



Report of the Adjunct Committee on the Bylaws and Convention Rules to the 2017 Convention of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina

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Executive Summary

The Adjunct Committee on the Bylaws and Convention Rules (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) was appointed by the Libertarian Party of North Carolina Executive Committee in accordance with Bylaws Article VIII, Section 1.

Committee members were: Steve Brenneis, Timothy Cole (chair), Brent Deridder, Susan Hogarth, and Brian Irving.

The Committee conducted its deliberations using the Slack channel “#bylaws” (www.lp-nc-exec.slack.com), the LPNC Google drive, and Free Conference Call (www.freeconferencecall.com). Discussion was open to all Libertarian Party of North Carolina members. In addition, a summary of items considered will be published at http://lpnc.org/bylaws_committee.

The Committee approved eight (8) recommendations. We present these recommendations to the Convention for adoption in the order listed. There is one (1) proposal we do *not* recommend.

There is no minority report.

Timothy Cole
Bylaws Committee Chair

Do Pass Recommendations

1. Insert new Convention Rule 6.3

This recommendation adds the requirements to submit a resolution in writing.

The committee approved this recommendation 4-1.

Current text

6. RESOLUTIONS

6.1 Resolutions must be approved by a two-third (2/3) vote.

6.2 Resolutions must not be in conflict with the Statement of Principles. Challenges of such adopted Resolutions believed by ten percent (10%) of the delegates to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles shall be referred in writing, during the Convention, to the Judicial Committee by the delegates requesting action for consideration. The challenge shall specify in what manner the Resolution is believed to be in conflict. The Judicial Committee shall consider the challenge, decide whether the Statement of Principles is conformed to, and report their findings and reasons to the Convention. If the Resolution is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it will be declared null and void but can be reinstated by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the Convention.

Proposed added text

6.3 Resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary in writing at the convening of the State Convention.

Rationale

The agenda calls for a reading of all resolutions at the opening of the convention, since they deserve to be carefully considered by the delegates. Past conventions have suffered significant disruption with delegates trying to hastily amend resolutions that were poorly formed when proposed later in the business session. We feel requiring the resolutions be submitted in this manner will result in better quality resolutions requiring less discussion. It is also at the Chair's discretion to require all motions in writing.

2. Amend Bylaws Article XIII. Parliamentary Authority

This recommendation changes the requirement for suspending the rules during a meeting from a three-fifths (3/5) to two-thirds (2/3) vote.

This committee approved this recommendation 3-0.

Current text

Article XIII. Parliamentary Authority

The Democratic Rules of Order (Francis & Francis, 9th ed.) shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these Bylaws. The rules of procedure may be suspended for a specific purpose, if approved by three fifths (3/5) of those present and voting provided a quorum is present.

Proposed

Article XIII. Parliamentary Authority

The Democratic Rules of Order (Francis & Francis, 9th ed.) shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these Bylaws. The rules of procedure may be suspended for a specific purpose, if approved by two thirds (⅔) of those present and voting provided a quorum is present.

Rationale

All other rules requiring a supermajority specify a ⅔ requirement. This is merely to maintain consistency with all other votes requiring a supermajority.

3. Delete Convention Rules 9 and 10, and Amend Rules 7 and 8

The recommendation deletes complicated voting systems and replaces them with a simpler system.

The committee approved this recommendation 3-1.

Current text

7. ELECTION OF PARTY OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1 Nominations for Party Officers and At-Large members of the Executive Committee shall be from the floor. For each office where there are two or more nominees for the seats and None-of-the-Above, the election shall be conducted by using the Multiple Preferential Vote system. Otherwise, with one nominee and None-of-the-Above the election shall be chosen by majority vote.

7.2 Nominations for Judicial Committee members shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted by use of the Single Transferable Vote system. Delegates may vote for None-of-the-Above once for each seat open.

