

# Libertarian Party of Oregon Bylaws

Amended March 14-15, 2009, in Newport, Oregon

## Article I – Purpose and Methods

A. The purpose of the LPO is to conduct the following activities consistent with the LPO statement of principles and with this Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Promote a libertarian political philosophy.
2. Develop and refine a platform and set of resolutions.
3. Foster creation and development of affiliate organizations in order to increase the presence and political stature of the Libertarian Party. [19950611]
4. Nominate, endorse and support candidates for political office within the state of Oregon.
5. Support national candidates for political office endorsed by the national Libertarian Party.
6. Work toward the reform of Oregon and United States statutes to embody the principles of Libertarianism.
7. Support, sponsor, and engage in political actions to oppose initiation of force against individuals and groups of individuals.

B. The methods of the LPO in seeking to achieve the purpose as set forth above shall be to:

1. Engage in educational and informational activities within the state of Oregon.
2. Arrange annual and special conventions of the LPO as the need arises and consistent with this Constitution and Bylaws.
3. Assist members working to legally establish or develop affiliate organizations and grant charters to new affiliate organizations when in the interest of the LPO and in accordance with the LPO Constitution and Bylaws. [19950611]
4. Set up the mechanisms for conducting statewide campaigns and presidential campaigns and assisting local campaigns within the state.
5. Keep the general public informed through such media as are available of our positions on current issues, laws and public policies.
6. Raise the funds necessary for conducting the affairs of the LPO.
7. Increase active membership in the LPO.
8. Assist active members in the development of skills and knowledge necessary to promote the purposes of the LPO.
9. Regularly publish a newsletter to keep active members well informed and facilitate good communications.
10. To provide LPO members with reasonable advance written notice regarding conventions, meeting and other activities as specified in this document. Except as contradicted by state law or in matters before LPO governing bodies involving LPO membership termination, the removal of LPO members from party offices prior to the conclusion of their terms of office, the revocation of ACP or AIG charters, or the disclaiming of a nominated candidate for public office, the 'written notice' will be interpreted to include electronic documents if individual members request electronic notices. [20030607]

## Article II – Statement of Principles

The LPO hereby adopts as its Statement of Principles the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party current on 1 January 1975. Any changes made after that time in the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party shall be adopted into the LPO Statement of Principles, subject to the following provisions:

**SEC. 1. Notification of Membership.** A copy of the proposed changes in the LPO Statement of

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Principles, along with the provisions of this article, must be submitted to the chairperson of each affiliated organization and to each LPO member within thirty days after the State Chairperson is notified of the changes in the National Libertarian Party.

**SEC. 2. Adoption / Rejection.** Thirty days after notification as per Section 1 of this article, the proposed changes in the LPO Statement of Principles shall be adopted, unless before that time, the state Chairperson receives written notice of objection to that adoption from five or more LPO members or from two or more affiliated organizations.

**SEC. 3. Mail Ballot.** Upon receiving written notice of objection to the proposed changes in the LPO Statement of Principles as per Section 2 of this article, the State Chairperson shall conduct a mail ballot on the issue, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws.

## Article III – Membership

**SEC. 1. Purpose.** The purpose for membership in the party is to grant the bearer the right to vote in all LPO business, special and nominating conventions, mail ballots and other assemblies of the body.

**SEC. 2. Requirements for Membership.** Full voting membership in the LPO shall be open to any individual who submits a completed application to the LPO and pays such dues as may be in effect at the time of application. Dues for membership in the LPO will be equivalent to the Oregon Political Tax Credit as set for an individual. Only LPO members who pay dues and keep them current may hold LPO office and/or participate as voting delegates at LP National conventions and LPO Special or annual business conventions. [20090314]

**SEC. 3. Terms of Membership.** A schedule of membership terms and dues shall be set by two thirds vote the State Committee. Each membership is valid for the length of time as specified on the application it was submitted on.

