

Minutes.

Libertarian National Committee Executive Committee. Regular Meeting, Wednesday, December 18, 1996. *[Approved.]*

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Libertarian National Committee was held on Wednesday, December 18, 1996, at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time by telephone conference call.

All six of the voting members were present at the meeting:

- Stephen L. Dasbach, the chair;
- Karen A. Allard, the vice chair;
- Gary E. Johnson, the secretary;
- Hugh A. Butler, the treasurer;
- Ron Crickenberger, LNC representative; and
- William W. Hall, LNC representative.

Non-voting observers Joseph W. Dehn III, Mark Tuniewicz, and Perry Willis were also present.

The national director, Perry Willis, said the deputy director of communications, George Getz, was receiving 2 to 7 media contacts, arranging 7 to 15 interviews, and issuing 2 news releases per week.

Perry Willis said the director of operations, Daniel J. Gallagher, was working on the changes in the data base system. Perry Willis said the North Carolina petition drive was on schedule after a successful effort on election day.

Perry Willis said he had spoken with Robert H. Franke, interim chair of the Audit Committee, who had expressed interest in setting up a teleconference of the committee.

Perry Willis said the dates for the July 1998 national convention were not available at the Washington Hilton hotel, one of the two hotels being considered. He said the Omni Shoreham was the only other hotel in Washington that was large enough and available on the July 4th weekend. He said a draft of the hotel contract had been sent to legal counsel Bill Hall.

Steve Dasbach said Steve Givot, chair of the Convention Planning Committee, recommended holding the 1998 convention in Washington, D.C., at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Joe Dehn asked, what happened to the hotel in Atlanta, Georgia? Steve Dasbach said the barbershop quartets at the Atlanta hotel made it a "show stopper." He said he, Steve Givot, and Perry Willis toured the Washington Hilton and found it acceptable. But another group had an option ahead of the LP for the weekend and the group had exercised it, making the Hilton unavailable. Two other hotels in Washington were considered, the Renaissance and the Omni. The Omni had better facilities.

Hugh Butler moved for the LNC executive committee to select the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C, as the site for the July 1998 Libertarian national convention. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a general discussion of breakfast and lunch events at the national convention.

Perry Willis reported that membership was up to about 21,900. The annual report mailing had been prepared and sent to the printer. He said the party would probably not have a surplus at the end of the year because the response to the latest mailing, sent out after the election, had been poor.

Perry Willis said the financial reports had been closed for the month of November and Kris Williams would mail the November financial reports.

Steve Dasbach noted that 13 states were using the unified membership program.

Legal counsel Bill Hall said the party had voluntarily agreed to stop using the term "Operation Safe Streets" at the request of a group already called the Safe Streets Alliance.

Bill Hall reported on the lawsuit in Arizona by Peter Schmerl and others challenging the Arizona Libertarian Party. Bill Hall said John Buttrick, counsel for the Arizona Libertarian Party, was trying to have the lawsuit thrown out of court.

Steve Dasbach reported on a dispute in Alabama in which a member had asked that the state affiliate be decertified by the national party. The dispute was over an effort by supporters of Jimmy Blake, a former Libertarian who ran for U.S Senate in the Republican primary, to get the LP not to run a candidate for Senator. Steve Dasbach noted that Alabama did run a Senate candidate and he hoped that state affiliates would not look to the LNC to solve their local problems.

Bill Hall reported that the Natural Law Party had not yet paid for all of its share of a petition drive in North Carolina.

Campaign Area manager Ron Crickenberger reported on campaigns. He noted that Michigan and West Virginia were already recruiting candidates for the next election. He said was working on a survey of the 1996 candidates and the job description for the political director at the national headquarters. Ron Crickenberger said Jerry Russell of the Grass Roots campaigning newsletter had agreed to work on candidate training.

Future meetings of the LNC Executive Committee were set for January 15, February 12, and March 12.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted, Gary E. Johnson, secretary.