest:



Scott David Gray, Secretary

April 20th, 2022

Agreement of Voluntary Association of States for Regional Representation to The Libertarian National Committee.

This Agreement, once signed, shall serve to bind the participating affiliate parties into a Representative Region for the purpose of representation to the Libertarian National Committee(LNC). The Following terms shall constitute the total agreement, and shall outline the process and procedures for the selection of representatives to the National Committee to serve on behalf of the Region. The Numbered identity of the Region shall be determined by the Secretary of the LNC following the submission and acceptance of all regional agreements during the 2022 National Convention process. The states invited to participate in, and reconstitute their existing regional agreement are those who were party to the 2020-2022 "LNC Region 8." (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.)

The following terms shall govern the selection of regional representation to the LNC:

1. The Delegates of the Region 8 states shall elect via an electronic vote, no later than the first saturday following the conclusion of business of the first sitting of the 2022 Libertarian National Convention, both a primary representative and an alternate representative to the Libertarian National Committee.
2. The Regional Representative shall be responsible for publishing regular reports to the National Committee detailing the operations and activities of their constituent affiliate parties, as well as representing the interests of their constituent affiliates during deliberations and votes of the National Committee.
3. The method of electing these representatives shall be separate electronic ballots conducted via OpaVote, and determined by ranked choice voting (RCV). The Election for Alternate shall not begin until the conclusion of the election of the Primary Representative. Once a ballot has been started, each Delegate shall have 48 hours to vote, via a secure link they will receive via email.
4. Primary Representative, and Alternate Representative, to accommodate the greatest representation among the state Parties, shall be residents of different states.
5. The State Chairs shall provide the incumbent Regional Representative (Rich Bowen, NJ) with an updated and accurate list of email addresses for all Delegates to participate in this election. The incumbent Representative shall be responsible for the administration and reporting of the election results.

6. State Chairs shall be responsible for communicating to their delegates the process by which representatives shall be selected as per this agreement.
7. The Primary Representative and Alternate Representative are both subject to recall and removal, by a vote of No Confidence among the Chairs of the affiliate state parties bound to the regional agreement. A vote of no confidence among the 8 state Chairs shall be considered to have passed if at least 4 state chairs vote in the affirmative to remove.
8. A vacancy in the position of the Primary Representative shall be filled by the promotion of the Alternate Representative to Primary Representative.
9. A Vacancy in the position of Alternate Representative shall be filled by polling the 8 state chairs via approval voting among those candidates nominated from within the region in a manner to be chosen by those chairs.
10. Should a simultaneous vacancy occur in both the Primary and alternate Representatives, the procedures outlined for the replacement of an alternate representative shall be used to fill both positions.
11. The term of this agreement shall be from the conclusion of the first sitting of the 2022 Libertarian National Convention, until the conclusion of the 2024 Libertarian National Convention.

The Undersigned State Chair agrees to commit their Affiliate State Party to be bound as part of this regional agreement for the duration of the term set forth in its conditions. Upon the commitment of Enough State Affiliates to constitute a Minimum of 10% of the total sustaining Membership of The Libertarian Party, this agreement shall be considered Valid.

State Affiliate: _____
 State Chair's Name: _____
 State Chair's Signature: _____
 Date: _____

A.12 Former State Committee blog posts

**A.12.1 Former LAMA State Committee response to special state convention
(from LAMA blog)**

How We Got Here



posted by Derek Newhall | 402fp

March 06, 2022

Note: A version of this article was originally written for the LNC meeting scheduled Feb. 6, 2022 inquiring about the status of LAMA (the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts – the legally-recognized Massachusetts state affiliate for the Libertarian Party). Portions of it were also read at the LAMA meeting on Feb. 7, 2022. It has now been edited to remove details specific to that meeting and to add developments since then.

Some background: On Dec. 19, 2021, the LAMA State Committee was presented with a petition signed by some members to call a special convention with the purpose of electing a new State Committee. The petition was found to have no validity since its stated agenda went against the Party's constitution and bylaws. Statements have been made by former [Chairwoman Ashley Shade](#) and our Treasurer Cris Crawford which detail the reasoning behind the invalidity of the petition, so I will not address them here. Every member of the State Committee (that didn't sign the petition) agrees with the reasoning behind denying the petition.

A few weeks later on Jan. 10, 2022 the State Committee voted to expel all the members who signed the petition. Again, the statements by former Chairwoman Ashley Shade and Treasurer Cris Crawford cover the reasoning behind this action, but one of the most cited aspects of the decision is that the petition was organized by a controversial PAC calling themselves the "Mises Caucus" who has stated their goal is "taking over" the Libertarian Party.

An LNC meeting on Feb. 6 was organized to question LAMA and gather information about the petition and expulsion. A follow up meeting was scheduled for Feb. 13, 2022 but this never occurred. This document is an extension of an opening statement that was supposed to be delivered at that second meeting detailing the timeline of events that led up to the situations in question.

--

I have been asked by some people as to how we got here to this series of events and how the Mises Caucus's actions brought this all about.

Near the beginning of September the Massachusetts Mises Caucus Twitter account got in an argument with the Libertarian Party of Texas Twitter account.

LP Texas said:

"The Confederates were evil actually".

The Massachusetts Mises Caucus account then argued against that statement over multiple tweets finally ending with:

"Were the lives of the slaves materially different after their freedom?"

The Massachusetts Mises Caucuses tweets about LP Texas went viral, and various LAMA state committee members were then tagged around social media asking, "what's up with Massachusetts?" Specifically, one of the few elected Libertarians in our state, Wade Hasty (Selectman from Williamstown), publicly called on the LAMA State Committee to address the MA Mises Caucus' tweets.

The LPMA account then tweeted a simple phrase we believe in wholeheartedly and consider it an important component of libertarianism:

"White supremacy and liberty are two unaligned ideologies."

The Massachusetts Mises Caucus Twitter account then responded to our simple statement of principle by using a blatant racial slur to describe the entire state committee.

"Let us clarify that we in no way want to enslave anybody. Especially not the rootless cosmopolitans in LP Massachusetts."

That phrase, "rootless cosmopolitans", for those who may be unfamiliar, is an anti-Jewish slur originating in the Soviet Union. Stalin's final reign of terror was explicitly "anti-cosmopolitan" and specifically targeted Jews.

The MA Mises Caucus then tweeted a picture of a person blowing a dog whistle with the caption "Us. Every day." admitting that their statements are a "dog whistle": a statement designed to appear innocuous to some, but are specifically designed to be heard and understood by racists.

They then began a campaign where the Massachusetts Mises Caucus's Twitter actively engaged with every account who either responded approvingly to their tweets or negatively to our's condemning racism, telling them to join them and help take over the Libertarian Party.

All of this was shared and retweeted by a member of the state party with some extra inflammatory language added. When that member was confronted, she said she had no intention of stopping and would do it all again. A vote for her expulsion was proposed by a member of the State Committee and she was expelled from the party by a vote of 8-1 in favor.

A certain subset of membership wasn't happy that the State Committee booted a member, even one who was very publicly disruptive both on social media and in official LAMA meetings and channels. So one of the State Committee members proposed a code of conduct that would lay out the conditions by which a member could be expelled.

Well, turns out, they really didn't like that either. There were a few open state committee meetings where everyone gave their input, and after much deliberation, a vastly gutted code of conduct was passed instead of the original proposal.

Then a couple weeks later, the petition was submitted to the State Committee. This petition was a call for a convention with the intention of replacing the existing State Committee. The petition was found invalid by our then chair, Ashley Shade, as documented in her statement to the LNC. The short version is that State Committee members can only be elected at regularly scheduled conventions and since the agenda for the petition did not include an item for amending the constitution to allow a special convention to elect a new State Committee instead, it has no valid agenda and therefore is invalid as a whole.

The petition was clearly led by the Mises Caucus, for it was submitted to the State Committee by the people listed on the Mises Caucus website as being their state coordinators, and the first name of every page was a known member of this "caucus".

Some of the State Committee members thought that this was the final straw at trying to undermine the work we do, and so proposed a motion for all petitioners to be expelled from the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts and their dues refunded. This vote then passed by a vote of 6 yeses, 1 no, and 2 non-responses (presumably due to technical difficulties on the call).

That's how we got here.

Now, for some clarifications to all that:

Do we believe everyone who signed the petition is a member/supporter of the Mises Caucus or a racist? Clearly not. From our phone interviews with some of them after the fact, some had no idea what was going on. Additionally, a couple of the signers are

people we have worked with in the past and respected and find it very regrettable they got caught up in this.

However, the argument presented before the State Committee was that even if the signers were ill-informed participants, they still engaged in an action specifically designed to harm the party through ejecting the State Committee so as to help the Massachusetts Mises Caucus recruit racists.

To put it in a shorter form:

Do I believe that every member of the Mises Caucus of Massachusetts is racist? I have no idea, but it's possible they are not.

Do I believe that members of the Mises Caucus of Massachusetts were using racism as a recruiting tool? Yes. Obviously, because there is clear public evidence of them doing so.

--

Since all the above was written a few new developments have occurred.

On Feb. 7, 2022 the State Committee had a meeting with members where the most prominent agenda item was what to do going forward from all of this. A proposal resolution was given to us from the Worcester County local affiliate asking for negotiations between the petitioners and the LAMA State Committee. The discussion got heated at times, but at the end of it, the State Committee voted to endorse and approve the proposal and a neutral third party was proposed.

The State Committee then selected two members to lead our "delegation" for the negotiations. However, when our negotiators contacted them on Feb. 10, we were told that they have now rejected the proposal and will no longer talk to us.

This now brings everyone up to date.

--

In summation, here is a short version of the above sequence of events

- The Mises Caucus was racist on Twitter
- A member was expelled for antagonizing the State Committee using Mises Caucus material
- A code of conduct was proposed to make the criteria for expulsion explicit
- In response, a Mises Caucus-organized petition was submitted to replace the State Committee
- The petition was ruled invalid and members who signed the petition were expelled
- A plan for potential reconciliation was later proposed and agreed to
- ...and the petitioners then rejected it

All of the above is publicly verifiable with some effort. Additionally, the State Committee has screenshots and documentation of everything mentioned above.

