



STATE OF MAINE
 COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
 AND ELECTION PRACTICES
 135 STATE HOUSE STATION
 AUGUSTA, MAINE
 04333-0135

AGENDA

Meeting of February 10, 1999
 9:00 A.M., PUC 1st Floor Hearing Room
 242 State Street
 Augusta, Maine

ROUTINE BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the January 13, 1999 meeting

OLD BUSINESS

2. Campaign Practices Complaint:

- A. Management Research & Development Association Political Action Committee (MRDA) -- Paul A. Volle, President

Failure to register and file campaign finance reports

Status: Mr. Volle was informed of the Commission's decision that MRDA is a Political Action Committee as defined by State law. He filed the required Registration by the January 25, 1999, deadline, but requested a 14-day extension to file the required campaign finance reports. An administrative extension, subject to Commission ratification, was granted until February 5, 1999. On February 1, 1999, after reviewing the M.R.D.A. registration, Mr. Volle was requested to complete and resubmit the registration because it was not in compliance with 21-A M.R.S.A. § 1053.

3. Guidelines on Acceptance of Gifts (copy for information only; no further action required)

NEW BUSINESS

4. Late Candidate Campaign Finance Reports:

- A. Neal Pratt, Esq. (District Attorney), Jaimie P. Schwartz, Esq., Treasurer
 42-day post-election CFR -- 3 days late; Due 12/15/98; Received 12/18/98
 Penalty: \$378.93 (No previous violation)
Recommendation: Mitigate to 50% -- \$189.47

5. Late Political Action Committee Campaign Finance Reports:

- A. Women Vote '98 PAC; Elizabeth Saltonstall, Treasurer
 42-day post-election CFR -- 3 days late; Due 12/15/98; Received 12/18/98
 Penalty: \$620.70 (No previous violation)
Recommendation: Mitigate to 50% -- \$310.35



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Agenda -- February 10, 1999

6. Late Lobbyist Disclosure Reports:

- A. Stephen C. Clarkin, Lobbyist for International Paper
Annual Report: Due 12/30/98; Received 1/8/99
Penalty: \$200 (\$100 @ lobbyist/employer) (no previous violation)
Recommendation: Mitigate 50% -- \$100
- B. Kathleen McGee, Lobbyist for Maine People's Alliance
John Dieffenbacher-Krall, Executive Director
Annual Report: Due 12/30/98; Received 1/15/99
Penalty: \$200 (\$100 @ lobbyist/employer) (no previous violation)
Recommendation: Mitigate 50% -- \$100 (apportioned equally)
- C. Patricia W. Aho, Lobbyist for Maine Petroleum Association
December 1998 Report: Due 1/19/99; Received 1/28/99
Penalty: \$100 (no previous violation)
Recommendation: Mitigate 50% -- \$50

7. Complaints:

- A. Donald L. Jones: Lack of attribution statements on express advocacy political advertisements re Dr. Peter McNelis; Representative Benjamin L. Rines, Jr.; and Commissioner William B. Blodgett.
Recommendation: Assess \$25 civil forfeiture ("violation of [21A § 1014] may result in a civil forfeiture of no more than \$200) to acknowledge technical, "*de minimis*" degree of violation
- B. Representative Linda Rogers McKee: Violation of Maine Code of Fair Campaign Practices ("code") pledge (by distribution of allegedly false information about opponent's legislative voting record during election campaign) by Mr. Paul Rheaume.
Analysis: In no event may a candidate be required to subscribe to or endorse the code. 21-A M.R.S.A. § 1105. Mr. Rheaume voluntarily subscribed, but no sanction is provided for a violation of any of the code provisions by a subscriber.
Recommendation: If assessment of facts by Commission Members warrants, formally acknowledge a violation of the Maine Code of Fair Campaign Practices by Mr. Rheaume.

8. Briefing on legislation introduced to date in the First Regular Session of the 119th Maine Legislature.

Agenda -- February 10, 1999

9. Correspondence (information only; no action required):
 - A. By letter dated January 25, 1999, Mr. Mackenzie regretfully informed Governor King of his intention to resign his seat on the Commission effective July 15, 1999.
10. Executive Session:
 - A. Status of lawsuit challenging lobbyist registration fees (*MCOA/MCLU v. Webster, et al.*)
 - B. Status of lawsuit challenging the Maine Clean Election Act (*Daggett, et al. v. Webster, et al.*)

ADJOURNMENT