

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

FINDINGS REGARDING THE MINNESOTA DFL STATE CENTRAL PARTY

Procedural Background

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”), Mary Bonk , Minnesota DFL State Central Committee (#20003), notified the Board that the Pile Drivers Local 1847, an association that is not registered with the Board, made a \$150 contribution to the Minnesota DFL State Central Committee on October 26, 2004.

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

By letter dated October 21, 2005, Mary Bonk, Comptroller, Minnesota DFL State Central Committee, stated that “We make every effort to verify registration numbers on all contributions from Political Organizations. My only explanation for this oversight is clerical error due to the high volume of activity in an election year.” Ms. Bonk also stated that the Minnesota DFL State Central Committee had now returned \$50 to the Pile Drivers Local 1847.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive sessions in its meetings on November 22, 2005. The Board’s decision was based upon correspondence from Ms. Bonk, and Board records.

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

EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS

1. There is evidence that the Minnesota DFL State Central Committee inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13, when it accepted a contribution in excess of \$100 from Pile Drivers Local 1847 without receiving 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 political party unit that accepts a contribution from an unregistered association in excess of \$100 without the required disclosure is subject to civil penalty of up to four times the amount in excess of \$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 Minnesota DFL State Central Committee inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13, by accepting a contribution in excess of \$100 from Pile Drivers Local 1847 without the required disclosure.

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

ORDER

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$50, one times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100, on the Minnesota DFL State Central Committee for accepting a contribution from an unregistered political committee without the disclosure required by Minn. Stat. §10A.20.
2. The Minnesota DFL State Central 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.
3. The Minnesota DFL State Central Committee is directed to forward to the Board a copy of the letter and check returning the excess contribution to Pile Drivers Local 1847.
4. If the Minnesota DFL State Central 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: November 22, 2005


Terri Ashmore, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board