We all hope this clears up what's been going on.

Do you like this post?

•



A.12.2 Former LAMA State Committee attempts to defame allegedly expelled members and announces bussing campaign (from LAMA blog)

lpmass.org

Kevin Reed Takes a Stand for Liberty

posted by Libertarian Party of Massachusetts | 893.80fp March 22, 2022

4-5 minutes

Kevin Reed, Libertarian entrepreneur, has formed an exploratory committee for a possible run for Governor. He announced last week that he will be transporting delegates to the state convention as "an act of defiance against subversive attacks to state parties throughout the country." Read his statement:

GET ON THE BUS! LIBERTY CAN'T WAIT

Gubernatorial Candidate Takes a Stand for Liberty by Hosting Freedom Rides to State Convention

Boston, MA, March 19, 2022 - Kevin Reed, the Libertarian candidate for Governor of the state of Massachusetts, is hosting a Freedom Ride across the commonwealth to the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) state convention. The candidate is transporting members that register for membership to the Libertarian Party in the state regardless of party affiliation by 11:59 pm March 23rd as an act of defiance against subversive attacks to state parties throughout the country.

The Mises Caucus has conducted acts of subversion on state party committees of the Libertarian party by voting long-serving party members out to leave seats vacant and nullify candidates in

an attempt to ward off ballot access. The assumption is that this may be a coordinated attack to keep Libertarians off the ballot as retaliation for the 1.2% of votes that went to the party's candidate Jo Jorgensen. There is an assumption that these votes could have been the difference maker to help President Trump in the 2020 elections. This assault is an attempt to assure the party will not be a spoiler again.

After watching the events that hijacked and upended the candidates and committees in the states of Colorado, Nevada, California, and Pennsylvania; Kevin Reed is deciding to work with the party and build a defensive wall by busing in delegates to participate in the state convention. Alongside making contact with registered Libertarians in the state, he has green-lighted a campaign documentary.

"We can not be the vanguards of liberty if we can not defend ourselves from the freedom to organize and to conduct peaceful exchanges of ideas," the candidate said. "We as Libertarians have a right to be heard, and not subverted, not circumvented or ostracized. We have a right to articulate our ideas as solutions to the problem of this state. While I am disturbed by the events conducted in other states, I am not now, or ever, as a resident of Massachusetts, going to allow this state to be run over. This is the home of both the American and American Industrial revolutions. While conceived under candlelight in a Philadelphia meeting hall, this country was born at the corner of State Street and Congress; America has a Boston birth certificate! And the very Constitution that this nation, which sets the standard of being ruled by the rule of law, is molded out the cast set by OUR state constitution. So, if I have to personally get in one of those sprinter vans and drive to each county, town, and city and help bring delegates that

represent the idea that the one place there should be freedom is in the party of freedom, then I will! My heart goes out to members of other states who have endured the subversion of this caucus, but in Massachusetts, the home of liberty, we are not just random Libertarians, but the literal descendants of the Sons of Liberty, and it is in that spirit, I will not roll over to be tread upon."

Kevin Christopher Reed is currently contacting the 17,000 registered members in Massachusetts as well as other third-party groups and organizations to purchase \$30 annual membership of the party and participate in the Massachusetts Freedom Rides and documentary before the March 23rd deadline. If you want more information, please contact Kevin Reed at Kevin_Reed@ReedLegacygroup.com or text him at 857-400-9133.

A.13 State committee response to blog post (from Thomas R. Eddlem's personal blog)

Pity for Derek Newhall

By Thomas R. Eddlem

You can't help but feel just a little bit of pity for Derek Newhall and the #DeathSpiral7 this weekend. It was only on Monday the former LAMA State Committee member Derek Newhall laid out in a [blog post](#) his exceptionally weak evidence that the Massachusetts "Mises Caucus was racist on Twitter."

Then, on Tuesday, fellow former LAMA State Committee member Cris Crawford followed it up with a [blog post](#) saying that "while there are undoubtedly some neo-Nazis in Ukraine," this should not be dispositive from the US supporting the Ukrainians.



posted by CRISTINA CRAWFORD | 570.66p
March 04, 2022

From a recent Facebook post by Tyler Harris, Executive Director of the National LP:

There is absolutely no reason that anyone — inside the Libertarian movement or outside of it — should carry water for Putin's authoritarian regime as it wages a senseless and needless war of aggression in Ukraine. Those apologists eager to ape Putin's propaganda, to blame Ukraine or NATO or the United States for this invasion, wittingly or unwittingly undermine not only the heroic efforts of Ukrainians to defend themselves and their homes from Russia's aggression, but the efforts of thousands of Russian protestors and demonstrators, including Libertarians within Russia, who are risking their lives and livelihoods by demanding an end to the invasion.

All Libertarians make a pledge to "oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals." There is no question who is initiating force for political purposes by waging war in Ukraine. This should not be a difficult or subtle issue for Libertarians. As always, we stand on the side of peace and in opposition to tyranny and the initiation of force. Those who stand with Putin cannot also stand for Liberty.

"... We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups."

— Libertarian Party Platform, 3.3 International Affairs

Putin's rationale for his murderous invasion of Ukraine rests heavily on the allegation that the United States is arming neo-Nazis. **While there are undoubtedly some neo-Nazis in Ukraine** (and also in Russia, elsewhere in Europe, in the United States, and everywhere else), it's incredibly disturbing to see the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire regurgitate Putin's claims in their Facebook statement on the invasion.

And on Thursday, former State Committee member Tara DeSisto engaged in objectively de-humanizing Nazi terminology in a Facebook discussion, saying that "That is exactly what the state party did. They got rid of a disease." Dehumanization is the fourth of the ten stages of any genocide, as I know from teaching about the Holocaust.

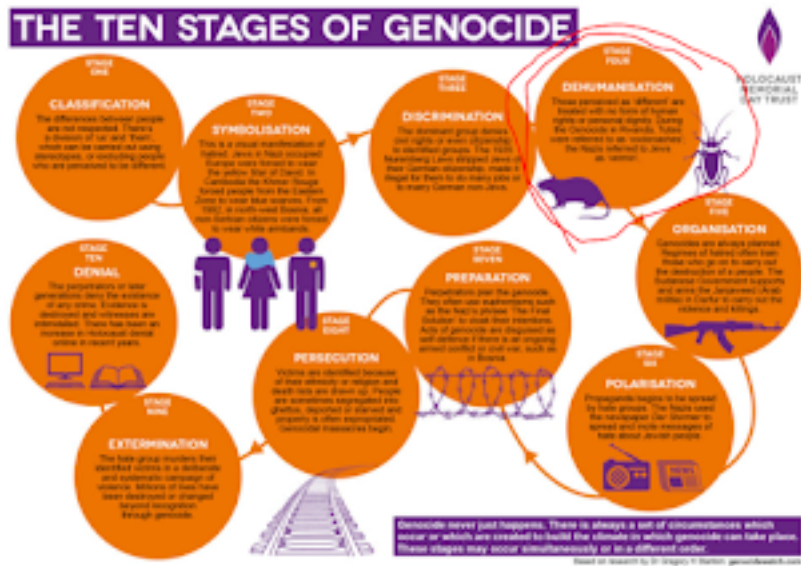
The comment Tara DeSisto is replying to has been deleted.



Tara DeSisto

Samuel Ross That is exactly what the state party did. They got rid of the disease... to heal.

Like Reply Share 10h



And finally on Friday, #DeathSpiral7 die-hard Jeremy Thompson (who goes by “Jeremy Francisco Chandler” on Facebook) deployed a well-known slur against African-Americans in a Facebook discussion (later uploaded to Twitter): “If you want the freedom to be a coon just say that.”



It's almost as if the rest of the #DeathSpiral7 were deliberately trying to sabotage Newhall's blogpost. Keep

in mind that these are the questionable posts from just the five days since Newhall posted his allegations against people he doesn't know on the LAMA blog.

The snarky part of me wants to quip "they are projecting," and then verbally inveigh with a kind of hushed tone that these three outbursts in favor of working with neo-Nazis, employing genocidal language and racial slurs against people of color constitute some kind of insight into their genuine mentality, only that it was a tone moderated by self-censorship to hide an even darker heart of racism.

The problem is, I don't really believe that narrative, even though I could make it credible to most people with a little literary flourish.

Which brings me back to Derek Newhall's claim about the Mises Caucus. Front-and-center in his case was a nearly year-old tweet by a Mises Caucus volunteer organizer who subsequently moved out of state and was not among the #Mass47 which the #DeathSpiral7 voted to expel from the party (He may still be a member in good-standing, for all I know):

"Were the lives of the slaves materially different after their freedom?"

The above was a response to a discussion of the American civil war where the Massachusetts Mises Caucus member saw in the discussion an implication that the Union was blameless in slavery and ignored the failure of early reconstruction with the imposition of the "Black Codes" across the former confederacy, re-enslaving many black people through vagrancy and apprenticeship laws. Thousands of freedmen were being killed by new terrorist organizations like the Ku Klux Klan, White Knights and Red Shirts. Let's face it; Twitter is not properly designed to debate the finer points of the failure to bring justice to freedmen in the 1860s. The comment was not a defense of the confederacy (the person is an anarchist who opposes all government) nor of slavery, as he made clear in his subsequent tweet:

"Let us clarify that we in no way want to enslave anybody. Especially not the rootless cosmopolitans in LP Massachusetts."

So Newhall pounced upon use of the phrase "rootless cosmopolitans" as deliberate employment of a nefarious anti-Semitic trope:

"The Massachusetts Mises Caucus Twitter account then responded to our simple statement of principle by using a blatant racial slur to describe the entire state committee.... That phrase, "rootless cosmopolitans", for those who may be unfamiliar, is an anti-Jewish slur originating in the Soviet Union. Stalin's final reign of terror was explicitly "anti-cosmopolitan" and specifically targeted Jews."