**SEC. 4. Renewal of Membership.** Membership remains in effect for one (1) year following the date of application or the date of payment of dues, whichever comes later, unless terminated under the provisions of this article. [20051001]

**SEC. 5. Termination of Membership.** The State Committee may, by a two-thirds vote of members present, bring charges against any member. These charges shall result in the termination of that person's membership, subject to the following provisions:

A. Charges must be specific and must either concern failure to maintain requirements for membership, as provided for in this Constitution and Bylaws, or they must concern actions which violate the rights of individuals as LPO members by misrepresenting the position of the LPO as expressed in this Constitution and Bylaws, the current platform endorsements, and similar expressions of policy of the LPO. Other actions taken by an LPO member, though they may violate the Statement of Principles and may violate the rights of other individuals, shall not be grounds for termination of membership if the actions do not violate the rights of individuals as LPO members.

B. Written notification of the charges must be submitted to the member charged and the

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Judicial Committee Chairperson.

C. No membership of a person charged under this section shall be terminated without a hearing before the Judicial Committee concerning the charges, with the exception that any member so charged may submit a waiver of the right to such a hearing. Such a waiver shall constitute termination of the person's membership.

**SEC. 6. Termination Hearings.** Every LPO member charged by the State Committee under Section 5 of this article has the right to a hearing before the Judicial Committee regarding those charges, such hearing to be held following written notification from the State Committee of the charges. Following the hearing, the Judicial committee shall rule either to terminate the membership of the member charged or to continue that membership in good standing. Should the Judicial committee fail to rule following such a hearing, the member shall continue in good standing in the LPO.

## Article IV – Affiliate Organizations

### SEC. 1. Affiliation of Organizations to the LPO.

A. The LPO State committee may grant charters to groups of LPO members legally seeking to establish affiliate organizations. There shall be two types of affiliate organizations recognized by the LPO: Affiliated County Parties (ACPs) and Affiliated Interest Groups (AIGs). [19950611]

**B. Purposes.** ACPs exist to provide a venue of political activity for LPO members living in a particular county and to facilitate party growth and electoral success. AIGs may be organized for any purpose that is consistent with the LPO Declaration of Principles.

**C. Autonomy.** Affiliate organizations are autonomous in the scope and conduct of their activities beyond that which is outlined in this document and the LPO Constitution. [19950611] ACPs may nominate candidates for public office in districts which are wholly within their boundaries. [20071229]

**D. Formation.** Those wishing to obtain an affiliate organization charter must submit a copy of the minutes of an organizational meeting which includes a list of eligible officials elected in an organizational meeting, and a copy of the governing documents adopted at that meeting. Approval of all affiliated organization charters will be by simple majority of the State Committee. [20090314]

**E. Organizational Structure.** Each affiliate organization shall establish the position of Chair. Further structure may be also be established, as needed by the affiliate organization. Specific job descriptions of all offices shall be included in the governing document(s) of each affiliate organization. [20090314]

**F. Eligibility for Office.** Each affiliate organization office holder shall be a member of their affiliate organization, the LPO, and a registered Libertarian elector in the State of Oregon. No affiliate organization officer shall be an officer of the LPO or a member of the LPO Judicial Committee. [20090314]

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**G. Reports to the State Committee.** Each affiliate organization shall provide the State committee with the names of its officers, the address of its Chairperson, and a copy of its governing documents within 30 days of any change or of a request from the State Committee.[19950611]

## SEC. 2. County Parties

**A. Charters.** Only one ACP charter shall be granted for each county. [20090314]

**B. Changes in Charter Status Due to Member Attrition.** If the membership of an ACP should fall below two LPO members, the LPO State committee will notify the appropriate ACP Chair of the deficiency. The Chapter then becomes inactive until two LPO members activate it by notifying the State Committee. [19970112]

**C. Membership.** Each LPO Member whose primary residence is in the county associated with an ACP shall be eligible to join that ACP. ACPs may charge membership dues. [20090314]

