

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

**FINDINGS REGARDING THE
SUPPORTERS OF BONNIE WILHELM COMMITTEE**

Procedural Background

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”) Bonita Wilhelm, candidate, Supporters of Bonnie Wilhelm Committee, notified the Board that the Supporters of Bonnie Wilhelm Committee accepted a \$250 contribution from L & M Holding Company, an association that is not registered with the Board.

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.

On February 15, 2005, Ms. Wilhelm stated “as a first time candidate, learning all the campaign laws was indeed a daunting task. I can only apologize for not knowing and following all the laws in the thick booklet given me.”

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session in its meeting on March 22, 2005. The Board’s decision was based upon correspondence from Ms. Wilhelm and Board records.

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

EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS

1. There is evidence that the Supporters of Bonnie Wilhelm Committee inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), when it accepted a contribution in excess of \$100 from L & M Holding Company, 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 Supporters of Bonnie Wilhelm Volunteer Committee inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), by accepting a contribution in excess of \$100 from L & M Holding Company without the required disclosure.

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

ORDER

1. The Board orders the Supporters of Bonnie Wilhelm Committee to return \$150 to the L & M Holding Company, and to provide the Board with a copy of the check returning the contribution, and the accompanying letter, within thirty days.
2. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$150, one times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100, on the Supporters of Bonnie Wilhelm Committee for accepting a contribution in excess of \$100 from an unregistered association without the disclosure required by Minn. Stat. §10A.20.
3. The Supporters of Bonnie Wilhelm 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 Supporters of Bonnie Wilhelm 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: March 22, 2005



Terri Ashmore, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board