I thought it silly to imply a millennial would be familiar with the minutiae of Stalin sloganeering in the early Cold War-era. That former Mises volunteer coincidentally he wrote an email message to me this week, and I asked him about his use of the phrase "rootless cosmopolitans." His response:

"I came up with the term because I thought the two words accurately described them! Didn't know about the 1950s Soviet context in the original Russian."

In other words, there was another explanation other than the Mises Caucus caucus was employing a Stalinistic attack on Jews, and it was a totally innocent explanation.

Likewise, I think the goofy-missteps by the #DeathSpiral7 this week can be explained mostly by frustration: Cris Crawford's post was not explicitly about supporting the neo-Nazi Azov Battalion in Ukraine, but in opposition to aggressive war. Tara DeSisto's bumble was a result of unprofessional rage in the heat of a testy Facebook discussion. And while there's no excuse for Jeremy Thompson's employment of the term "coon" to describe another person, it was clearly written in a moment of millennial Twitter/Facebook rage and doesn't reveal any deep-seated racism against black people. (He is black himself, after all.)

The above illustrates why a leadership change was necessary, however. The truth is that the #DeathSpiral7 didn't know either the former Mises Caucus organizer who posted those tweets and as a result expelled 47 who didn't write it in reaction to their own misunderstanding. They engaged in reckless and false charges of racism at the very same week they made more credibly racist blunders. They decimated the ranks of the

already moribund Libertarian Association of Massachusetts over a chimerical problem of racism within the membership.

And Derek Newhall mentions one of the reasons I agreed to help the petition process for a special state convention, after a protracted state committee discussion over kicking more people out of the party:

“There were a few open state committee meetings where everyone gave their input, and after much deliberation, a vastly gutted code of conduct was passed instead of the original proposal.”

I thought at the time (the December 2021 meeting), this is the third month in a row the state committee meeting was consumed by kicking members out without any discussion of bringing new members in. This is not an organization positioning itself to grow and make a difference in the struggle for liberty.

Of course, Newhall didn't mention the fact that every single member who spoke on the code of conduct spoke in opposition to it. Nor did he mention that this same state committee voted down a code of conduct that would have given the state committee the power to mass expel members – just one month before they voted to mass-expel 47 members in a single vote and with no cause given (other than signing a petition for a special state convention). There's no provision in either the LAMA constitution or by-laws that empowers the state committee to mass expel members. But the #DeathSpiral7 have subsequently asserted that LAMA is not so much a political party but is instead a sort of private yacht club owned by a majority of state committee members to whom the rules don't apply.

Thus, it's not surprising Newhall didn't bother to cite any provision of the LAMA [constitution](#) or [by-laws](#) in the failed suppression of the special state convention, which require the state committee to organize a special state convention for any petition made by members. Moreover, the LAMA constitution explicitly prohibits the state committee from making any changes to the petitioned agenda.

The former state committee officers of LAMA unsuccessfully tried to enclose a circle with a quarter of the membership on the outside. The new state committee, elected at that special state convention February 26 draws a circle big enough to draw in everyone, and welcomes even those former state committee members who would have excluded us.

We have chosen inclusion over exclusion. The era of expulsions is over.

Thomas R. Eddlem is communications director and a member of the state committee of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

A.14 **Reproduction of Rich Bowen's March 30th resolution to recognize the rightful State Committee of LAMA (from [the LNC list](#)).**

I, along with Mr. Ford, are seeking co-sponsors for the following motion regarding the Massachusetts affiliate.

I have attached as an exhibit, a detailed timeline of the ongoing situation in Massachusetts.

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTFUL STATE COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS(LAMA)

Whereas, on December 19, 2021, LAMA membership submitted a petition for a special convention to conduct a recall election of the LAMA State Committee;

Whereas, the petition contained greater than the 10% of valid member signatures required for a special convention in accordance with Article 2 Section 5 of the LAMA Constitution;

“If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee.”

Whereas, the petition was submitted with an agenda, as required by the following Constitutional provision;

“The petition shall specify the agenda of the special state convention, and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but may not otherwise change the agenda.”

Whereas, on January 10, 2022, the response from the State Committee to the properly constituted petition was to expel en masse all petition signatories, in violation of basic member rights, due process, and Article 1 Section 3 of the LAMA bylaws, which allow for expulsion of “a person from membership” (not mass expulsions).

“The State Committee may for cause by 2/3 secret ballot vote of the entire State Committee expel a person from membership in the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts; an expelled person must receive a 2/3 secret ballot favorable vote from the State Committee to rejoin.”

Whereas, the vote to expel LAMA members was taken during a supposed State Committee meeting that had no agenda, thus denying targeted members notice of any proposed action against them and an opportunity to defend themselves, and the meeting was called to order in closed session, against longstanding custom (their parliamentary authority does not address the topic at all), and contrary to the public notice given;

Whereas, among the wrongfully expelled were two State Committee members who were denied any access to due process, in violation of Article 4 Section 10 of the LAMA Constitution;

“The State Committee may by two-thirds vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, for cause, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process.”

Whereas, a member of that State Committee who has not been a resident of Massachusetts for close to a year, cast their vote for the expulsion, in violation of Article 4 Section 8 and Article 1 Section 1 of the LAMA Constitution;

- *“To be elected or serve as a member or officer of the State Committee, a person must be a Member of the Organization whose dues are current.”*
- *“Members are all dues-paying members in Massachusetts, and all other persons who may so qualify under uniform rules of non-dues paying membership for which the State Committee may provide in its Bylaws.”*

Whereas, two duly elected members of the 2021 LAMA State Committee did organize and conduct the special convention as is required by Article 2 Section 5 of the LAMA Constitution and provided notice to the extent possible given deliberate obstructive actions and omissions by former State Committee members;

Whereas, a new State Committee was elected at that special convention on February 26, 2022, in accordance with the LAMA Bylaws Article 2 and the LAMA Constitution Article 2 and as specified on the submitted agenda, with the positions now filled as follows;

- Andrew Cordio, Chair
- Charlie Larkin, Treasurer & Archivist
- Scott Gray, Recording Secretary
- Jason Brand, Membership Director
- Janel Holmes, Political Director
- David Burnham, Operations Director
- Thomas Eddlem, Communications Director
- Brodi Elwood, Technology Director
- Daniel Garrity, Fundraising Director

Whereas, the newly elected State Committee has set and noticed their annual convention for April 24, 2022, at which time the State Committee for the next term, and national convention delegates, will be elected;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Libertarian National Committee recognizes the results of election at the special convention and the State Committee elected therein.

--

Rich Bowen
Libertarian National Committee
Region 8 Representative (NJ/NY/CT/RI/MA/VT/NH/ME)
Audit Committee Member
Convention Oversight Committee Member
Chair's Advisory Budget & Operations Committee Member

A.15 Facsimile of minutes of LAMA Regular Convention on April 24

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
Minutes of the Convention of April 24th, 2022

Minutes of the April 24th 2022 Convention of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

Pursuant to call and notice duly given, the meeting was held at the Hampton Inn Boston/Natick, 319 Speen Street, Natick, MA, at 1:00 PM on Sunday, April 24th, 2022. An agenda available two weeks in advance of the meeting is attached to these minutes.

Members in attendance: Joseph Alphonse, Josh Anderson, David Bedding, Brandi Bishop, Jason Brand, Joshua Bromage, Nathan Brand, David Burnham, Bryanna Clancy, Andrew Cordio, J Costa, V Costa, Patrick Dough, Thomas Eddlem, Chris Elam, Brodi Elwood, Dan Garrity, Pat Garrity, Don Graham, Sherry Graham, Scott Gray, Janel Holmes, Masha Ksendzova, Charlie Larkin, Kenneth Luu, Paul Lynch, Sean McQuilliams, James Parent, John Paniokas, Stephanie Pazniokas, Ann Reed, Ken Roberts, Thom Silvia, Ryan Sullivan, Christopher Thrasher, Kris Wilson, Brian Zakrajsek

Also present: Cynthia Brand, Eric Cordova, Gabrielle Cordova, Daniel Donnelly, Ryan Herbert, Aniko Magyar, Jessica McLaughlin, Terry Reed

The meeting was called to order by Andrew Cordio.

Upon motion duly made and seconded:

MOVE: For special orders of the day, to receive all nominations for SC and for delegates to National first, and close nominations, before moving on to elections for either.

MOTION PASSED

The following nominations for State Committee were received on the floor: Joseph Alphonse, Jason Brand, David Burnham, Andrew Cordio, Thomas Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Daniel Garrity, Scott David Gray, Janel Holmes, and Ann Reed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, nominations were CLOSED.

The following nominations for delegates were received on the floor: Josh Anderson, Jason Brand, Nathan Brand, Andrew Cordio, Patrick Douglas, Thomas Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Dan Garrity, Janel Holmes, Charlie Larkin, Jacob Nemochonok, Thomas Silvia, John Pazinokas, Stephanie Pazinokas, David Redding, Christopher Thrasher, and Brian Zakrajsek.

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
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Upon motion duly made and seconded, nominations were CLOSED.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was recessed until the Secretary returned from printing ballots. PASSED

The meeting was reconvened after forty minutes elapsed.

Nominees to the State Committee were each given two minutes to speak to their candidacy.

Ballots for State Committee were distributed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded:

MOVE: to suspend the rules and close balloting early, as all ballots had been filled out and returned.

MOTION PASSED

The convention moved on to debate delegates to the national Libertarian convention.

Ballots for delegates to the national convention were distributed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded:

MOVE: to suspend the rules and close balloting early, as all ballots had been filled out and returned.

MOTION PASSED

The following persons were ELECTED to State Committee, by ballot: Jason Brand, David Burnham, Andrew Cordio, Thomas Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Daniel Garrity, Scott David Gray, Janel Holmes, and Ann Reed.

The following persons, who are not already eligible to serve by virtue of election to the State Committee, were ELECTED to serve as national delegates, by ballot, in order from highest count of yes votes to lowest: Charlie Larkin, John Pazinokas, Stephanie Pazinokas, Josh Anderson, Patrick Douglas, Thomas Silvia, David Redding, Brian Zakrajsek, Nathan Brand, Jacob Nemchonok, Christopher Thrasher.