## SEC. 3. Affiliated Interest Groups (AIGs).

**A. Charters.** The organizers of each AIG may choose any unique name for their organization. [19970112]

**B. State Committee Representation.** AIGs will not have voting representation on the LPO State Committee. [20090314]

**C. Membership.** Each AIG shall have complete autonomy in the determination of its membership requirements. [19950611]

**SEC. 4. Endorsements by Affiliated Organizations.** An affiliated organization shall not endorse a candidate for political office in opposition to the one endorsed by any county party, the LPO, or the National Libertarian Party. No other limitations shall be placed on endorsements by an affiliated organization. [20090314]

**SEC. 5. Revocation of Affiliated Organizations.** The State Committee may, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, bring charges against any affiliated chapter organization. These charges shall result in the revocation of the organization's affiliation, subject to the following provisions: [19950611]

A. Charges must be specific, and must concern actions alleged to be in violation of the Constitution or these Bylaws. [19950611]

B. Written notification of the charges must be submitted to the Chairperson of the affected organization and to the Judicial Committee Chairperson. [19950611]

C. No affiliation of an organization charged under this section shall be revoked by the LPO without a hearing before the Judicial Committee concerning the charges, with the exception

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that any chapter so charged may submit a written waiver of its right to such a hearing. Such a waiver shall constitute revocation of that organization's affiliation. [19950611]

**SEC. 6 Revocation Hearing.** Upon notification of the charge against an affiliated chapter as per Section 3 of this article, the Judicial Committee shall hold a hearing concerning the charges. Following the hearing, the Judicial Committee shall rule either to revoke the affiliation of the organization or to continue the affiliation. Should the Judicial Committee fail to rule following such a hearing, the organization's affiliation shall continue in force. [19950611]

**SEC. 7 Reports to the State Committee.** Each affiliate organization shall provide the State Committee with the names of its officers, the address of its Chairperson, and a copy of its constitution or other governing document within 30 days of any change or of a request from the State Committee. [19950611]

**SEC. 8 Notification of Inactive Organizations.** In any case where notification of an organization or of the Chairperson of an organization is required by these Bylaws, but where the name or address of the Chairperson is not known to the party required to make the notification, a written notice to the last known chairperson at his/her last known address shall be considered a notice to the chapter and the Chairperson. [19950611]

## Article V – Officers and Directors

**SEC. 1. Purpose.** Officers and Directors operate the organization pursuant to Article I of these Bylaws, and are responsible to the body of the LPO and the State Committee. [20090314]

**SEC. 2. Officers and Manner of Elections.** The officers of the Libertarian Party of Oregon shall consist of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Terms of office of all elected officers and directors shall begin immediately upon the close of the annual convention. Nominations of all officers and directors elected at the annual convention shall be from the floor, no nominating committees being permitted. [20090314]

**A. Limitations.** All officers and directors shall be members in good standing of the LPO. Although state offices or directorships may be combined, no member of the State Committee may cast more than one vote.[19970112]

**B. Vacancy and Succession.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of state chairperson, the state vice chairperson shall serve as State Chairperson until the close of the next annual convention. In the event of a vacancy in any other office or in the position of any committee person at large, the State committee may select any LPO member to fill any such vacancy until the next annual convention.

## SEC. 3. Duties.

A. The State Chairperson shall preside at all special conventions, the annual convention, and all State Committee meetings. The State Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer and spokesperson of the LPO. [20010609]

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B. The State Vice Chairperson shall act as assistant to the State Chairperson, and shall perform the duties of the State Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence. The vice chairperson is responsible for assisting county parties. [20090314]

C. The Secretary shall be the recording and corresponding officer of the LPO.[19920426]

D. The Treasurer shall set up and maintain a system of double entry bookkeeping and receive, disburse, and account for the funds of the LPO under the supervision and direction of the State Chairperson, and the State Committee as authorized by the approved budget. The Treasurer shall present a written report at each meeting of the State Committee. At the annual convention the Treasurer shall present a report consisting of a balance sheet and income and expenditure statement for the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall, at the direction of the State Committee, present the financial records of the LPO for audit by such auditors as the State Committee shall specify. Expenditure of funds shall be made only in accordance with regulations established by the State Committee. [20071229]