7.3 Nominations for each seat may be made by any delegate present on the floor, provided he or she has the candidate's permission. Nominating speeches shall be limited in duration as follows:

7.3.1 Chair: one two (2) minute nominating speech, two thirty (30) second seconding speeches;

7.3.2 All others: one one (1) minute nominating speech, one thirty (30) second seconding speeches.

7.4 In any election where there are no barriers to nomination other than the consent of the candidate and where the option for None-of-the-Above is provided, any votes cast for a person not nominated shall be counted as votes for None-of-the-Above.

8. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

8.1 Candidate nominations shall be from the floor.

8.2 The Party's nominee for single seat offices where there are two or more nominees for a single seat and None-of-the-above shall be chosen by the Multiple Preferential Vote system. Otherwise, with one nominee and None-of-the-Above the nominee shall be chosen by majority vote.

8.3 The Party's nominee for multi-seat offices shall be chosen by the Single Transferable Vote system. Delegates may vote for None-of-the-Above once for each seat open.

8.4 Nominations for each office may be made by any delegate present on the floor, provided he or she has the candidate's permission. Nominating speeches shall be limited in duration as follows:

8.4.1 Governor and US Senator: one two-minute nominating speech, two thirty (30) second seconding speeches;

8.4.2 All others: one one (1) minute nominating speech, one thirty (30) second seconding speech.

9. MULTIPLE PREFERENTIAL VOTE SYSTEM. A method of electing one winner within a multi-candidate field.

9.1 The Secretary shall distribute paper ballots to the delegates.

9.2 To vote, each delegate shall write the names of the candidates in order of preference on the ballot with number one being the delegate's first choice.

Delegates do not have to list all candidates.

9.3 Five (5) minutes shall be allowed for the delegates to complete their ballots and return them to the Secretary.

9.4 At the end of five (5) minutes the Secretary shall count the number of ballots received and the number of first choice votes for each candidate and place each ballot in a stack sorted by the first choice candidates.

9.5 If the number of first choice votes cast for a candidate is a majority of the votes cast, that candidate is declared elected. If no candidate has received a majority, the candidate with the lowest number of first choice votes is eliminated.

Each of the ballots with that candidate listed as the first choice are transferred to the candidate who is listed as the second choice on that ballot. If any transferred ballot has no second choice, that ballot is discarded and no longer counted toward calculating a majority. If any candidate now has a majority of the remaining ballots, that candidate is elected.

9.6 If no candidate has received a majority, the candidate that now has the lowest number of votes is eliminated. Each of the ballots with that candidate listed as the choice being counted is transferred to the candidate who is listed as the next choice on that ballot. If any ballot has no next choice, that ballot is discarded and no longer counted towards calculating a majority.

9.7 If any candidate now has a majority of the remaining ballots, that candidate is elected. If not, repeat Sections 9.5 and 9.6 until one candidate has a majority.

9.8 The Secretary may establish procedures to calculate the results by computer.

10. SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE SYSTEM. A proportional method of electing multiple winners within a multi-seat body.

10.1 The Secretary shall distribute paper ballots to the delegates.

10.2 To vote, each delegate shall write the names of the candidates in order of preference on the ballot with number one being the delegate's first choice.

Delegates do not have to list all candidates.

10.3 Five minutes shall be allowed for the delegates to complete their ballots and return them to the Secretary.

10.4 At the end of five minutes the Secretary shall count the number of ballots received and the number of first choice votes for each candidate and place each ballot in a stack sorted by the first choice candidates.

10.5 A threshold number of votes needed to win is calculated by dividing the number of valid ballots received by the number of positions to fill plus one then adding one and round down.

Mathematically, $T = (V / (P + 1)) + 1$; where P = the number of positions to be filled, V = the number of votes cast, and T = the threshold number required to be elected.

10.6 Any candidates whose first-choice vote total is equal to or greater than the threshold number are declared elected.

10.7 If all the positions are filled at this time, the election is over. If not, proceed to Section 10.8.

10.8 For each winning candidate, the number of first choice votes cast for winning candidate in excess of the threshold number are divided by the total number of first choice votes cast for the winning candidate and the fractional votes are distributed to the next choice candidate on each ballot that was cast for the winning candidate as described in Section 13 -- Transfer of Fractional Votes. Any candidates whose first choice votes plus transferred fractional votes is now equal to or greater than the threshold number are declared elected.