Upon motion duly made and presented in the agenda, the following motion was considered:

MOVE: To recognize Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised as the Parliamentary Authority for the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

MOTION PASSED

Upon motion duly made and presented in the agenda, the following motion was considered:

MOVE: To vacate the most recent bylaw changes made by the former state committee, regarding Article VIII; sub-affiliates, and revert to the original numbering and text as follows:

1. Charter

The State Committee upon majority approval at a State Committee meeting may charter a sub-affiliate when 3 members of LAMA file bylaws with the State Committee. Bylaws shall not be inconsistent with LAMA bylaws, and members shall qualify as members of LAMA according to Article IX, section 1 of the LAMA bylaws.

2. Membership

All subsequent members of a sub-affiliate who qualify for membership in LAMA according to LAMA requirements shall be deemed members of LAMA unless they opt out.

3. Revocation

The State Committee may revoke the charter of a sub-affiliate for cause by 3/4 vote of State Committee members at a State Committee meeting.

MOTION PASSED

The meeting moved on to other business.

Upon motion duly made and seconded:

MOVE: To amend the Bylaws so that no person who is employed or contracted by the Libertarian National Committee may under any circumstances serve as a voting member of the State Committee.

An amendment to change the motion by adding the words “or their spouse” after the words “Libertarian National Committee” FAILED.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED BY SUPER-MAJORITY to suspend the rules to consider the main motion immediately.

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts
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The main motion PASSED

Upon motion duly made and seconded:

MOVE: To instruct the State Committee to review and offer amendments to the founding documents, in open meeting, to present to the next regular convention.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED BY SUPER-MAJORITY to suspend the rules to consider the main motion immediately.

The main motion PASSED

There being no other business to come before the meeting, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was ADJOURNED.

A True Record

Attest:



Scott David Gray, Secretary

April 24th, 2022

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, Agenda for the Convention of April 24th, 2022

Agenda for the April 24th 2022 Convention of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, business meeting

1:00 PM, at the Hampton Inn Boston/Natick, 319 Speen Street, Natick, MA

Election of the State Committee:

Up to nine members may be elected to the State Committee.

Nominations are open from the floor.

Appointing Delegates to serve at the National Convention:

There are twenty delegates to be sent total, and up to fifty alternates. The members of the State Committee that are elected at this meeting have the *right of first refusal* to be sent as delegates.

Nominations are open from the floor.

A motion Concerning the Parliamentary Authority for the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts:

MOVE: To recognize Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised as the Parliamentary Authority for the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

– The State Committee

A motion to vacate a change to the By-Laws, passed by the 2021-2022 State Committee:

MOVE: To vacate the most recent bylaw changes made by the former state committee, regarding Article VIII; sub-affiliates, and revert to the original numbering and text as follows:

1. Charter

The State Committee upon majority approval at a State Committee meeting may charter a sub-affiliate when 3 members of LAMA file bylaws with the State Committee. Bylaws shall

not be inconsistent with LAMA bylaws, and members shall qualify as members of LAMA according to Article IX, section 1 of the LAMA bylaws.

2. Membership

All subsequent members of a sub-affiliate who qualify for membership in LAMA according to LAMA requirements shall be deemed members of LAMA unless they opt out.

3. Revocation

The State Committee may revoke the charter of a sub-affiliate for cause by 3/4 vote of State Committee members at a State Committee meeting.

– Dan Garrity

Note: This would eliminate the requirements of notification to the SC one week prior to the affiliate's meeting and submission of meeting minutes to the SC, preserving affiliate autonomy. The text to be replaced reads:

1. Charter

The State Committee upon majority approval at a State Committee meeting may charter a sub-affiliate when 3 members of LAMA file bylaws with the State Committee. Bylaws shall not be inconsistent with LAMA bylaws, and members shall qualify as members of LAMA according to Article IX, section 1 of the LAMA bylaws. There must be a minimum of three meetings before the affiliate shall be recognized by LAMA.

2. Meetings

Meetings of LAMA sub-affiliates are open to all members of LAMA. The date, time and location of meetings shall be submitted to the state committee for posting on the lpmass.org calendar at least one week in advance. Meeting minutes shall be submitted to the state committee for publication on the member area of the LAMA web site within one week after a meeting. If a sub-affiliate has no meetings for a three-month period, it will be considered to be disbanded. A sub-affiliate can be reinstated after it holds a regular meeting by a majority vote of the state committee.

Other Business:

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts Election Ballot for State Committee 2022-2023

April 24, 2022

Please mark your ballot carefully. Ballots containing errors or erasures will be void. The vote on a particular candidate will be recorded as an abstention, if it is not clear whether it is a 'yes' or 'no' vote. If you have a problem with your ballot, return it to the Recording Secretary and get a replacement ballot.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Joseph Alphonse	[]	[]	[]
Jason Brand	[]	[]	[]
David Burnham	[]	[]	[]
Andrew Cordio	[]	[]	[]
Thomas Eddlem	[]	[]	[]
Brodi Elwood	[]	[]	[]
Daniel Garrity	[]	[]	[]
Scott David Gray	[]	[]	[]
Janel Holmes	[]	[]	[]
Ann Reed	[]	[]	[]

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts Election Ballot for Delegates to the National Convention, 2022-2023

April 24, 2022

Please mark your ballot carefully. Ballots containing errors or erasures will be void. The vote on a particular candidate will be recorded as an abstention, if it is not clear whether it is a 'yes' or 'no' vote. If you have a problem with your ballot, return it to the Recording Secretary and get a replacement ballot.

There are twenty delegates to be sent total, and up to fifty alternates. The members of the State Committee that are elected at this meeting have the *right of first refusal* to be sent as delegates. The highest vote totals will fill the remaining delegate positions, and up to fifty positions of alternate delegates will be taken by the remaining candidates in order of vote totals.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Josh Anderson	[]	[]	Jason Brand	[]	[]	Nathan Brand	[]	[]
Andrew Cordio	[]	[]	Patrick Douglas	[]	[]	Thomas Eddlem	[]	[]
Brodi Elwood	[]	[]	Dan Garrity	[]	[]	Janel Holmes	[]	[]
Charlie Larkin	[]	[]	Jacob Nemchonok	[]	[]	Thomas Silvia	[]	[]
John Pazniokas	[]	[]	Stephanie Pazniokas	[]	[]	David Redding	[]	[]
Christopher Thrasher	[]	[]	Brian Zakrajsek	[]	[]		[]	[]
	[]	[]		[]	[]		[]	[]
	[]	[]		[]	[]		[]	[]
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**A.16 Facsimile of the member appeal to the Judicial Committee,
submitted by Andrew Cordio on April 3**

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Date: April 3, 2022

Petitioners: Andrew Cordio, as Chair of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, representing a constructively disaffiliated affiliate and thereby allowed an automatic appeal as per Libertarian Party National Bylaws Article 5.6 and members comprising at least 1% of the national Libertarian Party's Sustaining Members as allowed by Libertarian Party National Bylaws Article 7.12.

Interested Parties: Any persons claiming to be current members of the leadership of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts and/or the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts including the following State Committee elected at a specially called convention concluding on February 26th, 2022, as follows:

- Andrew Cordio, Chair
- Charlie Larkin, Treasurer & Archivist
- Scott Gray, Recording Secretary
- Jason Brand, Membership Director
- Janel Holmes, Political Director
- David Burnham, Operations Director
- Thomas Eddlem, Communications Director
- Brodi Elwood, Technology Director
- Daniel Garrity, Fundraising Director

And the former State Committee prior to the above election, as follows:

- Ashley Shade(resigned), Chair
- Cris Crawford, Treasurer
- Derek Newhall, Recording Secretary
- Michael Burns, Political Director
- Andrew Moore, Membership Director
- Jeremy Thompson, Operations Director
- Daniel Riek (Acting), Technology Director
- Tara Desisto

Relief Requested: That the LNC hear and decide on the matter of the Resolution submitted by Rich Bowen and co-sponsored by Susan Hogarth, Ken Moellman, Steven Nekhaila, Joshua Smith, and Erik Raudsep as put forth below and supported by the **Notice of Filing Exhibit 1** which was filed separately and can found here: <https://tinyurl.com/MA-Exhibit-1-Timeline>.

Committee Jurisdiction: Libertarian Party National Bylaws Article 8.2(a) and 8.2(d).

Emergency Petition for Appeal

1. Procedural Background and Grounds for Emergency Expedited Hearing

On January 23, 2022, the LNC held an electronic meeting to hear issues surrounding an impending controversy regarding the leadership of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (<https://youtu.be/07G9vxsrH8M>). Since no specific motions were noticed, Joshua Smith called for an electronic meeting to take place on February 6, 2022, to take up this issue in the form of the following motion to be considered (the "Smith/Bowen motion"):

WHEREAS, the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) conducted a meeting on January 23, 2022 to gain information and hear from multiple parties in the dispute in its affiliate in Massachusetts, and

WHEREAS, 46 members of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) exercised their right to petition for a special convention of the members of LAMA, and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2022 the LAMA state committee expelled every member who signed the petition, and

WHEREAS, the expelled members, along with an invitation to all state members, remain committed to holding a special convention

WHEREAS, the expelled members forwarded a petition to the LNC for relief on January 11, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the LNC has agreed to meet on February 6, 2022 to consider motions for remedies.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that at the meeting on February 6, 2022, the LNC discuss and consider motions on the following remedies:

- 1. Move that the LNC encourage members of the LAMA State Committee who voted to expel members to rescind the expulsion.*
- 2. Move that the LNC acknowledge the legitimacy of the petition for a special convention and encourage members of the LAMA State Committee to adhere to the petition request and hold the requested special convention.*
- 3. Move that the LNC, in the event the LAMA State Committee refuses to abide by the recommendations above, provide contact information for every Massachusetts national member and resident Libertarian in its*

possession to a designee of the petitioners to provide notice via email for the special convention.

4. Move that the LNC, following the special convention, recognize the results of the elections by the Massachusetts members in attendance.

