

# The Minnesota Independence Party is alive and well

News and News Analysis by “candidate-journalist” Bob “Again” Carney Jr. -- [www.bobagain.com](http://www.bobagain.com)

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**Minneapolis Minnesota, May 21st** – The Minnesota Independence Party (IP) 2014 State Convention came and went last Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Mankato State campus, launching a slate of five endorsed candidates for statewide office, and revising the party platform. The IP Executive Committee implemented a candidate screening process that presented the Convention with only one approved candidate for each office. The result was a series of unanimous or near-unanimous endorsement votes from the fifty participating delegates. Screened out candidates were not allowed to be nominated and voted on for endorsement by the Convention.

None of the five IP endorsed statewide candidates has ever lost an election... or won one. They are all first-time candidates, with no record of public actions or votes to cite or criticize. The August 12<sup>th</sup> primary will determine if they will advance to the November general election ballot as nominees of the IP. All statewide offices except Secretary of State are held by DFL incumbents who are running for re-election.

**Kevin Terrell**, a 50 year old Minneapolis businessman, was endorsed for the U.S. Senate. **Terrell's** background includes five years as a defense intelligence analyst, an MBA from the Carlson School, and twenty years of business experience in the private sector. He recounted founding a group that successfully opposed an attempt by the FAA to route more MSP flights over densely populated South Minneapolis neighborhoods, and helping to raise over \$100,000 for local charities. **Terrell** only recently announced his candidacy, but is reported to have been actively campaigning for weeks, speaking at IP Congressional District conventions and phoning State Delegates. **Terrell** faces a likely primary challenge from frequent candidate **Jack Shepard**, who received 6,632 votes in the 2012 DFL U.S. Senate primary.

**Hannah Nicollet**, a stay at home mom with a software development background, made a last minute switch to seek the endorsement for Governor. In February, **Nicollet** had announced she was seeking the U.S. Senate endorsement. The day before the Convention IP State Chair **Mark Jenkins** had told **Eric Eskola** on Twin Cities Public Television's *Almanac* that the IP was likely to not have an endorsed candidate for Governor. **Nicollet** recounted her history of activism, including campaigning for Reform

candidate **Ross Perot** for President, and her more recent support for former Congressman **Ron Paul's** bid for the Republican Presidential nomination. **Nicollet** faces a likely primary challenge from two opponents – one is frequent candidate **Adam Steele**, who received 15,298 General Election votes as the 2012 Independence Party nominee for the 7<sup>th</sup> District U.S. Congress -- a second is **Captain Jack Sparrow**, who ran for Mayor of Minneapolis in 2013. **Steele** said of the screening and endorsing process:

*"It's clear the IP chiefs intended to give the delegates only one candidate for each office to vote for... Their motivation is not material, what is material is that the selection process has to be participatory and has to be transparent."*

**Nicollet** and **Steele** did not yet have running mates for Lt. Governor as of the day of the Convention -- a requirement for filing. **Sparrow** said he does have a running mate.

**Pat Dean** was endorsed for State Auditor. **Dean**, a CPA, described himself to the Convention as a whistleblower, who was terminated by the Saint Paul Port Authority, and recounted a series of events leading to a Minnesota Supreme Court case awarding \$35 million to plaintiffs who had been creditors of the Port Authority -- **Dean** saw the case as vindicating his actions. **Disclosure:** when **Dean** finished recounting his whistleblowing experience this reporter initiated a round of applause.

**Bob Helland**, a current state employee with a degree in economics, was endorsed for Secretary of State. **Helland** recounted work experience at the Department of Revenue as including "business registration, fraud detection, electronic filing, training and documentation and sales and use tax compliance." Incumbent DFL Secretary of State **Mark Ritchie** is not seeking re-election.

**Brandan Borgos**, a Saint Thomas Law School graduate and Minnesota NORML Board member, was endorsed for Attorney General. **Borgos** told the convention he has practiced in criminal law and family law, and has been active in expanding the NORML organization. He cited reports of unrest and discontent over incumbent Attorney General **Lori Swanson's** administration of the office as a reason for needed change.

We'll hear more news reporting about all of these candidates as the 2014 campaign proceeds.

