

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

FINDINGS IN THE MATTER OF THE MINNESOTA DFL STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Summary of the Facts

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”) Mary Bonk, comptroller of the Minnesota DFL State Central Committee (“the State DFL”), confirmed that during the 2006 reporting year the State DFL accepted a \$2,500 contribution from the general fund of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 292 Union (“the IBEW 292 Union”)

The IBEW Local 292 Union has a political fund registered with the Board, however, the contribution was from the union itself, which is an association not registered with the Board.

In a letter dated June 26, 2007, Ms. Bonk stated, with regard to the acceptance of the Union check, that “It is extremely difficult to tell if we have received a check from the wrong account. ...As soon as...IBEW notified me..., the contribution was refunded and then reissued to us from the correct account.” The contribution was returned to the IBEW 292 Union by check from the State DFL on August 3, 2006.

The IBEW 292 Union also responded in regard to the contribution. Through Christian Sande, its attorney, the IBEW 292 Union acknowledged making the payment from its general fund based on the fact that the payment was for tickets to a fundraising event and the Union’s understanding that such a payment did not constitute a political contribution.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 10A.27, subdivision 13, political party units registered with the Board may not accept contributions in excess of \$100 from unregistered associations unless each contribution is accompanied by financial disclosure specified by statute. No such disclosure was provided in this case.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on August 21, 2007. The Board’s decision was based upon correspondence from Mr. Sande, Ms. Bonk, and Board records.

Based on the above Summary of the Facts and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:

Finding Concerning Probable Cause

1. There is probable cause to believe that the Minnesota DFL State Central Committee violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.27, subdivision 13, when it accepted a contribution from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 292 Union, an association not registered with the Board, believing the check to be from the association’s registered political fund, which has a similar name.

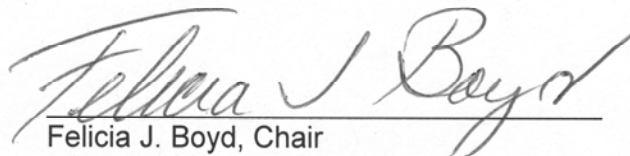
2. There is no probable cause to believe that this violation was intentional or done with the intent to circumvent the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 10A.
3. The Minnesota State DFL Central Committee returned the contribution received from the IBEW Local 292 in August, 2006.

Based on the above Finding Concerning Probable Cause, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. The Board imposes no civil penalty on the Minnesota DFL State Central Committee.
2. The Board investigation of this matter is hereby made a part of the public records of the Board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by the civil penalty imposed herein, this matter is concluded.
3. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11. The matter is concluded.

Dated: August 21, 2007



Felicia J. Boyd, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Relevant Statutes

10A.27, subdivision 13. Unregistered association limit; statement; penalty. (a) The treasurer of a political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit must not accept a contribution of more than \$100 from an association not registered under this chapter unless the contribution is accompanied by a written statement that meets the disclosure and reporting period requirements imposed by section 10A.20. This statement must be certified as true and correct by an officer of the contributing association. The committee, fund, or party unit that accepts the contribution must include a copy of the statement with the report that discloses the contribution to the board. This subdivision does not apply when a national political party contributes money to its affiliate in this state.

(b) An unregistered association may provide the written statement required by this subdivision to no more than three committees, funds, or party units in a calendar year. Each statement must cover at least the 30 days immediately preceding and including the date on which the contribution was made. An unregistered association or an officer of it is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000, if the association or its officer:

(1) fails to provide a written statement as required by this subdivision; or

(2) fails to register after giving the written statement required by this subdivision to more than three committees, funds, or party units in a calendar year.

(c) The treasurer of a political committee, political fund, principal campaign committee, or party unit who accepts a contribution in excess of \$100 from an unregistered association without the required written disclosure statement is subject to a civil penalty up to four times the amount in excess of \$100.