

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD**

**FINDINGS REGARDING  
AUSTIN CENTRAL LABOR UNION**

**Procedural Background**

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”), John Morrison, Austin Central Labor Union, notified the Board that Austin Central Labor Union, an association that is not registered with the Board, made a \$800 contribution to the Mower County DFL, a registered political party unit, without providing the required disclosure.

Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), prohibits an unregistered association from making a contribution to a registered political party unit, unless, at the time the contribution is made, the unregistered association provides a disclosure statement that meets the reporting requirements of Minn. Stat. §10A.20.

On May 25, 2005, Mr. Morrison stated “as Treasurer of the Austin Central Labor Union I wrote the check and was completely unaware with the disclosure requirements. As you know, the money has been returned to the Central Labor Union. I will assure you that that will not happen again in the future.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session at its meeting on June 7, 2005. The Board’s decision was based on correspondence received from Mr. Morrison and Board records.

**Based on the record before it, the Board issues the following:**

**EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS**

1. There is evidence that the Austin Central Labor Union inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), when it made a contribution in excess of \$100 to a registered political party unit, the Mower Country DFL, without providing the required disclosure.
2. There is evidence that the \$800 contribution was returned to the Austin Central Labor Union. However, there is no evidence that the contribution was returned within 60 days.
3. Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), provides that an unregistered association that makes a contribution in excess of \$100 without the required disclosure is subject to civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

**Based on the above Statement of the Evidence, the Board makes the following:**

**FINDINGS CONCERNING PROBABLE CAUSE**

There is probable cause to believe that the Austin Central Labor Union inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b) by making a contribution in excess of \$100 to a registered political party unit without providing the required disclosure. The Board has been provided with a copy of the check returning \$800 to the Austin Central Labor Union, however, the contribution was not returned within 60 days

**Based on the above Findings, the Board issues the following:**

**ORDER**

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$1,000 on the Austin Central Labor Union for making a contribution in excess of \$100 without providing the required disclosure.
2. The Austin Central Labor Union is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty of \$1,000 by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within thirty days of the public posting of this order.
3. If the Austin Central Labor Union does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall refer this matter to the appropriate County Attorney for civil enforcement pursuant to Minn. Stat. §10A.28, subd. 4.
4. The Board investigation of this matter is hereby made a part of the public records of the Board pursuant to Minn. Stat. §10A.02, subd. 11, and upon payment of the civil penalty imposed herein, this matter is concluded.

Dated: June 7, 2005



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Terri Ashmore, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board