5. Move that the LNC, in the event the LAMA State Committee refuses to abide by the recommendations above, recommend to its successor to immediately take up consideration of the issues surrounding the expulsion of 47 members as soon as practicable after the adjournment of the 2022 national convention.

On January 30, 2022, Motion 20220130-22 was sponsored by Adams, Bowen, Ebke, Nekhaila, and Raudsep (the "Adams motion") which differed considerably from the Smith/Bowen motion as follows:

Whereas, Leaders of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts and Libertarian Party of Delaware disenfranchised political opponents primarily for internal political reasons, rather than individual behavior warranting discipline, depriving such individuals of their rights to participate and vote on party affairs; and

Whereas, There is serious doubt that officers and delegates to be chosen by such affiliates will be legitimately selected and representative of the respective affiliate's entire membership; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Libertarian National Committee hereby instructs its appointees to the Credentials Committee of the 2022 National Convention to vote to omit from its report of the initial credentialed list of delegates those individuals sent by the aforementioned affiliates, and report the disputes to the Convention, so that the remaining body of uncontested Convention delegates can decide whether and whom to seat from each respective affiliate; and Further

Resolved, that the LNC Executive Committee is hereby empowered to rescind some or all of this motion, in the event that the aforementioned affiliates timely restore the membership rights of those who were disenfranchised.

The Adams motion failed by a vote of 5-10-0-2. During the pendency of the Adams motion, the required number of LNC members cancelled the electronic meeting

previously called by Joshua Smith and thus the Smith/Bowen motion was never heard. On March 23, 2022, a new resolution (the "Bowen/Ford resolution") was moved by Rich Bowen and fully sponsored that same day by Bowen, Hogarth, Moellman, Nekhaila, Smith, and Raudsep as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTFUL STATE COMMITTEE OF
THE LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS(LAMA)**

Whereas, on December 19, 2021, LAMA membership submitted a petition for a special convention to conduct a recall election of the LAMA State Committee;

Whereas, the petition contained greater than the 10% of valid member signatures required for a special convention in accordance with Article 2 Section 5 of the LAMA Constitution;

"If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee."

Whereas, the petition was submitted with an agenda, as required by the following Constitutional provision;

"The petition shall specify the agenda of the special state convention, and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but may not otherwise change the agenda."

Whereas, on January 10, 2022, the response from the State Committee to the properly constituted petition was to expel en masse all petition signatories, in violation of basic member rights, due process, and Article 1 Section 3 of the LAMA bylaws, which allow for expulsion of "a person from membership" (not mass expulsions).

"The State Committee may for cause by 2/3 secret ballot vote of the entire State Committee expel a person from membership in the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts; an expelled person must receive a 2/3 secret ballot favorable vote from the State Committee to rejoin."

Whereas, the vote to expel LAMA members was taken during a supposed State Committee meeting that had no agenda, thus denying targeted members notice of any proposed action against them and an opportunity to defend themselves, and the meeting was called to order in closed session, against longstanding custom (their parliamentary authority does not address the topic at all), and contrary to the public notice given;

Whereas, among the wrongfully expelled were two State Committee members who were denied any access to due process, in violation of Article 4 Section 10 of the LAMA Constitution;

“The State Committee may by two-thirds vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, for cause, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process.”

Whereas, a member of that State Committee who has not been a resident of Massachusetts for close to a year, cast their vote for the expulsion, in violation of Article 4 Section 8 and Article 1 Section 1 of the LAMA Constitution;

- *“To be elected or serve as a member or officer of the State Committee, a person must be a Member of the Organization whose dues are current.”*
- *“Members are all dues-paying members in Massachusetts, and all other persons who may so qualify under uniform rules of non-dues paying membership for which the State Committee may provide in its Bylaws.”*

Whereas, two duly elected members of the 2021 LAMA State Committee did organize and conduct the special convention as is required by Article 2 Section 5 of the LAMA Constitution and provided notice to the extent possible given deliberate obstructive actions and omissions by former State Committee members;

Whereas, a new State Committee was elected at that special convention on February 26, 2022, in accordance with the LAMA Bylaws Article 2 and the LAMA Constitution Article 2 and as specified on the submitted agenda, with the positions now filled as follows;

- Andrew Cordio, Chair
- Charlie Larkin, Treasurer & Archivist
- Scott Gray, Recording Secretary
- Jason Brand, Membership Director
- Janel Holmes, Political Director
- David Burnham, Operations Director
- Thomas Eddlem, Communications Director
- Brodi Elwood, Technology Director
- Daniel Garrity, Fundraising Director

Whereas, the newly elected State Committee has set and noticed their annual convention for April 24, 2022, at which time the State Committee for the next term, and national convention delegates, will be elected;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Libertarian National Committee recognizes the results of election at the special convention and the State Committee elected therein.

Please note that an extensive timeline was submitted along with the Bowen/Ford resolution to support the contentions made filed separately in the **Notice of Filing Exhibit 1** and can found here: <https://tinyurl.com/MA-Exhibit-1-Timeline>.

On March 23, 2022, John Phillips raised a Point of Order claiming that the motion was in violation of the Bylaws of the national Libertarian Party (without specifying a particular bylaw but rather just vague inferences about autonomy and interference). Contrary to the long-standing custom of the LNC in which fully sponsored email ballots proceed onward pending a ruling of the Chair so that time is not wasted and the “clock run out,” no ballot was ever started in this matter. On March 24, 2022, the Chair ruled that the Bowen/Ford resolution was Out of Order as violating Article 5.5 of the Bylaws of the national Libertarian Party which was appealed by Joshua Smith for which Ballot 20220325-01 was opened to determine whether or not to sustain the ruling of the Chair. That ballot ended on April 1, 2022 with the Chair’s ruling being sustained with a vote count of 9-7-1; thus, leading to this appeal of that decision.

Considering that issues of delegate selection and other convention activities hinge upon the recognition of the rightful chair of the affiliate so that the LNC and credentialing can proceed, it is imperative that any and all delays, intentional or not, cease, and this matter be disposed of with all due haste.

2. Precedent

This Judicial Committee recently made a decision in the case of the Delaware affiliate which is directly on point in this matter. In the Delaware matter, the Judicial Committee found that determination of the rightful chair of an affiliate in the event of a dispute (if such determination was clear and possible) was not an abridgment of the autonomy of an affiliate; it was, in fact, an absolutely necessary task for the LNC to undertake in order to both fulfill its duties and honor the autonomous decisions of an affiliate. Once the LNC is made aware of a credible dispute that has at least some indice of good faith basis, it has an undeniable duty to its affiliate and to the Party at large to undertake such an exercise.

With the facts before the LNC right now, there are two entities both claiming to be the legitimate Libertarian Association of Massachusetts with two different sets of leadership. The LNC has an absolute duty to at least attempt to determine which of them, if any, is correct in order to properly credential delegates at the upcoming convention at a bar minimum, and that such a determination is not in violation of the Bylaws of the national Libertarian Party.

3. Prima Facie Evidence that there is legitimate dispute that must be heard by the LNC and that it is within their jurisdiction

The assertions laid out in the Bowen/Ford resolution along with the supporting timeline and documentation also attached hereto give at least a reasonable basis to support that there is a legitimate dispute that needs to be examined by the LNC to determine if it is possible to come to a clear conclusion about the identity and leadership of its Massachusetts affiliate.

3. Undeniable Jurisdiction

If the LNC is continuing to recognize the incorrect affiliate and leadership by its refusal to examine the facts at hand, there is a constructive disaffiliation of the Massachusetts affiliate, and it would be entitled to an automatic appeal. The Petitioners believe that is the case here. However, in the abundance of caution, the requisite number of signatures of the national Sustaining Membership are also affixed hereto in joinder as an appeal of a decision of the LNC by the membership. The sustainment of a ruling of the Chair is a decision of the LNC as defined by RONR 1:6. The actions of the LNC contravene its duties under the bylaws to recognize its affiliate which require it to interface with its proper leadership as detailed in this Judicial's Committee decision in the recent Delaware appeal. Impacted Bylaws include the entirety of Section 5. If the LNC is giving data, services, directing potential members, directing potential donors, and recognizing lists of delegates submitted by any other than the rightful leadership, it is violating its own duties to its affiliate under the national Libertarian Party Bylaws.

4. Requested Ruling and Relief

That the sustainment of the ruling of the Chair on April 1, 2022 was improper and that the motion put forth by Region 8 Representative Rich Bowen as noted above is in order and must be heard immediately by the Libertarian National Committee at an electronic meeting to be heard within seven (7) days of an Order of the Judicial Committee or via an electronic email ballot to be started within two (2) days of an Order of the Judicial Committee.

A.17 Reproduction of the agreement for the newly formed region consisting of the New England states, New York, and New Jersey

Agreement of Voluntary Association of States for Regional Representation to The Libertarian National Committee.

This Agreement, once signed, shall serve to bind the participating affiliate parties into a Representative Region for the purpose of representation to the Libertarian National Committee(LNC). The Following terms shall constitute the total agreement, and shall outline the process and procedures for the selection of representatives to the National Committee to serve on behalf of the Region. The Numbered identity of the Region shall be determined by the Secretary of the LNC following the submission and acceptance of all regional agreements during the 2022 National Convention process. The states invited to participate in, and reconstitute their existing regional agreement are those who were party to the 2020-2022 “LNC Region 8.” (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.)