## Article VI – State Committee

### SEC. 1. Authority and Responsibility.

**A. Authority.** The State Committee shall have the sole authority for affiliating organizations, calling special conventions, resolutions of issues pertaining to vacancy and/or succession of officers or directors, selection of annual convention sites, execution of primary elections, and dates for all arrangements pertaining thereto including the preparation and distribution of programs and agendas. [20071229]

**B. Responsibility.** The State Committee shall have the responsibility, subject to direction by the LPO convention, for the development and implementation of party policy, the operations of the LPO, and the expenditure of LPO funds. The State Committee may not expend any LPO funds in support of any candidate who has not been endorsed in accordance with Article XIII of these Bylaws. The State Committee shall perform such other functions as it may be directed to perform by the Constitution and Bylaws or by LPO convention.

**SEC. 2. ACP State Committee Representation.** Each Affiliated County Party will be entitled to two (2) State Committee seats. Each ACP will select State Committee representatives and/or alternates in accordance with their governing documents. [20071229]

### SEC. 3. Sessions and Procedure

A. The State Committee shall hold at least one regular meeting every three months, with one meeting to be held at the close of the annual convention. The time and place of other meetings shall be determined by action of the State Committee. [20090314]

B. Notice of the time and place of all meetings shall be sent to each member of the State committee no fewer than fourteen days prior to said meeting. [19920426]

C. Each member of the State Committee present at a State Committee meeting shall have

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only one vote, except that the State Chairperson shall vote only to resolve a tie. No voting by proxy shall be permitted.

D. Special meetings may be held in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. [20090314]

E. All meetings of the State committee shall be open to observation by members of the LPO.

F. A quorum shall be 20% of the members of the State Committee. [20030607]

G. A State Committee representative can not vote to approve, veto, or amend a contract to which the representative has interest. [20050305]

H. Any reasonable technological means may be used to allow for State Committee Representatives to attend meetings to which they cannot be physically present. [20090314]

## Article VII – Finances

**SEC. 1. Party Debt.** The LPO shall not incur financial obligations in excess of \$500, unless the obligation is included in an approved budget or approved by a 2/3 roll call vote of the entire State Committee. [20070311]

**SEC. 2. Audit.** The State Committee shall, at least 30 days prior to the annual Convention, appoint an audit committee of three LPO members, including the Treasurer, to examine the financial records of the LPO and to make a report to the convention.[19980503]

**SEC. 3. Designated Donations.** Any individual may donate funds for a specific purpose. The LPO guarantees such gifts will be used as directed, providing it is consistent with our mission and principles. All such designated donations and their dispositions will be included in the regular Treasurer's report. If the State Committee decides the purpose for which the donation is made is inappropriate, the person making the gift will be given the opportunity to re-designate the gift or have it refunded in its entirety. Non-designated donations, and revenues from other sources, will be put in the party's general treasury for use at the discretion of the State Committee. [1997112]

**SEC. 4. Budget.** The fiscal year of the LPO shall be the calendar year. The budget may be revised at subsequent meetings by the State Committee. [20071229]

## Article VIII – Judicial Committee

**SEC. 1. Membership.** Members of the Judicial Committee shall be elected at the annual Convention and serve until the close of the next annual convention. The Judicial committee shall elect a Chairperson at the close of the annual convention, who shall receive all petitions, and schedule hearings so as to obtain a quorum of the committee. [20090314]

**SEC. 2. Hearings.** Members of the Judicial Committee shall hold hearings as required elsewhere in this Constitution and Bylaws; also, upon petition by three or more LPO members not members of the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall hold a hearing regarding the petition, provided only that the subject matter of the petition is within the committee's jurisdiction under this

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Constitution and Bylaws. Hearings shall be scheduled subject to the following provisions:

**A. Scheduling.** When a hearing is requested, the chairperson shall be allowed two days to set the date of the hearing. Hearings must be held within thirty days from the time the charges or petitions are received by the Judicial Committee Chairperson, unless otherwise specified.