10.9 If all the positions are filled at this time, the election is over. If not, proceed to Section 10.10.

10.10 The candidate with the lowest number of first choice votes plus transferred fractional votes is eliminated. Each of the ballots with that candidate listed as the first choice are transferred to the candidate who is listed as the second choice on that ballot if any. Each transferred fractional vote that the eliminated candidate received from the winning candidate's excess votes is transferred to the third choice on the transferred fractional vote's ballot. If any ballot has no second choice (or third choice for fractional ballots), that ballot (or fraction of a ballot) is discarded. If any candidate now has a vote total equal to or greater than the threshold number of the remaining ballots, that candidate is elected.

10.11 If all the positions are filled at this time, the election is over. If not, repeat Sections 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, and 10.11 using the next choice candidates in each case, i.e. transfer now extra fractional votes to the next choice on each fractional ballot as described in Section 10.12 -- Transfer of Fractional Votes.

10.12 Transfer of Fractional Votes. A method of transferring the votes that a candidate receives which are in excess of the threshold number.

10.12.1 The number of votes in excess of the threshold number is calculated for each winning candidate. Mathematically, $D1=C1-T$; where $C1$ =the number of votes cast for winning candidate, T =the threshold number; and $D1$ =the number of votes in excess of the threshold number.

10.12.2 The current fractional ballot value is calculated for each ballot of the delegates whose first choice candidate has been declared a winner.

Mathematically, $F1=D1/C1$; where $D1$ =the number of votes in excess of the threshold, $C1$ =the number of votes cast for winning candidate, and $F1$ =the fractional ballot value.

10.12.3 For each ballot in the stack of the winning candidate with the excess votes, The Secretary shall mark the ballot with the fractional ballot value ($F1$). Those ballots then become equal to the fractional ballot value and each ballot is transferred to the candidate ranked next on that ballot. If that next choice candidate has already been declared a winner or has already been eliminated, then the fractional ballot is transferred to the next still-active candidate ranked on the ballot.

10.12.4 When counting transferred ballots in subsequent steps, only count them as a fraction of a vote, equal to their current fractional ballot value.

10.12.5 If a ballot that has been reduced to a fractional value comes up in a subsequent transfer, recalculate the new fractional ballot value for the now-in-excess-of-the-threshold stack to which it has been transferred based on the number of votes now in the stack (whole votes plus fractional votes -- not the number of ballots). Then multiply the ballot's old fractional value ($F1$) by the new fractional value of the stack. Mathematically, $F2=F1(D2/C2)$, where $F1$ =the old fractional value of the ballot, $D2$ =the number of votes now in excess of the threshold, $C2$ =the number of votes now cast for winning candidate, and $F2$ =the new fractional ballot value. Mark the fractional ballot with the new fractional value ($F2$) and cross out the old fractional value ($F1$). Those ballots then become equal to the new

fractional ballot value and each ballot is transferred to the candidate ranked next on that ballot.

10.13 The Secretary may establish procedures to calculate the results by computer.

Proposed text

7. ELECTION OF PARTY OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1. Nominations for party officers, Executive Committee, and Judicial Committee members shall be from the floor.

7.2. Nominations for each seat may be made by any delegate present on the floor, provided he or she has the candidate's permission. Nominating speeches shall be limited in duration as follows:

7.2.1. Chair: one two (2) minute nominating speech, two thirty (30) second seconding speeches;

7.2.2. All others: one one (1) minute nominating speech, one thirty (30) second seconding speeches.

7.3. Elections for party officers shall be conducted by a majority vote. If no candidate receives a majority, runoff votes will be held, dropping the candidate with the fewest votes after each ballot.

7.4. For at-large Executive Committee members and Judicial Committee members, each delegate may cast a ballot with a vote for either none-of-the-above or one vote per candidate for any number of candidates. Every ballot with a vote for none-of-the-above or one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. A vote for none-of-the-above shall be ignored if the ballot also includes a vote for any other candidate. The nine (9) candidates receiving the most number of votes cast shall be elected. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.