The following terms shall govern the selection of regional representation to the LNC:

1. The Delegates of the Region 8 states shall elect via an electronic vote, no later than the first saturday following the conclusion of business of the first sitting of the 2022 Libertarian National Convention, both a primary representative and an alternate representative to the Libertarian National Committee.
2. The Regional Representative shall be responsible for publishing regular reports to the National Committee detailing the operations and activities of their constituent affiliate parties, as well as representing the interests of their constituent affiliates during deliberations and votes of the National Committee.
3. The method of electing these representatives shall be separate electronic ballots conducted via OpaVote, and determined by ranked choice voting (RCV). The Election for Alternate shall not begin until the conclusion of the election of the Primary Representative. Once a ballot has been started, each Delegate shall have 48 hours to vote, via a secure link they will receive via email.
4. Primary Representative, and Alternate Representative, to accommodate the greatest representation among the state Parties, shall be residents of different states.
5. The State Chairs shall provide the incumbent Regional Representative (Rich Bowen, NJ) with an updated and accurate list of email addresses for all Delegates to participate in this election. The incumbent Representative shall be responsible for the administration and reporting of the election results.
6. State Chairs shall be responsible for communicating to their delegates the process by which representatives shall be selected as per this agreement.
7. The Primary Representative and Alternate Representative are both subject to recall and removal, by a vote of No Confidence among the Chairs of the affiliate state parties bound to the regional agreement. A vote of no confidence among the 8 state Chairs shall be considered to have passed if at least 4 state chairs vote in the affirmative to remove.
8. A vacancy in the position of the Primary Representative shall be filled by the promotion of the Alternate Representative to Primary Representative.
9. A Vacancy in the position of Alternate Representative shall be filled by polling the 8 state chairs via approval voting among those candidates nominated from within the region in a manner to be chosen by those chairs.
10. Should a simultaneous vacancy occur in both the Primary and alternate Representatives, the procedures outlined for the replacement of an alternate representative shall be used to fill both positions.

11. The term of this agreement shall be from the conclusion of the first sitting of the 2022 Libertarian National Convention, until the conclusion of the 2024 Libertarian National Convention.

The Undersigned State Chair agrees to commit their Affiliate State Party to be bound as part of this regional agreement for the duration of the term set forth in its conditions. Upon the commitment of Enough State Affiliates to constitute a Minimum of 10% of the total sustaining Membership of The Libertarian Party, this agreement shall be considered Valid.

A.18 Reproduction of the report of the Credentials Committee meeting on May 4th, given by Susan Hogarth (from [the LNC list](#)).

Full minutes not finished, but just to keep you informed, the Credentials Committee took the following actions this evening regarding Delaware and Massachusetts, both of which have had two delegations submitted:

- (1) Chris Vellrath, Bill Hinds, Carter Hill, and Dave Casey are the recognized delegates from the Libertarian Party of Delaware.

The first action was without objection.

- (2) Josh Anderson, Jason Brand, Nathan Brand, Andrew Cordio, Patrick Douglas, Thomas Eddlem, Brodi Elwood, Dan Garrity, Janel Holmes, Charlie Larkin, Jacob Nemchenok, Thomas Silvia, John Pazinokas, Stephanie Pazinokas, David Redding, Christopher Thrasher, and Brian Zakrajsek are the recognized delegates from the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

The second action was debated and passed with four ‘ayes’ and three abstentions.

Susan

—

Susan Hogarth
919-906-2106
Region 5 Representative

A.19 Libertarian Association of Massachusetts Governing Documents (accessed March 17, 2022)

A.19.1 [LAMA Constitution](#)

A.19.1.1 The Constitution of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

As amended at the 2010 Regular State Convention

Preamble, Name and Purpose

We, the Libertarians of Massachusetts, do hereby unite to form the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, in order to give voice to and implement the fundamental principle of libertarianism: that no person, group of people, or government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group of people, or government. We shall do this by supporting candidates for public office, publicizing the principles and goals of libertarianism, and taking any actions that the State Convention or the State Committee deem will further our aims. The Association, its Bylaws, and State Committee exist solely as a path for reaching the objectives of this preamble.

Article I: Membership

1. Members are all dues-paying members in Massachusetts, and all other persons who may so qualify under uniform rules of non-dues paying membership for which the State Committee may provide in its Bylaws.

Article II: State Convention

1. A Regular State Convention shall be held in every year.

2. Persons, who are Members of this Organization whose dues are current, and who joined the Organization at least 30 days prior to the date of the State Convention, are eligible to vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention. Persons who were dues-paying Members of the Organization, or Sustaining Members of the National Libertarian Party, within the past three years, including a period at least 90 days before the day of the State Convention, but whose Organization dues are not current, may join or rejoin this Organization at the State Convention by paying their yearly dues. They may then vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention.

3. The State Convention may endorse candidates for office or it may explicitly endorse running no candidate for an office. If it does so, the Organization will support those candidates to within the limits of State and Federal law and other demands on its resources, and will not support any competing candidates for the same office. In the absence of a State Convention endorsement, either for a candidate or for no candidate, the State Committee may support a candidate for that office, again within the limits of law and competition for resources.

4. The convention shall have the authority by two-thirds vote to adopt or amend a platform.

5. If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee. In a single calendar year a state party member may not sign more than one petition requesting a special state convention.

The petition shall specify the agenda of the special state convention, and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but may not otherwise change the agenda. The quorum for a special state convention shall be 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership of the party. If one or more dues paying state party members mails or presents to the state committee a written request to assemble a petition requesting a special state convention, then, within 60 days, the state committee must inform the dues paying members of this request, and the names and contact information for the party members who made the request. Other relevant information may also be included. State party members must be informed about the petition by placing the information on the first page of the party newsletter, and prominently on any electronic media controlled by the state committee.

Article III: Candidates

1. The responsibility for meeting the legal requirements for ballot access rests with each candidate.

2. In the event State or Federal Law authorizes this Organization to place candidates on the ballot, whether to replace candidates, fill vacant ballot lines, or for whatever other reason, in the absence of contrary legal specification or directive of the State Convention, the State Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the Organization for this purpose.

Article IV: State Committee

1. Each Regular State Convention shall elect, as provided in the Bylaws, up to nine State Committee members.

2. Within 30 days of their election, the newly-elected State Committee shall meet and elect a Chair, a Treasurer, and such other officers as are specified in the Bylaws.

3. The State Committee shall elect officers to fill any vacancies. The State Committee may by majority vote appoint to itself additional members.

4. All members of the State Committee shall hold office until adjournment of the next State Convention at which their successors are chosen.

5. The State Committee may make rules for its proceedings, for the calling of State Conventions, and for the selection of Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention. Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention shall be chosen at the State Convention held immediately prior to that National Convention.

If elections for State Committee and Convention Delegates happen at the same State Convention, the State Committee is elected first. Persons who will be members of the State Committee at the time of the National Convention are entitled ex officio to be named as Delegates or Alternates, but must so request prior to the election of Delegates and Alternates. The State Convention or State Committee may promulgate Bylaws consistent with this Constitution to ensure a full delegation at the National Convention.

6. To be eligible to be elected as a Massachusetts Delegate to the National Convention, a person must, at the time of the National Convention, be:

- a. A legal resident of Massachusetts, and
- b. A Member in good standing of the Organization.

7. The State Committee shall have the authority to adopt or amend the Bylaws by a two-thirds vote, two weeks' notice and an opportunity to respond having been given.

8. To be elected or serve as a member or officer of the State Committee, a person must be a Member of the Organization whose dues are current.

9. Every member of the State Committee must make available their name, their office in the Organization if any, and a working way to contact them, in the Organization's newsletter and on the Organization's web site. This may be a physical mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, or some combination of these.

10. The State Committee may by two-thirds vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, for cause, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process. Expiration of membership in the Organization is cause, but payment of membership dues to renew membership, prior to the vote, constitutes an absolute defense.

Article V: Bylaws, Rules and Amendments

1. Bylaws to implement and clarify the authority and duties of persons and bodies authorized by this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a majority vote at a State Convention, or by a two-thirds vote of the State Committee. When each State Committee meets for the first time to organize, any Bylaws previously in force shall remain in force unless a two-thirds vote of the State Committee shall specify otherwise, provided that any amendments to the Bylaws shall be consistent with this Constitution and with actions at State Conventions.

2. Each body authorized by this Constitution may adopt rules for its proceedings.

3. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all persons eligible to vote and registered as attending the State Convention at which the vote is being taken, whether or not voting, provided that there is a quorum, if and only if the following conditions are met:

a. The amendment has been approved beforehand by the State Committee, or has been endorsed beforehand by the signatures of at least ten percent of the Members whose dues are current, which amendment and endorsement shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of the State Committee, and

b. A copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by mail to each Member of the Organization whose dues are current, postmarked at least two weeks prior to the date of the State Convention in which the amendment is to be considered.

A.19.2 LAMA Bylaws

BYLAWS

(As amended on December 8, 2018)

Preamble

The purpose of these bylaws is to provide the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (“Organization”) with an organizational structure that will:

1. Recruit candidates and help libertarians to run for office;
2. Organize and support local and topical libertarian groups;
3. Perform non-electoral political acts, e.g., referenda, lobbying, and litigation;
4. Recruit members, helping them to do politics;
5. Educate the public on libertarian political directions;
6. Create circumstances favorable to attaining the Organization’s objective, by creating politically-effective legally-independent PACs, 527 organizations, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations;
7. Raise and spend money to do its work; and
8. Perform needed internal operations.

Article I. Membership

1. Eligibility for Membership

Members are all dues-paying persons in Massachusetts, and all non-dues paying Associate members.

2. Responsibilities of Members

Members are responsible for informing the Membership Director of address changes in a timely way.

3. Termination of Membership

All memberships expire on the last day of a calendar month.

The State Committee may for cause by 2/3 secret ballot vote of the entire State Committee expel a person from membership in the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts; an expelled person must receive a 2/3 secret ballot favorable vote from the State Committee to rejoin.

4. Memberships Generally

The State Committee may by majority vote set the dues for any category of membership.

5. Communications with Members

The Organization may from time to time send additional notices or items to some or all members. In doing so, it may use any transmission medium appropriate to the notice or item.

6. Interpretation of Article III section 3 of the Constitution

The Organization interprets the phrase "member of the National Libertarian Party, as defined by the Libertarian National Committee charter and bylaws," to mean that the person has signed the membership pledge of the National Party, in the form extant on the date of adoption of the Organization Constitution.

7. Affiliates

An Affiliate is a person who has provided the Organization with their name and email address, and who wishes to be recorded as an affiliate. Affiliates are sent such information and publications as the State Committee may choose. Affiliates are not Members.