## **State Party platform is revised**

About half of the Convention's time was devoted to detailed debate, amendments, and votes on eighteen Platform resolutions. Delegates approved a platform resolution originated by long time party

activist **Diane Goldman** to amend the Federal Constitution, establishing that only human beings have constitutional rights. Such an amendment would effectively reverse the U.S. Supreme Court's recent *Citizens United* ruling, which sharply curtailed the Government's power to regulate campaign financing. Other approved platform resolutions included: legalizing Sunday sales of goods including liquor and automobiles, funding for "adequate rural Minnesota infrastructure", "made in Minnesota" renewable energy including ethanol, a "local option" allowing all Minnesota cities to implement Ranked Choice Voting, and support for the "Impartial Justice Act", to provide voters with non-partisan information about the performance of judges. Defeated resolutions included: elimination of tax exemptions or major pro sports, support for "comprehensive, balanced and sustainable funding" for transportation, opposition to higher filing fees for state and local offices, and "eliminating elections for county sheriff, auditor, and recorder". A resolution supporting the Second Amendment and concealed carry was first amendment to strip out everything but Second Amendment support, and was then defeated.

Delegates also approved one State Resolution, not a part of the standing platform, to suspend recreational wolf hunting.

## **News Analysis:**

### **Media Coverage – "where's the rest of us?"**

During the heyday of Gov. **Jesse Ventura's** four year term, both he and the IP were catnip for state, national, and sometimes world media. Younger people are likely to have no concept of the sheer *volume* of news and entertainment content that bubbled forth from the November 1998 election to 2002, and beyond. The party atmosphere was deflated when the "dot.com bubble" burst in 2000, triggering a recession.

Last Saturday's IP Convention was at the opposite extreme – much of the time this reporter was the only media presence – if you don't count Delegates.

The timing of the Convention was a probably a factor in explaining the absence of the media. The Minnesota Legislative session had ended Friday night, after a Thursday session that had gone until well into the morning hours of Friday. State Capitol reporters -- typically the first responders for State Conventions -- were given an opportunity to translate "The End" of the session into news content for

Sunday editions. They may have been influenced by fatigue -- and a need to prioritize between digesting and writing up the end-of-session story, or driving down to Mankato for an unfolding story that frankly could wait.

The number of delegates participating was probably anticipated to be embarrassingly low. The IP leadership may have wisely planned the Convention so that it *would* be a kind of “non-event”... preferring not to put on display a “State Convention” with the quote marks clearly visible to TV news viewers. By contrast, the 2010 IP State Convention filled a good sized auditorium at Normandale Community College, a more accessible Twin Cities campus.

**Kassandra Sepeda** of KEYC TV, News 12, Mankato, a CBS affiliate, said she was there in the morning, left about 11:45 AM, and checked in by phone at the end of the day. She did a short TV news story on the Convention. **Wendy Wilde**, of KTOE Radio Mankato News arrived about 4 PM and stayed to the adjournment about an hour later. **Wilde** wrote a summary story, which was sent on behalf of KTOE to Minnesota News Network (MNN); she said as of Monday afternoon she had not seen it go out from MNN. **Wilde** did not know of any other journalist besides Sepeda and this reporter who had been at the Convention. The Mankato Free Press published a short article with no by-line.

As of the Tuesday evening after the Convention the IP web site -- <http://www.mnip.org> – had a link to a MinnPost article, but no news release issued from the party. In addition to the MinnPost article, a Google search for “Minnesota Independence Party Convention Candidates” from Saturday to Tuesday showed results for KSTP TV, MPR, and the Pioneer Press. The Star Tribune has yet to report on the IP Convention; on the plus side, there was nothing in the obituaries.

If **Marshall McLuhan** was right, and “the medium is the message”, the message so far seems to be: “not much is going on here folks”. This message is brought to you by a two-party duopoly and a coalition of status quo special interests, including “big money media” -- these sponsors collectively pay and receive billions of dollars to make sure you *get* the message.

Do you?!

### **The IP is at risk of losing “major party” legal status in Minnesota**

The IP enters the 2014 election at a time of high voter unrest, but also faces the danger of losing the many benefits of major party status. That legal status continues for the two general elections following

an election that qualifying a party to become or continue as a major party. A party with an organization in Minnesota qualifies or continues as a major party in three ways. First, the party qualifies if a statewide Constitutional office candidate -- or a state Presidential elector or U.S. Senate candidate during Presidential years -- receives five percent or more of a general election vote. The IP met that requirement in 2010, when **Tom Horner** was endorsed, won the primary, ran an active and well financed campaign, and received 11.9% of the vote. However, in 2012 the IP Primary winner, **Steven Williams**, had not been endorsed, had little money, was not included in debates, and won 2.6% of the vote, below the 5% threshold. A second way of qualifying is based on the number of candidates fielded in the last General Election. Because the IP did not meet the requirement of 23 State Senate candidates on the ballot in 2012, and the State Senate is not on the ballot in 2014, it appears this way of qualifying is not available to the IP. The third way of qualifying is a high hurdle: a petition to the Secretary of State before the close of the Primary filing period, signed by 5% or more of the statewide vote in the previous election.