7.5. In any election where there are no barriers to nomination other than the consent of the candidate and where the option for None-of-the-Above is provided, any votes cast for a person not nominated shall be counted as votes for None-of-the-Above.

8. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

8.1. Candidate nominations shall be from the floor.

8.2. Nominations for each office may be made by any delegate present on the floor, provided he or she has the candidate's permission. Nominating speeches shall be limited in duration as follows:

8.2.1. Governor and US Senator: one two-minute nominating speech, two thirty (30) second seconding speeches;

8.2.2. All others: one one (1) minute nominating speech, one thirty (30) second seconding speech

8.3. Elections for the Party's nominee for single seat offices shall be conducted by a majority vote. If no candidate (including NOTA) receives a majority, runoff votes will be held, dropping the candidate with the fewest votes after each ballot.

8.4. For multi-seat offices, each delegate may cast a ballot with a vote for either none-of-the-above or one vote per candidate for any number of candidates. Every ballot with a vote for none-of-the-above or one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. A vote for none-of-the-above shall be ignored if the ballot also includes a vote for any other candidate. The candidates receiving the most number of votes cast shall be nominated. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.

Rationale

We believe the defined voting methods are overly complex for an organization our size, and to our knowledge, have not been used in any recent convention. The proposed method aligns with our past actual practice, as well as being the method used by the national committee in their elections.

4. Delete Bylaws Article V. Executive Committee Section 3. Directors, and Insert new Article VI. Executive Director

This recommendation removes multiple directorships as an extension of the Executive Committee and enables an Executive Director/staff structure under the authority of the Chair. The Executive Committee retains oversight through advice and consent. The appointed ED and/or LPNC staff may be either paid or volunteer. The ED and staff would not be members of the Executive Committee.

The committee approved this recommendation 4-1.

Current text

Section 3. Directors

Where it is deemed desirable to have a statewide Party official with designated responsibilities and authorities beyond the Party offices, the Executive Committee may create a position of Director for any area of activity not handled by a Party officer. In each case, the position of Director must be assigned specific duties and a specific title.

1. All Directors will be appointed by the Executive Committee, serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee, and answer directly to the Chair, other officer, or another director, as determined by the Executive Committee.
2. An officer of the Party may not also serve in a Director's position. An At-Large member of the Executive Committee may also serve in one, but not more than one, Director's position.
3. Each Director shall have all privileges of membership on the Executive Committee except the power to vote.

Proposed

Article VI. Executive Director and Staff

1. The Chair may, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, select an Executive Director to serve at the pleasure of the Chair. The Executive Director:
 - a. Shall served as principal administrative assistant to the Chair.
 - b. May be a full-time or part-time paid or volunteer position, as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Director duties and responsibilities shall be outlined in a job description approved by the Executive Committee. These duties and responsibilities shall include:
 - a. Administering the day-to-day affairs of the Party;
 - b. Assisting Party officers and committee chairs in the execution of their duties;

- c. Implementing the strategic plan approved by the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Director shall supervise staff members, including volunteers, appointed or hired by the Executive Committee or Chair.
4. The Executive Director's performance shall be subject to annual review by the Chair and the Executive Committee.

Rational

Recommendation 1 supports the the 2020 Strategic Plan by allowing us to move away from a structure with primarily a working, volunteer executive committee and towards acquiring traditionally difficult-to-fill talents - such as administration and event coordination - with additional paid staff or consultants. We expect the new structure to be more nimble to allow more targeted efforts at rapidly changing, or short-notice opportunities.

5. Amend Bylaws Article IV. Officers

This recommendation merely enumerates minimum expectations for each of the officer positions.

The committee approved this recommendation 4-0.

Current text

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Party shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. Election will take place at the State Convention of the Party by the attending delegates. Officers shall take office immediately upon the close of such Convention. No State offices shall be combined.

Section 2. Chair

The Chair shall be Chief Executive Officer of the Party and shall preside at all Party Conventions and at all meetings of the Executive Committee at which the Chair is present.

Section 3. Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair shall act as assistant to the Chair and preside in his or her absence.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive, disburse, and account for the funds of the Party under the supervision and direction of the Chair.

