

Libertarian Party of Allegheny County Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2020 *Originally scheduled to be in-person at Ritter's Diner at 6:00 pm but upon arrival found Ritter's was closed, presumably due to Covid concerns. Attendees agreed to return home and convene on Google meet hosted by Bruce Letterle.*

I. Call to order

Bruce Letterle called to order the regular meeting of the Libertarian Party of Allegheny County at 7:02 pm on November 18, 2020 on a Google Meet conference call hosted by Bruce Letterle.

II. Roll call

Bill Baierl conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Bill Baierl, Henry Haller, Harold Kyriazi, Bruce Letterle, Sam Robb, David Soltesz and David Vesely. John Odermatt was absent.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of October meeting were accepted.

IV. Committee Reports

- a) Political Committee – No report. Discussion of local races to get candidates to run.
- b) Communications – Newsletter planned. Time to find synergy with Jorgensen volunteers and keep them involved.
- c) Outreach – No report.
- d) IT – No report.
- e) Finance – \$2,208.82 balance. Piece of mail needs picked up.
- f) Fundraising/Membership –0 activity. 3 expired members were emailed. As of meeting 1 renewed. 1 new member joined.

V. Old Business

- a) Bill B. made a motion to adopt the proposed changes to the by-laws reviewed at October meeting and Henry H. seconded. The following changes were approved unanimously.

1.) Article IV. Officers and elections.

- 1. Each member shall cast a vote for up to five candidates.
- 2. The ballots cast for each candidate shall be tabulated, and the five candidates with the most ballots shall be elected.
- 3. In the event of a tie, the candidate with the longest tenure as a member of the chapter shall be elected.
- 4. NOTA shall be listed on the ballot along with the candidates. No candidate shall be elected if he or she receives fewer votes than NOTA.

2.) Article V. Voting Other Than for Chapter Elections

I would delete this article entirely. As far as I can recall, all such votes have occurred in response to a motion made at the meeting, and never have any votes been announced prior to the meeting. Thus, all voting is done in person, and no proxy voting has ever occurred. (I could be wrong about that since I had limited involvement in the chapter for a number of years.) Anyway, I think proxy voting is a bad idea however it's done.

3.) Article VI. Meetings

I was surprised to find out that the first sentence in this article says "Regular meetings of the Chapter membership shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month." We clearly need to change "Tuesday" to "Wednesday." Also, I would add a sentence "The meeting date may be changed by a vote of the board of directors as long as notice is given to the membership at least two weeks in advance of the new date."

4.) Article VIII. Finance and Accounting

The second sentence says "... the Treasurer may authorize new expenditures of up to fifty dollars, and the Board may authorize new expenditures of up to 200 dollars." I would increase the Treasurer's limit to \$100, and delete the last phrase "of up to 200 dollars." I see no reason the Board shouldn't be allowed to authorize spending the entire treasury if so desired. However, if that seems too loose, we could say that a super majority of the board is required to authorize expenditures of over \$1000. We should delete "All new expenditures exceeding 200 dollars shall require prior authorization by a majority of the membership at a regular meeting..."

Same article, Subsection B states that all disbursements exceeding twenty dollars shall be made solely by check. I would delete this all together and leave it up to the treasurer how to disburse funds.

- b) Under emergency rules the Bylaws were amended to allow for election of officers.
Note - added text is underlined.

Article 4, section "A:"

All of the candidates for chapter office or for at-large board positions shall be nominated at the regular October meeting of the Chapter, and elected at the November regular meeting of the Chapter, by the members present and in good standing as of the previous regular meeting. All such candidates shall be placed upon a printed ballot which shall be sent at least two weeks in advance of the regular November meeting. In the case where there are no contested offices, the ballot may be sent electronically to the members. All directors shall take office immediately upon the close of the regular December meeting and shall serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next December meeting.

VI. New business

Discussion on annual Holiday Party. 2019 was hosted by Dave Powell. Consensus was to hold Holiday Party at Bruce L.'s home possibly outdoor, depending on Covid consideration.

VII. Adjournment

Bruce Letterle moved to adjourn, and John Odermatt seconded.

Bruce Letterle adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Bill Baierl

Minutes approved by: Bruce Letterle