



Revised Minutes

Libertarian Party of Florida
Executive Committee and Committees Meeting
Sunday, February 5th, 2017
Phone conference
7:30 PM/Eastern
641-715-3580 624-367#

[Playback Link](#)

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by the Chair, Char-Lez Braden, at 7:31 pm.

2. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Present (16)

Char-Lez Braden, Chair
James Morris, Treasurer
Alison Foxall, At Large 1
Marc Tancer, At Large 3
Anna Marie Morris, Region 2
Ryan Ramsey, Region 4
Raquel Okay, Region 6
Robert Enright, Region 12

Omar Recuero, Vice Chair
Suzanne Gilmore, Secretary
Russ Wood, At Large 2
James Campbell, Region 1
Joshua Folsom, Region 3
James Chipman, Region 5
George Lebovitz, Region 9
Steven Nekhaila, Region 14

Joined in Progress or Late (1)

Audrey Capozzi, Region 11

Not Present (3)

Stacey Selleck, Region 8
Karl Dickey, Region 13

Darlene Underwood, Region 10
(Excused)

Vacant (1)

[VACANT] Region 7

Invited Guests Present:

- Ed Marsh
- Charles Sanders
- Jess Mears

3. Determination of Quorum

Quorum was met with 16 members initially present.

By-Laws Art. III, Sect. 4 C. *A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be eight (8) members of the Committee.*

4. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved without objection.

5. Approval of Minutes as posted.

Minutes of January 1st, 2017 EC Meeting were approved without objection.

6. LNC Report: Ed Marsh and/or Steven Nekhaila

Steven Nekhaila reported that Ed Marsh was out of the country. The Level the Playing Field the LP and the Green party won a case against the FEC regarding their decision regarding the Committee on Presidential Debates. Ballot access still having difficulty with ballot access in Ohio. Next LNC Meeting in Pittsburgh April 15 and 16.

7. Officers Reports or Comments

- a. Secretary's Report: Report is in the Forums. New members picked up a bit from last month despite technical issues. Communications is working on that.
- b. Treasurer's Report: Report on FB EC page. Higher receipts than last year. Johnson campaign received the funds we approved. Low expenditure month \$708, but still outstanding payments to Johnson campaign (\$267) and to the accountants (\$500).
- c. Vice-Chair Report: Appeared at LPMD affiliate and is receiving invitations to speak at others. Attended every committee meeting possible held during the month. Draft of report on forums.
- d. Chair's Report: Rules Com and LRC busy, though the Chair resigned. He is reconstituting the Membership and Selection Coms. He wants a process that makes Selection Committee's findings to be objective and not controversial. Successful candidates need to be shown to be well in line with the Libertarian Party and are good representatives of the party. Seeking to have a disclosure affidavit. Any candidates should be starting their run now.
 - Raquel Okayay's motion to approve the affiliation of Citrus County was seconded by Joshua Folsom. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Joshua's Folsom's motion to accept the resignation of Lynn House as the Chair of the Membership Committee was seconded by Omar Recuero. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Appointment of Jess Mears as Chairperson of the Membership Committee was

approved unanimously.

- Appointment of George Lebovitz, Richard Molek, and Greg Peele as members of the Membership Committee was approved unanimously.

8. At Large and Regions Reports

At Large 3 Marc Tancer - reported basically nothing new outside of the Convention Com. Austin Petersen backed out of his commitment to take a paying event in Europe. Looking at Will Coley or Matt Welch.

At Large 2 - Russ Wood reported attending Hillsborough and Sarasota meetings. Organizing event with candidates. Randy Wiseman will make announcement there.

At Large 1 Alison Foxall - Has been visiting some of the affiliates. Website has been experiencing some technical difficulties, solutions are underway. Will be in Tallahassee at the capital tomorrow on multiple issues.

Steven Nekhaila, Region 14 - LPMD condemned the MD commission for spending discretionary funds instead of refunding. Calling for termination of Ricardo Roig for actions of his agency against Ms. Chasser. They are starting a Libertarian Library. Monroe Co. Outreach Com busy trying to grow membership and participation.

Karl Dickey, Region 13 - Not present

Robert Enright, Region 12 - Disclosed Selection Committee with Richard Molek. Looking to engage some of the Johnson campaign volunteers to affiliate Charlotte County.

