

LDC Committee Meeting 5/19/08

In attendance: Ann Martin, Sharon Henderson, Bill Schrier, Richard Bartlett, Brian Earl, Beth Greiser, Walter Sive, Steve Karbowski

We continued to discuss the draft rules, which had been edited based on discussion and comments from the last LDC meeting on 4/19.

Main topics included discussion of the draft E-Board rules, and refining and finalizing them for submittal to the E-Board for consideration at June E-Board meeting. We discussed the timeline for making the Rules effective, and whether they would be in place before the end of the year and the January reorganization meeting. The committee was in agreement that it is in the interests of the organization and membership to have a Nominating Committee established to begin the important work of identifying and recruiting candidates this summer and fall in advance of our next reorganization election which will be held in January, 2009.

We also discussed if the Membership should vote on or ratify the Rules. The By-Laws provide that the E-Board has the responsibility of creating rules for the E-Board, but there is no requirement in the By-Laws that specify the Membership must approve or ratify the Rules that the E-Board creates or approves. Brian suggested that we should involve the membership in this process by providing a comment period on the rules. The committee agreed that made good sense. At the end of the comment period, the E-Board would then take a final vote on adoption of the rules, which must be approved by a simple majority of the E-Board members. For amendments to the Rules, the By-Laws and Rules Committee would have authority to draft amendments and submit recommended changes to the E-Board and the Membership.

There was lengthy discussion on the Standing Committees needed and their roles. It was generally agreed upon that a Caucus Committee be established with Precinct Caucus Subcommittee and a Legislative District Subcommittee. The role a Communications Committee was discussed, including bringing the newsletter and website maintenance functions within this committee's responsibility, and the need to have the IT Manager, Newsletter Editor and Corresponding Secretary as standing members of the committee.

We agreed to finalize a draft of the rules for E-Board consideration at the June E-Board meeting on Wed. 6/18. Steve agreed to edit the draft rules based upon the discussion and agreements the LDC arrived at during the meeting and would get the revised draft back to the committee members for one last round before finalizing and sending on to the E-Board for consideration.

Our next meeting is Mon. 6/23 @ 7 p.m. at Ann Martin's house.

of authority of the E-Board from the By-Laws to develop rules (Article IV of the By-Laws require the E-Board to promulgate rules specifically for the Executive Board).

There was also discussion of primacy of By-Laws over the Rules, State Committee By-Laws over District By-Laws, and State Law superseding all in case of conflict. It was agreed that this be a part of the Rules.

Defining functions of Standing Committees was discussed. It was generally agreed that expanding the number of committees to take on key responsibilities of the organization such as fundraising, platform, nominations, etc. is essential given our expansion of membership and need to bring additional people into leadership positions within the organization.

Steve agreed to revise the draft rules and circulate to the LDC members for further refinement and discussion at the next meeting, scheduled for May 19th.