**B. Notice.** The Judicial Committee must provide at least ten days' confirmed notice to each of the interested parties to a hearing unless an earlier date is agreed to by the Judicial Committee and the participants. Interested parties are members of the Judicial Committee; signers of any petition requesting a hearing; anyone named in a petition; all State Committee members; and between three to five LPO members determined by the Judicial Committee to be opponents of any ruling being requested by other petitioners or by State Committee action which triggers an automatic Judicial Committee hearing. [19970112]

**C. Procedures.** Procedures for Judicial Committee hearings shall be governed by the rules for trials as specified in Robert's Rules of Order. All Judicial Committee hearings shall be open to observation by members of the LPO.[20090314]

**SEC 4. Representation.** Each party to a hearing shall have the right to represent this interest in the manner of his own choosing. Any other observer may speak on the subject matter of the hearing at the discretion of the Judicial Committee Chairperson, though any LPO member, present or not present, may submit written material concerning the subject matter. [19970112]

**SEC 5. Rulings.** The Judicial Committee must provide a ruling within two days of the conclusion of a hearing, unless otherwise specified.

**SEC 6. Vacancy.** In the event of a vacancy on the Judicial Committee, the remaining members of the Judicial Committee shall by majority vote elect an LPO member to fill that vacancy. In the event that the membership of the Judicial Committee falls below two members, a special convention will be called by the LPO State Committee no later than 90 days after such vacancies are deemed valid. [20090314]

## Article IX – Recall

**SEC. 1.** Provision for Recall. LPO officers, Directors, affiliate organization representatives, and Judicial Committee members may be recalled from their positions, subject to the provisions of this article:

**A. Recall Hearings.** Every LPO officer, director, and affiliate organization representative charged under Section 1 of this article has the right to a hearing before the Judicial Committee regarding those charges. Such a hearing is to be held following written notification of the charges. Following the hearing, the Judicial Committee shall rule either to recall the member, thereby vacating the position in question, or to continue the member in full authority of that position. Should the Judicial Committee fail to rule following such a hearing, the member shall continue in full authority of the position in question.

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**B. Recall Petitions.** LPO members may bring complaint against LPO officers, directors, and Judicial Committee members by recall petition. Such petition must specify charges, may recall one or more persons, and must be signed by a number of LPO members equal to at least fifteen percent (15%) of the number of LPO members which exist at the time of the petition's submission; recall petitions shall be submitted to the State Committee at regularly scheduled sessions. A recall petition is considered to have been formally submitted at the instant it is presented or made available to the committee in session, regardless of agendas or parliamentary rules of order. Such complaints shall result in the removal of the recalled member or members from the positions concerned, upon successful completion of the recall petition process.

C. In the event an attempt is made to recall an elected official a second or subsequent time in a single term of his or her office, the petitioners of the new recall shall be liable to the LPO for the cost of the previous recall in terms of materials, postage, and other hard goods, service or other expenses incurred against the LPO, as determined and agreed to by the LPO Treasurer, the Chief Petitioner, and a neutral Judicial Committee Member (if possible). If no agreement as to the size of the expenses can be determined by these three impartial people, the Chairperson shall rule as to the amount of the expenditure. If the petitioners do not agree to pay such charges, that attempted recall petition shall be null and void and will not bind the State Committee into conducting a recall ballot. Payment for the previous recall must be received in full before the current recall process may start. [200903014]

## Article X – Mail Ballots

**SEC. 1. Rules for Mail Ballots.** All mail ballots provided for in this Constitution and Bylaws shall be conducted according to the following rules:

A. Each mail ballot must be concluded thirty days after minimum requirements for such a ballot have been met. The balloting procedure must give each voter at least fifteen days to respond.

B. Each LPO member shall be entitled to one vote on each ballot.

C. The matter at issue in each ballot shall be decided by a majority vote of the votes received during the time allowed for that ballot, unless otherwise specified.

## Article XI – Conventions

**SEC. 1. Notice.** Written or electronic notice shall be provided to each LPO member of at least forty five days of the date of for such conventions shall be provided to each LPO member.