Audrey Capozzi, Region 11 - Not much to report. Still having trouble affiliating Indian River County.

Darlene Underwood, Region 10 - Not present

George Lebovitz, Region 9 - Report not on forums for first time. Not much happening.

Stacey Selleck, Region 8 - Not present

[VACANT], Region 7 - Not present.

Raquel Okyay, Region 6 - Working from out of state. Petition for legalization of recreational marijuana in FL making its way.

James Chipman, Region 5 - Duval events Sabal Trail protest. True Commission audits county books. Three affiliate members applied. Called all local LPF members.

Ryan Ramsey, Region 4 - The 1/10 event was cancelled by the government. Working on phosphate mining issues.

Joshua Folsom, Region 3 - Nothing to report/

Anna Marie Morris, Region 2 - Report on forums.

James Campbell, Region 1 - Escambia showing affiliate progress. Wants to do/find education for LPF.

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. New Business

Motion No.: 452

Title: [Motion to Approve Minor, Non-Material Edits to the LPF Constitution](#)

Mover: Suzanne Gilmore for the Rules Committee was seconded by Joshua Folsom

Text: Motion: I move to approve the minor, non-material edits as seen below to the LPF Constitution in accordance with the LPF Constitution Art. III Sect. 4 B.

Description: The Rules Committee is authorized to present necessary minor edits of the document to the LPF EC for approval. The edits in question have been approved by the Rules Committee and all meet the requirements for this manner of approval of the edits. See below.

Strikethroughs represent text to be removed and underlines represent text to be added.

Libertarian Party of Florida, Inc. Constitution

As Revised at Convention 2016-04-09

ARTICLE I Name & Object

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Libertarian Party of Florida, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the LPF.

Section 2. The object and purpose of the LPF is to engage in political action in the State of Florida, to serve as an affiliate organization of the Libertarian Party in national politics, and to serve as a nucleus for designated county affiliate organizations and for LPF members in matters of statewide political action.¹

Section 3. The purpose of the LPF is to implement and to give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles currently adopted by the LPF by:

¹ And LPF members added April 9, 2016 at convention

A. Supporting candidates for national office, recruiting and supporting candidates for state and Congressional offices, and aiding local affiliates upon request.²

B. Promoting, chartering, and coordinating county affiliate parties within the State of Florida.

C. Entering into political information activities, including the promoting and securing of party members.

ARTICLE II Membership

Section 1. LPF membership is open to whoever signs the pledge: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals," and asks to be a member of the LPF.^{3 4}

Section 2. No change in the Bylaws or Standing Rules may have the effect of imposing a head tax on the membership.^{5 6}

Section 3. No change in the Bylaws or Standing Rules may have the effect of disenfranchising a member.⁷

Section 4. No change in the Bylaws or Standing Rules shall deny the autonomy of an individual member or an affiliate party, except as provided in the Constitution.⁸

Section 5. Certain rights and privileges of membership, including delegate status, committee appointments and observation of committee meetings, holding party office, exercise of voting rights in the conduct of any Libertarian Party of Florida business, and the right to bring business before the Annual Business Meeting, shall be unavailable to members and officers of any other political party registered in the state of Florida. Members and officers of other

² Amended at Annual Meeting 2009

³ And asks to be a member of the LPF; added May 25, 2013 at convention

⁴ Section 2. Matters pertaining to membership classification shall be prescribed in the Standing Rules. deleted May 25, 2013 at Convention

⁵ Moved to Article 4 from the Standing Rules at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-2-91; moved to this section at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-6-93

⁶ Moved Article II, Section 2 to new Article IV and renumbered at convention April 9, 2016

⁷ Moved to Article 4 from the Standing Rules at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-2-91; moved to this section at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-6-93

⁸ Moved to Article 4 from the Standing Rules at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-2-91; moved to this section at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-6-93

political parties registered in the state of Florida may participate in discussion on items of business brought before the membership, subject to the discretion of the Chair or majority vote of the body.⁹

