

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

**FINDINGS REGARDING THE
(PATTI) FRITZ VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

Procedural Background

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”) James Fritz, treasurer, (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee, notified the Board that SEIU Local 880 Political Fund, an association that is not registered with the Board, made a \$500 contribution to the (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee.

Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), prohibits a registered principal campaign committee from accepting a contribution from an unregistered association unless, at the time the contribution was made, the unregistered association provides the recipient with the disclosure required by Minn. Stat. §10A.20.

In a letter received November 23, 2004, Mr. Fritz stated “SEIU Local 880 is not registered with the Board and I did not receive disclosure at the time of the contribution.”

On January 14, 2005, Kelly Gilmore submitted a response on behalf of SEIU Local 880 Political Fund and stated “SEIU Local 880 Political Fund donated \$500 to the (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee via a check dated August 16, 2004. SEIU Local 880 Political Fund did not register with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board prior to issuing this donation.”

In executive session at the Board’s meeting on January 25, 2005, Mr. Fritz stated that the (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee returned \$500 to SEIU Local 880 Political Fund approximately 90 days after receipt of the contribution.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session in its meeting on January 25, 2005. The Board’s decision was based upon correspondence from Mr. Fritz, Ms. Gilmore, Mr. Fritz’s statement at the January 25, 2005, meeting, and Board records.

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

EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS

1. There is evidence that the (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), when it accepted a contribution in excess of \$100 from SEIU Local 880, an unregistered association, without the required disclosure.
2. There is evidence that this contribution was not returned within 60 days. Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (c), provides that a principal campaign committee that accepts a contribution from an unregistered association without the required disclosure is subject to civil penalty of up to four times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100.

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 (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), by accepting a contribution in excess of \$100 from SEIU Local 880 Political Fund without the required disclosure.

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

ORDER

1. The Board directs the (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee to provide the Board with a copy of the check returning the contribution to the SEIU Local 880 Political Fund within 30 days of the public posting of this order.
2. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$400, one times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100, on the (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee for accepting a contribution in excess of \$100 from an unregistered association without the disclosure required by Minn. Stat. §10A.20.
3. The (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within thirty days of receipt of this order.
4. If the (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee 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.
5. 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 by the civil penalty imposed herein, this matter is concluded.

Dated: January 25, 2005



Terri Ashmore, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board