Article II. State Convention

1. Annual Convention

The State Committee shall hold a state convention annually. The State Committee is responsible for scheduling, organizing, and publicizing the convention. It may delegate tasks to such persons as it chooses, but remains responsible for the State Convention's conduct.

2. Notice To Include Writing

At least thirty days before a State Convention is held, the State Committee will notify all Organization Members whose dues are current, of the date, location, and time of the State Convention and the next National Convention. This notification may be sent by whatever forms of communication are likely to reach all members, which shall include printed notification to each member.

3. Eligibility To Participate

Only persons who are Members of the Organization whose dues are current, and who joined the Organization at least one month prior to the date of the state convention, are eligible to vote or participate in the business meeting at the state convention. Persons who were: 1) dues-paying Members of the Organization within the past three years, but whose dues are not current, or 2) persons who are Sustaining Members of the National Party, and who were Sustaining Members of the National Party at least one month prior to the state convention, may join or renew their Organization Membership at the state convention by paying their yearly dues. They may then participate in the business meeting at the State Convention.

4. Required Agenda

It shall be out of order to adjourn the State Convention (i) before the new State Committee is elected, and (ii) if the national Convention occurs prior to the next State Convention, before at least one delegate to the next National Convention is elected.

The State Convention agenda shall include at least fifteen minutes for presentation of Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. All amendments must be presented to the Corresponding Secretary, by paper or electronic mail, at least 14 days prior to the day of the State Convention, must be posted by the Secretary in a publicly-accessible LPMA-controlled electronic forum at least seven days before the day of the state convention, and must be seconded from the convention floor, before they may be considered. Amendments to amendments made from the convention floor must be germane.

5. Election of State Committee

To elect the new State Committee, the chair asks for nominations from the floor. Self nominations are allowed. Seconds are not required for nominations. Each nominee must accept nomination, or must have submitted to the Recording Secretary a written statement stating that their nomination will be accepted, before their nomination is valid. Nominations for persons ineligible to serve are invalid. When no more nominations are forthcoming from the floor, the Chair invites nominees to speak. Each nominee is allowed up to two minutes to speak. If a nominee is absent, they may designate a substitute to speak for them for up to two minutes. Persons eligible to vote are then given one hour to cast their votes. The Convention may recess or engage in other business during this time. If a recess is taken, the time counts toward the hour, but the convention must be back in session at least ten minutes prior to the close of voting. A ballot collector or collectors and location must be specified, and must remain supervised through the voting period. Votes for persons other than nominees are not valid.

6. Voting for State Committee

Each person present and eligible to vote at the State Convention may cast a ballot for electing State Committee members. The ballot will list the names, and a vote of YES, NO, or ABSTAIN for each nominee. If a particular candidate is not listed on a particular ballot, the vote is recorded as "ABSTAIN".

7. Procedure in Case of Failure to Elect

The nominees who receive the most votes, computed as number of YES votes are elected, up to a total of nine persons elected. If there is a tie, in such a way that not all persons in the tie can be elected without exceeding the size limit of the State Committee, a fresh vote is taken with only the persons in the tie placed on the ballot. The nominees who receive the most votes, computed as number of YES votes are again elected, up to a total of nine persons elected in both rounds of voting. If there is a further tie, in such a way that not all persons in the tie can be elected without exceeding the size limit of the State Committee, the persons in the tie are not elected.

8. Manner of Voting

Proxy votes are not allowed at the State Convention. However, a person who is in attendance at the State Convention, and who is eligible to vote, may cast a ballot for state committee at any time prior to the close of voting, even if nominations have not yet been completed.

9. Special State Conventions

a. Call by the State Committee

The State Committee may by two-thirds vote call a Special State Convention to resolve questions that in its judgement require a decision of the membership. The State Committee shall give thirty days notice to all members eligible to vote at the Special State Convention that there is a Special State Convention, including time and place. To be eligible to vote at a Special State Convention, a person must have been a member in good standing of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts on the date of mailing of the call to the Special State Convention.

b. Agenda

The Agenda of the Special State Convention, including necessary Rules of Business, shall be transmitted by the State Committee to all members with the call to the convention. The Agenda may not be amended by the insertion of topics or issues not germane to the issues proposed in the original agenda.

Article III. Candidates

1. (CONVENTION 2008) Declaration of Independence

Resolved that the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts is a free and independent body, and as such, it reserves the right to accept or reject any candidate chosen by the Libertarian National Party, or other entity with which the LAMA chooses to affiliate; and if a nationally chosen candidate is rejected, to run no candidate, or such alternative candidate as it may choose.

2. (CONVENTION 2008) Candidate Prioritization

The State Committee shall prioritize running candidates for offices funded by the OCPF account over those funded by the FEC account.

Article IV. State Committee

1. Eligibility for State Committee

Eligibility to be elected or serve as a Member of the State Committee is governed by Article IV, section 8 of the Constitution.

2. Privileges of State Committee Members

Each Member of the State Committee has one vote on all motions before the State Committee. At the Chair's discretion, votes taken by the Members of the State Committee may be cast electronically through a method prescribed by the Technology Director that meets the following requirements:

- a. Each Member of the State Committee shall be informed immediately upon the opening of voting for each vote taken.
- b. Voting shall not be open for a duration longer than seven (7) days.
- c. There shall be no mechanism by which a Member of the State Committee can alter their vote once it has been cast.

3. Responsibilities of State Committee Members

Each Member of the State Committee shall diligently work with all other Members to advance the interests of the Organization.

Each Member of the State Committee shall diligently seek to attend all State Committee meetings. A State Committee Member who misses three consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned from the State Committee.

Each Member of the State Committee shall disclose in writing to the full State Committee any and all conflicts of interest.

No Member of the State Committee shall endorse or support a candidate of another party in a Libertarian party primary, or in a partisan race in which a Libertarian Party member is a candidate. This Bylaw does not apply to the immediate family or significant others of State Committee Members. This Bylaw does not apply to State Committee Members supplying commercial services as part of and during the course of their usual and regular business.

4. Discipline of State Committee Members

Discipline of State Committee Members is governed by Article IV, section 10 of the Constitution.

5. (CONVENTION 2007) Platform Presentation

In presenting the platform to the public, the State Committee shall re-order the planks to group them by subject and present them with appropriate subject headings.

6. (CONVENTION 2009) Use of Party Name

The name change from Libertarian Party to Libertarian Association was made out of an abundance of caution regarding the State law that defines a "political party." The Organization shall continue to publicly use the name "Libertarian Party of Massachusetts."

7. Restrictions on manner and use of funds

a. Appropriation required

State Committee funds may only be spent after authorization by the State Committee. Authorizations are by majority vote of the Committee. Consistent with FEC and OCPF reporting standards, the State Committee shall maintain all financial records and reports on a cash basis.

b. Long-term obligations

To make a contract that persists more than three months beyond the next Regular State Convention, the State Committee must sequester enough money from its current Treasury to pay the full cost of the contract. The State Committee may not vote to sequester in total more than 15% of the State Committee's funds to pay contracts. While, as a result of changes in fund balances, more than 15% of the State Committee's funds are sequestered, the sequestered funds remain sequestered, but no additional funds may be sequestered. If money has been raised to pay for a project, and is sequestered to pay for that project, that money when sequestered does not count against the 15% limit.

c. Neutrality

State Committee funds and employees may not be used to support candidates for election to the State Committee.

d. Employment

State Committee Members may not be paid for their work for the State Committee. They may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses if the State Committee approves funds for the purpose.

e. Self-dealing

Firms owned by State Committee Members may do business with the State Committee, but the State Committee or its designees shall demonstrate to the Membership that the State Committee is paying no more than normal commercial rates.

8. Suspension

The State Committee may not vote to suspend the Bylaws.

9. Rules of Order

All State Committee Meetings are run under Francis and Francis Democratic Rules of Order as interpreted by the voting members of the Committee unless specifically otherwise provided. Application of the Rules of Order shall facilitate, not obstruct, the advance of business.

Article V. Bylaws, Rules, and Amendments

[This section intentionally left blank.]

Article VI. Delegates to National Convention

1. Eligibility

Eligibility of persons to be elected as delegates to a National Convention is governed by Article IV, section 6 of the Constitution.

2. Privileges of Delegates

A delegate may promise their vote for or against a candidate, but such promises are not enforceable except by the delegate's conscience.

3. Responsibilities of Delegates

No Region formation agreement involving Massachusetts may be approved by any person unless the exact agreement has already been approved by the State Committee or the National Convention Delegation; however the National Convention Delegation shall not form a region if a region including Massachusetts has already been formed.

State Committee approval or disapproval is by majority vote at a properly called State Committee meeting held in Massachusetts. National Convention Delegation approval requires an affirmative majority vote by an absolute majority of all persons appointed by the State Convention to serve as Massachusetts delegates, as described elsewhere in these Bylaws, and who are in attendance at the National Convention.

The Libertarian Association of Massachusetts henceforth deems any agreement purporting to bind Massachusetts but signed without voted approval to be invalid, as a violation of the party statement of principles, namely as a use of fraud for political purposes.

4. Discipline of Delegates

[This section intentionally left blank.]

5. Election at the State Convention

Delegates are nominated from the floor of the convention. Any person eligible to vote at the State Convention may make up to two nominations. Any person eligible to serve may rise and state that they volunteer to serve as a delegate; volunteering counts as a nomination. Nominations do not require seconds.

Before any votes are taken, each nominee may speak to, and be questioned by the delegates. The time allotted to each delegates for statements and questions shall be set by the chair, to be the same for all delegates and strictly enforced, but not to be less than one minute. After each nominee has spoken, nominations are declared closed. The time between which nominations are closed and ballots are accepted shall be at least two hours.

Election of National Convention delegates is made by approval voting. Each person in attendance at the State Convention and eligible to vote may cast votes for as many persons as Massachusetts is entitled to send delegates. The nominees who receive the most votes, up to the number of delegates that Massachusetts is entitled to send to the National Convention, are elected. No nominee shall be considered elected if they do not achieve 50% of the votes at the convention. Remaining nominees, up to a number equal to the number of delegates that Massachusetts is entitled to send to the National Convention, are elected as alternates.