ARTICLE III Officers, Executive Committee & Standing Committees

Section 1. The Officers of the LPF shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The duties and election of the Officers shall be specified in the By-Laws.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Officers, three (3) Directors-at-Large, one (1) Regional Representative for each region elected at the Annual Business Meeting within the provision of the By-Laws. ~~(Amended at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-6-93)~~¹⁰ The powers and duties of the Executive Committee shall be prescribed in the Bylaws and Standing Rules, to provide the control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the LPF consistent with this Constitution. Deficit spending shall be prohibited. ¹¹

Section 3. Standing Committees

A. Standing Committees of the LPF shall include the following:

Candidate Committee
Communications Committee
Membership Committee
Platform Committee
Rules Committee
Selection Committee ¹²

B. Committees and Committee Chairs shall be appointed by the Chair of the LPF with the approval of the Executive Committee, unless otherwise provided in the Constitution. Removal of persons on a committee shall need the approval of the Executive Committee.

⁹ 2006 Annual Meeting

¹⁰ Amended at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-6-1993

¹¹ Last sentence added at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-4-94

¹² A. Standing Committees of the LPF shall include the following:

1. Rules Committee
2. Nominating Committee
3. Platform Committee
4. Membership Committee
5. Communications Committee (added Annual Meeting 2011). Deleted and Revised at convention May 25, 2013

Actions of all Committees shall be reported to the Executive Committee.¹³

Section 4. Rules Committee

~~{A}~~₂ The Rules Committee will~~7~~ be composed of the LPF Chair, LPF Secretary~~4~~ and three (3) other members of the party not on the Executive Committee, appointed annually by the Chair to serve a one-year term. The Rules Committee shall be responsible for interpreting the Constitution based on current Florida Statutes and shall prepare and submit amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws for a vote by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.¹⁴

~~{B}~~₂ The Rules Committee may propose to the Executive Committee at a regular business meeting, to edit the Constitution and By-laws for grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. Any edits done at a regular business meeting shall not change the current intention of the rule being edited.¹⁵

Section 5. Selection Committee ¹⁶

A. The Selection Committee shall consist of five (5) members, elected at the Annual Business Meeting from diverse regions of the state. Vacancies on this committee occurring after the Annual Business Meeting may be filled by the Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee.

B. The Selection Committee shall be responsible for establishing guidelines the committee will follow when contacted by, or presented with, information in regards to any Florida candidate who seeks certification by the LPF.

1. The Selection Committee shall establish minimum criteria which a prospective candidate must meet before obtaining approval from the

¹³ B. Committees and Committee Chairs shall be appointed by the Chair of the LPF with the approval of the Executive Committee unless otherwise provided in the Constitution. Actions of all Committees shall be reported to the Executive Committee. Deleted and Replaced at convention May 25, 2013

¹⁴ Struck upon order of the Executive Committee at convention April 9, 2016

¹⁵ The Rules Committee will be composed of the Chair, Secretary and three (3) other members of the party not on the Executive Committee, one of whom shall be appointed annually by the Chair to serve a three-year term. The appointed members with the longest tenure on the Committee shall chair the Committee. The Rules Committee shall be responsible for interpreting the Constitution based on current Florida Statutes (added at annual business meeting, 29 March 2008, Orlando) and upon order of the Executive Committee shall prepare and submit amendments to the Constitution and By-laws for a vote by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. deleted and rewritten to include section B at convention May 25, 2013.

¹⁶ Name changed at Convention May 25, 2013

Selection Committee and shall specify this criteria in the Standing Rules.

2. The Selection Committee shall recommend candidates to the Executive Committee for certification who have been approved for recommendation by majority vote.

3. The Selection Committee shall make regular reports to the LPF Executive Committee.

(c) The Selection Committee shall perform its duties according to Article IV, Section 5C of the Bylaws.¹⁷

Section 6. Platform Committee

The Platform Committee shall be nominated by the Chair of the LPF with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee and contain at least three members whose task will be to present a combined document of proposed changes and additions to the Party Platform at the Annual Business Meeting. It shall perform its duties to present a document as outlined in Article V.^{18 19}

Section 7. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall be appointed by the Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee. It shall consist of at least five (5) members of the LPF with the majority NOT being members of the Executive Committee. The Committee must include the LPF Secretary, who maintains the membership records, with assistance and guidance from this committee. The principal duties of the Membership Committee shall be responsible for increasing the membership in the LPF and for increasing the LPF voter registration. The Membership Committee is also responsible for recruiting members both for the Affiliate and for the LPF.²⁰