Section 5. Secretary

The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Party and shall be responsible for maintaining accurate lists of Party membership.

Proposed

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Party shall be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Election will take place at the State Convention of the Party by the attending delegates. Officers shall take office immediately upon the close of the Convention. No State offices shall be combined.

Section 2. Chair

The Chair shall be Chief Executive Officer of the Party and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Party. The Chair shall:

- a. Preside at meetings of the Executive Committee and the State Convention;
- b. Convene the Executive Committee as needed, but for at least six (6) meetings per calendar year;
- c. Set the date for the Annual State Convention and appoint convention officials, including the credentials committee.
- d. Appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, the Chair and members of all adjunct committees, and the Chair and members of working committees established by the Executive Committee;
- e. Select, as deemed necessary, an Executive Director, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, to supervise any LPNC staff.
- f. Appoint an Assistant Treasurer or Assistant Secretary, as deemed necessary, to assist said officers in carrying out their duties;
- g. Serve as a spokesperson for the Party;
- h. Raise funds necessary for the state party to meet its goals.

Section 3. Vice Chair

The Vice Chair shall act as assistant to the Chair and preside in his or her absence. The Vice Chair shall perform duties as directed by the Chair or Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the Chair position, the Vice Chair shall become Chair.

Section 4. Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- a. Keep and maintain all minutes of Executive Committee meetings and the State Convention;
- b. Issue all meeting notices for the Executive Committee and annual State Convention;
- c. Distribute Executive Committee meeting minutes to all members of the Executive Committee no later than fourteen (14) days after said meeting is held.

- d. Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee;
- e. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

Section 5. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive, disburse, and account for the funds of the Party under the supervision and direction of the Chair. The Treasurer shall:

- a. Maintain the state executive committee treasury at an insured commercial bank;
- b. Maintain all records of contributions received and disbursements made required by law or by the Executive Committee;
- c. Prepare and file any reports as may be required by law or by the Executive Committee;
- d. Distribute a summary of the general finances of the Party as well as a summary of the funds received and disbursed by the Party for each calendar quarter to all Executive Committee members within thirty (30) days of the end of each calendar quarter;
- e. Transmit all records pertaining to the office to successor within ten (10) days of vacating office.

Rationale

Short, simple job descriptions for officer positions have sufficed for years, but are becoming inadequate as the party continues to grow. We feel many potential leaders are deterred from seeking officer positions because they do not understand the scope of duties required. More detailed job descriptions not only provide clearer and more specific direction, but also facilitate performance evaluation by the Executive Committee.

This amendment does assign more duties and responsibilities to the State Chair to emphasize his or her role as LPNC Chief Executive Officer. This recommendation, along with our first, establishes the basis for the LPNC to develop a party staff.

We also need to assure continuity when officers resign or their term of office expires. The duty of “transmitting all records” to a successor may not be an “enforceable” action in a voluntary organization, but the rewrite establishes the performance expectation.

6. Amend Bylaws Article X. Local Organization, Section 1. Organizing, #4.

The recommendation establishes that officers of affiliates cannot be registered members of other political parties.

The committee approved this recommendation 4-0.

Current text

- 4. To hold an organizational meeting, to be elected for an office, or to serve as a delegate, a person must have been a member of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina for at least thirty (30) days.

Proposed text

- 4. To hold an organizational meeting, to be elected to an office, or to serve as a delegate, a person must have been a member of the LPNC for at least thirty (30) days and not be registered with any

other party.

Rationale

We feel it is unacceptable practice to allow those registered with other parties to run our affiliates. While recognizing there are valid reasons for voting in other parties' primaries, we believe that our party should be run by those who are registered with our party,

7. Amend Article III. Membership

This recommendation establishes a higher standard for voting members and officers of the party.

The committee approved this recommendation 4-0.

Current text

Article III. Membership

A resident of North Carolina becomes and remains a member of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina by fulfilling at least one of the following criteria:

1. Maintaining voter registration as a Libertarian with the County Board of Elections in her or his county of residence, or;
2. Maintaining current membership dues with the Libertarian National Committee, or;
3. Maintaining current membership dues with the Libertarian Party of North Carolina, or;
4. Maintaining a written or electronic affirmation to the Party that they do not advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.

