

Jennifer Hertel
Office of the Secretary of State
Elections Division
255 Capitol Street NE, Suite 501
Salem, OR 97310

August 1, 2014

RE: Case No. 14-C&E-20

Dear Ms. Hertel:

Here is my response to the charges:

- 1) At this time there was a discrepancy of several thousand dollars between the balance as reported in Orestar and the bank balance. We are working to resolve the discrepancies but have not been able to do so yet. Once we have resolved the discrepancy, we will take a cash balance adjustment to match our bank records. Some of the discrepancies go back to the time Helga Thompson was the party chair and Dana Petersen was the treasurer.
- 2) Both contributions cited, 1555159 and 1555158, were from small political items sold at fair booths and should have been reported as "Items sold at fair market value". We have amended the transactions. Helga Thompson, former party chair, would collect cash donations and then post them in Orestar in her own name (see transaction ids 1419702 and 1371732) as she did when the Central Committee received small cash donations at its campaign office during the election season of 2012. I was told by her that this was how it was done.
- 3) The Central Committee did have a gun drawing in 2013. When Mr. Thompson states that "I understand the committee raised approximately \$2,000.00 on the raffle", he offers no evidence for this amount. The money raised from this raffle was deposited over time and was a part of the amounts referenced in item #2, above. As stated, it should have been categorized as "Items sold at fair market value".
- 4) Mr. Nearman did send emails from his corporate account. He was not working on the clock at the time that he sent these emails.

I believe the following points need to be made clear:

- In November of 2012, Helga Thompson, mother of Jonathan Thompson and wife of State Representative Jim Thompson, was defeated in the organization election for party chair. The incumbent party treasurer, Dana Petersen chose not to run again.
- Neither officer offered any help to the new leadership on how to report transactions in Orestar. I did the best that I could with the information that was available to me at the time.
- The previous leadership which failed to provide training is related to the filer of the complaint, i.e. former Chair Helga Thompson is Jonathan Thompson's mother.
- In 2014, Polk County Republican Central Committee Chair, Mike Nearman defeated State Representative Jim Thompson, father of Jonathan Thompson in the May Primary Election.

- The Polk County Republican Central Committee may have made errors in categorizing some contributions, but never was there any attempt, nor any possibility, nor does Jonathan Thompson even allege, that any advantage was gained by the Polk County Republican Central Committee, nor by any person named in the complaints.
- Given that the alleged violations offer minimal or no advantage to any persons involved with the party combined with the fact that both Jonathan Thompson's parents have been recently dislodged by persons named in the complaint, it's reasonable to conclude that the complaint was filed more for personal reasons, than any real interest in justice or fairness.
- I think I speak for the entire Polk County Republican Party Central Committee when I say that we believe in honest, accurate campaign finance reporting. Any errors are due to the fact that we are inexperienced volunteers and in no way do we intend to subvert the campaign finance system.

Sincerely,

Rachel Daberkow
Treasurer
Polk County Republican Central Committee