¹⁷ Subsection B added at the Annual Meeting 2014

¹⁸ The Platform Committee shall be nominated by the Chair of the LPF with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee and contain such members as can work together to present the document at the Annual Business Meeting. It shall perform its duties to present a document as outlined in Article V. deleted and rewritten May 25, 2013

¹⁹ Section 7. Electoral Victory Committee. The Electoral Victory Committee is appointed to serve as the Nominating Committee for Candidates for Political Office. The Electoral Victory Committee is directed to implement Political Candidate Endorsement procedures as may be outlined in the Standing Rules. deleted at convention May 25, 2013

²⁰ Struck The Membership Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall consist of at least five (5) members of the LPF with the majority NOT being members of the Executive Committee. The Committee shall include the Membership LPF Secretary for the party, and shall oversee the activities of the Membership Secretary, giving assistance where needed. The principal duties of the Membership Committee shall be responsibility for increasing the membership in the LPF and for increasing the LP voter registration. The Membership Committee is also responsible for recruiting members both for the Affiliate and for the LPF. The

Section 8. Communications Committee

The Communications Committee shall be appointed for a two-year term by a majority of the Executive Committee. The Communications Committee is tasked with developing and implementing a plan or plans to facilitate two-way communications between the LPF and county affiliates, and the LPF and other interested parties. Plan(s) should be particularly focused on effective implementation of social media technology, in addition to using conventional channels of communication. The Communications Committee shall also function as the distribution channel for LPF press releases, and perform other communications tasks as the Executive Committee may delegate from time to time.²¹

9. The Candidate Committee

The Candidate Committee shall be appointed by the LPF Chair and approved by the Executive Committee and shall consist of at least five (5) members of the LPF. The principal duties of the Candidate Committee shall include but not be limited to identifying potential Libertarian Party candidates, directing and preparing potential candidates for review by the Selection Committee, to train vetted and approved Libertarian Party candidates for their respective races, and to identify and train campaign staff members to serve on the campaign staff for vetted and approved Libertarian Party Candidates. Should other duties of the committee arise which are not already specifically listed in this section, the Chair may make a motion as such to the Executive Committee or the LPF Chair for their approval before taking action as a committee. The Chair of the Candidate Committee shall present regular reports on the committee's work to the Executive Committee."²²

ARTICLE IV Affiliates²³

Section 1. Affiliate organizations which choose to become affiliated parties of

Membership Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining party membership records and/or sending out dues notices on a timely basis to those members whose dues are about to lapse and replaced with The Membership Committee shall be appointed by the Chair and confirmed by the Executive Committee. It shall consist of at least five (5) members of the LPF with the majority NOT being members of the Executive Committee. The Committee must include the LPF Secretary, who maintains the membership records, with assistance and guidance from this committee. The principal duties of the Membership Committee shall be responsibility for increasing the membership in the LPF and for increasing the LPF voter registration. The Membership Committee is also responsible for recruiting members both for the Affiliate and for the LPF, at convention April 9, 2016

²¹ Added at convention 2011

²² Added at convention May 25, 2013

²³ Moved Article II, Section 2 to new Article IV, Section 1 and renumbered at convention April 9, 2016

the LPF shall apply for official designation on a standard petition form for County Affiliates, as adopted by the Executive Committee and subject to the Bylaws and Standing Rules.

ARTICLE V Conventions & Meetings

Section 1. The LPF shall hold an annual convention in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Section 2. The conduct of the business and meetings of the Executive Committee shall be prescribed in the Bylaws and Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VI Statement of Principles, Platform & Nominations

The Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party is hereby ratified. The LPF may develop a Statement of Principles consistent with the Libertarian Party's as a preamble to the Platform developed by the Convention, and as prescribed by this Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VII Adoption & Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution shall be adopted when approved by two-thirds of the delegates of the 1974 Convention.

Section 2. Amendments to the Constitution may be made in the following manner:

A. Amendments must be published among the Executive Committee, the County Affiliates and all members in good standing, thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting and passed by two-thirds of the members present at that meeting.