**SEC. 2. Rules.** Convention rules shall be adopted and/or amended at any duly constituted state convention by a simple majority vote of the delegates attending.

### SEC. 3. Delegates.

**A. Annual and Special Convention Delegates.** All delegates must be an LPO member in current standing 30 days before any business or special convention. Each delegate present

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and properly credentialed is entitled to one vote at that convention. [20071229]

**B. Nominating Convention Delegates** . Any registered Libertarian elector of the State of Oregon may attend LPO nominating conventions as a voting delegate with one vote.

**SEC. 4. Annual Conventions.** The annual convention shall be held on the second full weekend of March each year

**SEC. 5. Nominating Conventions.** The State Committee shall set the time, place, and schedule of events for all nominating conventions.

**SEC. 6. Special Conventions.** Special conventions for a specific purpose may be called by the state committee or the delegates of an annual convention, and no items of business not on the noticed order of business may be considered. The State Committee shall set the time, place, and schedule of events for all special conventions.

**SEC. 7. National Convention Delegates.** All members and alternates of an LPO delegation to a national convention shall be members of both the LPO and the national Libertarian Party whose dues to both are paid-up at the time of their selection and at the time of the national convention. [20090314]

## Article XII – Nomination

**SEC. 1. Qualifications for Nominations.** The LPO will entertain for nomination for candidate to public office any registered Libertarian elector of the state of Oregon. The LPO may nominate candidates in any election. [20090314]

**SEC. 2. Nominations in Convention.** Nominations of candidates for political office shall be made in annual and special nominating conventions of the LPO by a simple majority of Libertarian electors of the State or Oregon present. Nominations for candidacy shall be from the floor, no nominating committee being permitted. [20090314]

**SEC. 3. None of the Above.** In all votes for nomination of candidates for public office, "None of the Above" shall be counted as a valid vote cast. [19970608]

**SEC. 4. Emergency Nominations.** The State Committee may nominate a candidate for a partisan race to fill a vacancy in the event of a candidate's withdrawal or death. Such method of nomination may only be made if there is no time available for a legal State or local nominating convention. [19990606]

## Article XIII – Endorsements

**SEC. 1. Qualifications for Endorsement.** The LPO may endorse only candidates for political office who have signed the following statement: "I hereby certify that I subscribe to the LPO Statement of Principles, and that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving social or political goals." The LPO may endorse candidates for statewide office, for national office, and for local office. [20051105]

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**SEC. 2. Endorsement in Convention.** Endorsement of candidates for political office by the LPO may be made by convention of the LPO shall be by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting.

## Article XV – Platform

**SEC. 1.** The LPO may adopt in convention a platform, such platform to be consistent with the LPO Statement of Principles. Such platform shall consist of a number of planks which state the LPO position on specific local, state, and national issues. Any amendments to the platform may be adopted (plank by plank except related planks may be considered together) by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present. [20051105]

**SEC. 2.** Platform will be voted on in even numbered years unless the State Committee authorizes a special convention to be held sooner for that purpose.

## Article XVI – Amendment Procedures

**SEC. 1. Advance Notification.** Proposed amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws shall be entered on the agenda of the next annual convention to be held in an odd numbered year unless the State Committee authorizes a special convention to be held sooner for that purpose. The Secretary shall make the texts of such approved amendments available to each LPO member via written or electronic means, as each member prefers, no fewer than forty five days prior to the opening of said convention. [20030607]

**SEC. 2. Amendment in Convention.** Any delegate to an annual convention held in an odd numbered year, or to any special convention held to consider amendments, may propose any amendment to this Constitution and Bylaws if such amendment is presented in writing to the Secretary before that convention finishes considering amendments and if at least ten percent of the delegates present request its consideration. [19990606]

**SEC. 3. Two Thirds Majority Required.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast by registered delegates present at an LPO convention,

## Article XVII – Parliamentary Authority

**SEC. 1.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the LPO in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the LPO Constitution and these bylaws and any special rules of order the LPO may adopt. [20090314]