Proposed text

A resident of North Carolina becomes and remains a member of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina by submitting a written or electronic affirmation to the Party secretary that they do not advocate the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals, and by fulfilling at at least one of the following criteria:

1. Maintaining voter registration as a Libertarian, as long as the party is recognized by the State of North Carolina, or;
2. Maintaining current membership dues with the Libertarian National Committee, or;
3. Maintaining current membership dues with the Libertarian Party of North Carolina, defined as a donation of \$25 in a calendar year for any purpose.

Rationale

Currently, by simply providing a NloF affirmation, a registered Democrat or Republican can become a delegate to convention and elect - or even become - an officer of our party. We feel this is unacceptable practice. While recognizing there are valid reasons for voting in other parties' primaries, we believe that our party should be run by those who are registered with the party, and/or materially contribute to the party's financial goals. We desire a stated allegiance to the non-initiation of force because that is what ultimately differentiates Libertarians from the other major parties.

8. Delete Article VII. Advisory Senate

This deletes the named article and renumbers the remaining articles as required.

The committee approved this recommendation 4-0.

Current text

Article VII. Advisory Senate

The Advisory Senate shall be an honorary council consisting of those Executive Committee members or other officers who have completed their terms of office, or those who have been appointed Senators by the Party in Convention, and who remain members of the Party in good standing.

Rationale

The Advisory Senate was added to the Bylaws in 2001. It has no specific duties or responsibilities. It has never met, provided any advice, nor is it clear who the members actually are. No one has ever been appointed a senator in convention and there are no records in the LPNC official files of membership.

Do Not Pass Recommendations

1. Committees

The committee considered an option to revise Article VIII Committees.

The committee did not approve this recommendation 3-0.

Current text

Article VIII. Committees

Section 1. Adjunct Committees

For each State Convention, the Executive Committee shall appoint an Adjunct Committee of at least five Party members to make recommendations to the Convention.

1. For a Convention in an odd-numbered year, the subject of the Adjunct Committee shall be the Bylaws and Convention Rules.
2. For a Convention in an even-numbered year, the subject of the Adjunct Committee shall be the Platform.

Section 2. Working Committees

There shall be such working committees appointed by the Chair as the Executive Committee deems appropriate. Working committees shall exist at the pleasure of the Executive Committee

Proposed text

Article VIII. Committees

1. The LPNC shall have two standing committees of at least five (5) members: the Bylaws and

Convention Rules Committee and the Platform and Issues Committee.

- 1.1. The Bylaws and Convention Rules Committee shall report to the State Convention in odd-numbered years.
- 1.2. The Platform Committee shall report to the State Convention in even-numbered years.
2. The LPNC Chair shall appoint committee members not later than January 15 of the year in which the committee is to report, members shall serve until the close of that convention.
3. These Committees shall complete their reports at least 30 days before the State Convention, and the report shall be posted on the LPNC website.
4. These Committees shall have the authority to correct any spelling or typographical errors in the Bylaws, Convention Rules, and Platform, as applicable, that do not change the substance of those documents.

Change all references in the Bylaws and Convention Rules from Adjunct Committee to Standing Committee.

Rationale

The 2014 Platform Committee recommended that the 2015 Bylaws committee consider changing the platform and bylaws committees into standing committees.

The term standing committee is used in most political organizations. It simply means the committee is permanent and its work is ongoing; however, the membership can change.

Currently, it is not clear when these committees are appointed or when the terms of the members end. The LPNC has “traditionally” considered a person a member until he or she resigns. But committee membership should not be permanent.

Appointing the committee in January will give ample time for it to conduct its businesses. While committee deliberations are open – and this practice should continue – setting a deadline for publication of their report will give the LPNC membership and convention delegates ample time to review the recommendations of these committees. In my experience, we often have poorly worded, or ill-conceived amendments from the floor, because the delegates have not had ample time to read and review the recommendations.

END OF REPORT