B. Upon establishment of affiliates in each county in Florida, a proposed Amendment can be accepted by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Committee and ratified by three-fourths of the county affiliates.²⁴

²⁴ Sections A and B passed at the Annual Business Meeting, 6-6-93

Disposition: Motion passed unanimously

Motion No.: 453

Title: [Motion to Realign Affiliates in Regions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9](#)

Mover: George Lebovitz and seconded by Russ Wood

Text: As County Affiliates within Regions are beginning to work together more frequently, it is inconvenient to have Regions containing counties which are widely separated by distance.

In order to more equitably aggregate counties into Regions geographically, I move to realign LPF affiliates in Regions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 as follows:

The Seminole and Volusia County Affiliates be moved from Region 7 to Region 9;

The Polk County Affiliate be moved from Region 9 to Region 8;

The unaffiliated counties of Putnam, Flagler, and St. James be moved from Region 7 to Region 5;

A new Region 7 be formed by combining the Alachua County Affiliate from Region 4, and the Marion and Levy County Affiliates from Region 6.

Discussion/Description: See Addendum A for current and proposed regions maps.

Disposition: James Chipman made, then withdrew motion to table.

George Lebovitz made a motion to amend the motion to realign the regions by moving Polk from 9 to 8 and Volusia from 7 to 9. Seconded by Raquel Okyay.

Ryan Ramsey motioned to amend the motion to only moving Polk from 9 to 8, seconded by Raquel Okyay. Joshua Folsom motioned to call the question, seconded by Alison Foxall. Motion failed.

Ryan Ramsey motioned to postpone motion to convention. Motion failed.

Omar Recuero moved to call the question on the main motion, seconded by Joshua Folsom.

Main motion failed.

Motion No.: 454

Title: [Motion to Officially Oppose Florida HB 183 and SB 424, Issue Press Release](#)

Mover: Steven Nekhaila and seconded by James Morris

Text: Whereas; The tree *Mitragyna speciosa*, commonly referred to as Kratom, is natively found in Thailand and South-East Asia where it has enjoyed a long historic use as a medicine and recreational drug. The psychoactive compounds include Mitragynine

& 7-Hydroxymitragynine which have both stimulant and depressive effects depending on the dosage and strain. Kratom has seen a surge in use in Florida for use as a recreational drug, as a pain killer, and to aide opiate addicts to stop or reduce opioid withdrawal symptoms. There have been no recorded deaths associated with Kratom as a proprietary cause, negative symptoms of Kratom include possible liver toxicity, addiction and asphyxiation from sedation and vomiting if mixed with alcohol or other drugs. According to Pascal Tanguay, from the Thailand offices of PSI, a Washington DC-based global health organization that promotes harm reduction among drug users, "There's never been a single death associated with kratom. People have been chewing this for thousands of years with no cases of overdose, psychosis, murder, violent crime. Never in all of recorded history." Whereas; in 2015, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement released a 15 page paper titled Kratom – Mitragyna speciosa, The Impact on Florida, which concluded that "Kratom does not currently constitute a significant risk to the safety of Florida residents. According to the Florida Department of Health (DOH), no pervasive health issues have been attributed to the ingestion of Kratom products in Florida." Key agencies within the State of Florida have indicated that Kratom does not pose a public health risk. Whereas; Florida State Bill 424 and Florida House Bill 183 would schedule Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine, the main constituents of Kratom, as schedule I controlled substances, effectively criminalizing the use, sale, and manufacture of Kratom. Whereas; The Libertarian Party of Florida stands strongly against vice laws that would prevent consenting adults from buying and selling drugs; Whereas, the Libertarian Party of Florida stands for the individual's right to self-medicate or use recreational drugs at one's own risk and discretion; Therefore, The Libertarian Party of Florida shall officially oppose Florida HB 183 and SB 424, support the unfettered legal status of Kratom, and shall issue a press release.

Discussion/Description: The full text of the proposed legislation can be found here:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/0424/BillText/Filed/PDF>

Disposition: Raquel Okyay made a motion to refer to the Legislative Review Committee. Seconded by Joshua Folsom. Motion failed.

Main motion passed unanimously

11. Notice

- a. The next LPF executive and committees meeting will be on February 19th, 2017.
- b. The next executive committee meeting will be on March 5th, 2017.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Marc Tancer was seconded by Joshua Folsom.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.