

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

**FINDINGS REGARDING
SEIU LOCAL 880 POLITICAL FUND**

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 the SEIU Local 880 Political Fund, an association that is not registered with the Board, made a \$500 contribution to the (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee on September 5, 2004.

Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), prohibits an unregistered association from making a contribution to a registered principal campaign committee, 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 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.”

Ms Gilmore further stated, “Any violation of the laws and regulations of the State of Minnesota was due to simple inadvertence, and was not an attempt to circumvent the obligations to comply with the regulations of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board or the laws of the State of Minnesota.”

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

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session at its meeting on January 25, 2005. The Board’s decision was based on correspondence received 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 SEIU Local 880 Political Fund inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b), when it made a contribution in excess of \$100 to the (Patti) Fritz Volunteer Committee without providing the required disclosure.
2. There is no evidence that this contribution was returned within 60 days. 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

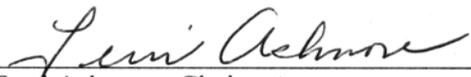
There is probable cause to believe that SEIU Local 880 Political Fund inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (b) by making a contribution in excess of \$100 to a registered principal campaign committee without providing the required disclosure.

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

ORDER

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$400, one times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100, on SEIU Local 880 Political Fund for making a contribution in excess of \$100 without providing the required disclosure.
2. SEIU Local 880 Political Fund is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty of \$400 by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within thirty days of the public posting of this order.
3. If SEIU Local 880 Political Fund 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 by the civil penalty imposed herein, this matter is concluded.

Dated: January 25, 2005



Terri Ashmore, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board