

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

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

In the matter of the Communications Workers of America Minnesota State Council;

1. The Minnesota DFL State Central Committee is a party unit registered with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. The Minnesota DFL State Central Committee's 2019 year-end report disclosed a \$500 contribution given by the Communications Workers of America Minnesota State Council (CWA MN State Council) on June 20, 2019. The CWA MN State Council is a labor union. Although the CWA MN State Council had a political fund registered with the Board, that fund's registration was terminated on September 20, 2016. Therefore, at the time of the 2019 contribution, the CWA MN State Council was not registered with the Board. On September 18, 2020, the executive director opened a staff review of the matter because the contribution appeared to have been made in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13.
2. Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, prohibits an association not registered with the Board from making a contribution that exceeds \$200 to a party unit unless the contribution is accompanied by a written disclosure statement that satisfies the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.20, and that statement is filed with the recipient's next report. The CWA MN State Council did not provide the required disclosure statement with its contribution. A contribution that is not returned within 90 days of being deposited is deemed to be accepted under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.15, subdivision 3.
3. Mona Meyer, the president of CWA MN State Council, stated that the union does not make direct contributions to candidates or party units from its general treasury. Ms. Meyer explained that in June of 2019, the union received an invitation from the Stonewall DFL to an event "commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the events in New York now known as the Stonewall riots." Ms. Meyer said that "[t]he invitation characterized donations as a sponsorship of the event and there was no mention that any of the proceeds would be used for candidates or political party purposes." Ms. Meyer stated that the union therefore did not understand that the Stonewall DFL was affiliated with the Minnesota DFL State Central Committee and that the union's donation for the event was a political contribution to the Minnesota DFL.
4. The parties agree that the CWA MN State Council made a contribution in excess of \$200 without the required disclosure statement in violation of Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13. This is the union's first violation of the disclosure requirement for contributions from unregistered associations.
5. To avoid a similar violation in the future, the CWA MN State Council agrees that it will not make contributions in excess of \$200 to a party unit without providing a disclosure statement in

the form required by statute with the contribution, registering with the Board as a political committee or fund, or seeking advice from Board staff.

6. The CWA MN State Council agrees to provide to the Board, within 90 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties, documentation showing that the Minnesota DFL State Central Committee has returned \$300 to the CWA MN State Council.

7. The CWA MN State Council agrees to the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of \$300 for making a contribution in excess of \$200 without the disclosure statement required by Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13. The civil penalty is the amount of the contribution that exceeded \$200. Of this amount, \$100 is due within 30 days of the date the agreement is signed by both parties. The remaining \$200 of the penalty is, by the terms of this agreement, stayed until January 1, 2023. If the CWA MN State Council violates Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is due immediately. If the CWA MN State Council does not violate Minnesota Statutes section 10A.27, subdivision 13, before January 1, 2023, the outstanding civil penalty is waived.

8. If the CWA MN State Council does not comply with the provisions of this agreement, this matter may be reopened by the Board and the Board may take such actions as it deems appropriate.

/s/ Mona Meyer
Mona Meyer
President, CWA MN State Council

Dated: October 20, 2020

/s/ Gary Haugen
Gary Haugen, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Dated: October 7, 2020