If any part of the number of delegates that Massachusetts is entitled to send to the National Convention has not been computed by the National Libertarian Party prior to the State Convention, the Recording Secretary shall make the identical computation based on the most recent election or membership data available at least two weeks prior to the convention. Delegates will be chosen as stated in this section with the additional consideration that the official delegate seats will be filled first by the ex Officio state committee members and the delegate candidates with the highest vote totals, and the conditional delegate positions will be filled next by the candidates with the next highest vote totals. If the official delegation is less than the conditional delegation, the delegates that were elected with the lowest vote totals will have their status changed to alternate, but they will have precedence over the other alternates for filling vacant delegate seats at the National Convention. In this case the number of alternates will be allowed to exceed the number of delegates.

The persons elected as Delegates or Alternates to the National Convention comprise the State Delegation.

Delegates and alternates shall be notified by the Chair via e-mail about their status and eligibility to attend the national LP convention, at least 30 days prior to the national LP convention and at any time that their status as delegate or alternate changes.

6. Election Following the State Convention

Between the close of the most recent State Convention and the National Convention, the State Committee may by majority vote elect additional delegates or alternates to the National Convention as needed to complete the delegation. Within one week before the National Convention, the State Delegation may meet at the convention site and by two-thirds vote elect additional delegates or alternates to the National Convention as needed to complete the delegation. In the event that the number of delegates and alternates at the National Convention exceeds the number of delegates to which Massachusetts is entitled, delegates and alternates elected at the state convention shall be seated before delegates and alternates elected by the state committee, with delegates elected by the State Delegation being seated only after all other delegates are seated. To be elected as a Massachusetts Delegate by the State Committee or by the State Delegation, a person must have been eligible to be elected by the State Convention as a delegate.

7. Seating Order of Delegates

a. Generally

In the event that more persons are present at the National Convention, wishing to be seated as delegates, than there are available seats, delegates shall be seated in the following order:

- i. Current State Committee Members who exercised their right to be named as delegates ex-officio at the State Convention.
- ii. All other persons elected as delegates at the State Convention.
- iii. All persons elected as alternates at the State Convention.

- iv. Other State Committee Members.
- v. Any person elected as a delegate by the State Committee after the State Convention, but before the National Convention.
- vi. Any person elected as an alternate by the State Committee after the State Convention, but before the National Convention.
- vii. Any person elected as a delegate by the State Delegation at the National convention.
- viii. Any person elected as an alternate by the State Delegation at the National convention.
- b. Intra-class order

With each of the above classes of person, the order of seating shall be:

- i. State Committee members-in order of total votes received for their own election.
- ii. Persons elected by the convention-in order of total votes received.
- iii. Persons elected by the State Committee or the State Delegation-in chronological order of election.
- c. Remaining conflicts

Any conflict in seating remaining, after the above priorities have been applied, shall be resolved by the Chair of the State Delegation or their designee using a draw of playing cards or other agreeable method of random selection.

Article VII. State Committee Officers

1. Eligibility

Pursuant to Article IV, section 2 of the Constitution, the Officers of the State Committee are: the Chair, the Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, the Membership Director, the Political Director, the Operations Director, the Fundraising Director, the Communications Director, the Technology Director, and the Archivist.

Eligibility to be elected or serve as an Officer of the State Committee is governed by Article IV, section 8 of the Constitution. Officers are elected by majority vote of the voting Members of the State Committee.

Only Voting Members of the State Committee may serve as Chair, Political Director, Operations Director, Fundraising Director, or Treasurer. All other Offices may be held by any member of the Organization. Officers who are not Voting Members of the State Committee may speak in State Committee debates involving their areas of responsibility on the same basis as Voting members.

No person may concurrently serve as more than one of Political Director, Operations Director, or Treasurer. The Chair may not serve as Treasurer.

2. Privileges of Officers

Each Officer may form a committee of Organization members and other volunteers to help perform their duties, but the Officer remains entirely responsible for seeing that those duties are performed.

The primary signatory on Organization bank accounts shall be the Chair, or another State Committee member designated by the Chair and approved by majority vote of the State Committee. The Treasurer shall be a signatory, but shall not serve as primary signatory once the primary signatory has been legally established.

3. Responsibilities of Officers

a. Generally

No Officer may spend or commit the spending of Organization funds unless those funds first have been appropriated by the State Committee. The State Committee may appropriate contingency funds for an Officer or Officers, to be spent as the Officer or Officers specify, subject to State Committee rules on documentation of

expenditures. The State Committee may authorize the payment of regularly recurring bills without separate appropriations.

Each Officer shall provide to the State Committee a monthly report summarizing the Officer's activities since the last such report and such other items as the State Committee deems relevant.

b. The Chair

- i. presides at all State Committee meetings at which they are present, unless they recuse themselves;
- ii. proposes the agenda for all State Committee meetings;
- iii. is the honorary spokesperson for the Organization;
- iv. assists and inspires LPMA Members and Chapters to work to achieve our political goals; and
- v. is primary signatory on Organization bank accounts.

c. The Treasurer

- i. maintains the Organization's financial records;
- ii. manages the Organization's financial accounts and donation systems;
- iii. files Federal, State and other financial reports as required by Federal or State law or regulation;
- iv. is a co-signatory on Organization bank accounts;
- v. serves as comptroller, ensuring that funds are received, spent, and reported in compliance with Law and Organization By-Laws and State Committee actions; and
- vi. at each regular state convention, provides a financial report including income and expenditures for the immediately prior October 1 to September 30, and for any immediately prior year on which no report has yet been made.

d. The Recording Secretary

- i. takes minutes of all State Committee meetings;
- ii. circulates State Committee minutes to the Membership via the Organization Newsletter, web pages, and other means generally accessible to members; and
- iii. maintains the electronic archival record of state committee minutes in a form and location generally accessible to members.

e. The Membership Director

- i. maintains the membership and mailing list records of the Organization. Records include but are not limited to records of current and past members, people who contacted LPMA, donors, and volunteers, including names, addresses, other contact information, and volunteer tasks;
- ii. attracts new members, seeks to improve the membership experience, responds to member questions and concerns, and notifies members that their memberships have or will expire; and
- iii. supplies membership and other information, for the good of the Organization, consistent with State Committee policy.

f. The Political Director

- i. oversees and supports candidate recruitment, candidate support, public education, and other political activities;
- ii. presides at State Committee meetings if the Chair is absent; and
- iii. performs the duties of Chair if the post is vacant.

g. The Operations Director

i. oversees and supports the non-political activities of the State Committee.

h. The Fundraising Director

i. conducts fundraising for the Organization.

i. The Communications Director

The Communications Director shall be in charge of official communications in print or electronic format from the LPMA, including the monthly Newsletter, Press Inquiries, and content represented on Social Media Platforms. The Communications Director shall have the ability to appoint deputies in the form of a Press Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Social Media Manager, and other assistants titled as necessary.

j. The Technology Director

i. maintains the Organization website and other electronic sites; and

ii. ensures that Organization electronic sites are appropriately owned or registered by the Organization, and that multiple officers have an archival record of electronic site passwords and other needful ownership data.

k. The Archivist

i. maintains a dated physical file of all State Committee minutes, mailings, and other documents, and associated audio and video recordings.

4. Discipline of Officers

The State Committee may remove an Officer from office by a simple majority vote.

5. Authorization to Create Subordinate Office

The State Committee and its Officers shall have the ability to create subordinate offices to facilitate organizational structure and tasking, to include deputies, assistants, and team leaders who shall be given appropriate title, assigned specific duties and accountable to a particular Officer of the State Committee or designee. These positions shall have only that authority which is specifically delegated to them by their supervising Officer, which shall not exceed the authority given to that Officer by the Constitution or By-Laws of the Association and shall not include representing that Officer in any capacity on the State Committee.

Article VIII. Sub-Affiliates

The bylaws of the National Libertarian Party state:

“No person, group or organization may use the name ‘Libertarian Party’ or any confusingly similar designation except the Party or an organization to which the Party grants affiliate party status or as otherwise provided in these bylaws. (Article V section 1)

“There shall be no more than one state-level affiliate party in any one state. Each state-level affiliate party shall, in accordance with its own Bylaws and these Bylaws, determine who shall be its delegates to all Regular Conventions. A state-level affiliate party may charter sub-affiliate parties within the state, which will entitle such sub-affiliates to use the name ‘Libertarian Party.’” (Article V section 3)

1. Charter

The State Committee upon majority approval at a State Committee meeting may charter a sub-affiliate when 3 members of LAMA file bylaws with the State Committee. Bylaws shall not be inconsistent with LAMA bylaws, and members shall qualify as members of LAMA according to Article IX, section 1 of the LAMA bylaws.

2. Membership

All subsequent members of a sub-affiliate who qualify for membership in LAMA according to LAMA requirements shall be deemed members of LAMA unless they opt out.

3. Revocation

The State Committee may revoke the charter of a sub-affiliate for cause by 3/4 vote of State Committee members at a State Committee meeting.

Article IX. Statutory Libertarian Party of Massachusetts

1. Applicability

Article IX applies only when the Libertarian Party has recognized status as a “political party” according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

2. Initial Statutory Party

When political party status is first obtained, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts authorizes only the LAMA State Committee to form a political party organization. At that time, the State Committee of LAMA shall form a “political committee” called the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts (LPMA) having bylaws in accordance with state law, the LAMA Constitution and Bylaws, and the National Party Bylaws. The State Committee of LAMA shall be the initial State Committee of LPMA.

3. Bylaws

LPMA shall submit its bylaws to the LAMA State Committee and be chartered as a sub-affiliate as specified in Article VIII.

4. Loss of Party Status

Upon loss of recognized status as a “political party,” the charter of the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts shall be revoked automatically.

Standing Rules

1. Membership Dues

In setting dues for each category of membership, the State Committee shall regularly confirm that the amount paid more than covers the marginal cost of the membership.

2. Resolutions

Members may propose non-binding resolutions to the State Committee. Approval requires 2/3rd of committee members. Members may propose non-binding resolutions at State Convention. Approval requires 2/3rd of voting members.