The absence of Ranked Choice Voting for State and Federal offices has the effect of enforcing the powerful “don’t waste your vote” argument that has caused past IP campaigns to fade. In 2002, the IP candidate for Governor, former DFLer and former Congressman **Tim Penny**, was polling even in the three-way race less than a month before the election, but his support dropped significantly at the end, as people switched to the eventual winner, former Gov. **Tim Pawlenty**. In 2010, **Horner’s** campaign was well funded and very active, and he was the overwhelming choice of state newspaper editorial boards. **Horner** averaged around 10% in polls through September, surged to as high as 19% in a mid-October Saint Cloud State University poll, but then faded as the “don’t waste your vote” fear apparently kicked in -- finishing at 11.9% in the November General Election.

The “don’t waste your vote” argument has been strengthened by three recent statewide elections that were very close. Both the 2006 and 2010 races for Governor were decided by 1%, and Sen. **Al Franken** won his seat in a famously close contest, including a strong showing by the IP candidate, former Sen. **Dean Barkley**, who polled 15.2% of the vote.

### **Looking back and looking ahead – the importance of Public Campaign finance money**

The IP had major party status for the 1998 election, based on the 7% **Barkley** received in the 1996 U.S. Senate campaign (**Barkley** was appointed to the brief remainder of Sen. **Paul Wellstone’s** term after **Wellstone’s** death in 2002). As a major party, the IP, then known as the Reform Party, received about

\$300,000 in Public Subsidy dollars from tax return checkoffs. This was used to pay for TV ads late in the campaign, and was probably crucial to former Governor **Jesse Ventura's** narrow victory in 1998.

As of May, 2014 the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board estimates IP campaigns will receive \$219,407 for Governor, \$43,881 for Attorney General, and \$25,075 each for Secretary of State and Auditor.

In addition to the tax return checkoff money, both the State party and all state campaigns are eligible to receive Political Contribution Refund (PCR) program contributions for up to \$50 from an individual, or up to \$100 from married couples. The program has "Refund" in the title for this reason: contributors are given a one page form from the campaign or the party. When they send in the form the Revenue Department mails back a check for what they contributed.

In 2009 Gov. **Pawlenty** used "unallotment" to eliminate funding for the PCR program, and to cut funding for other programs totaling close to \$3 billion. (**Disclosure:** this reporter was the first person to sue the **Pawlenty** Administration over unallotment -- specifically challenging the PCR unallotment -- but was dismissed in District Court). A second lawsuit went to the Minnesota Supreme Court, with the result that all of Gov. **Pawlenty's** unallotments violated the unallotment statute, and were thrown out. However, with only about ten days left in the 2010 Legislative session, and a deficit close to \$3 billion, the DFL caved in -- voting to ratify **Pawlenty's** unallotments, and in effect nullifying the Supreme Court's ruling. In the current biannual budget PCR funding has been restored, effective July 1, 2013.

In retrospect, it appears **Pawlenty's** decision to defund the PCR may have been the single biggest cause of the Minnesota Republican Party's subsequent de-facto bankruptcy. The state Republican Party is typically the biggest single recipient of PCR dollars, averaging 25,000 to 35,000 individual contributors, and about \$2,000,000 a year in receipts before 2010. In the year after the PCR was unallotted, the state Republican Party received 60 contributions, averaging about \$40,000 each.

Determining what the unallotment impact may have been on **Tom Horner's** 2010 campaign for Governor is speculative. The **Horner** campaign received \$348,279 in Public Subsidy payments, and spent a total of \$1,339,153. **Horner** was a principal of Himle Horner Inc., a public relations firm, and had deep Republican roots, including as former Sen. **David Durenberger's** Chief of Staff. Historically Minnesota Republicans, including many who became "politically homeless" when moderates were driven out, have also participated extensively in the PCR program in the form of contributions to eligible campaigns. Had the PCR been operating in 2012, IP state Legislative candidates would have been eligible for PCR

contributions in addition to Public Subsidy payments. The PCR unallotment may have significantly diminished both fundraising for the **Horner** campaign, and the ability of the IP to field and fund a far more extensive slate of Legislative candidates.

Looking forward, if the IP slate of endorsed candidates prevails in the primary, the IP appears well positioned to contest the 2014 election. The ticket has top-to-bottom “regular guy and gal” aspersion immunity. A foundation of Public Subsidy money is known to be coming in. In the post- *Citizens United* world of massive and murky independent political expenditures there is a growing awareness and revolt against the dominating and corrupting effect of big money in politics. Dissatisfaction with one-party rule, and the viral potential of the internet and social media are two additional factors at play this year. The culmination could be a burst of PCR money, and high vote totals for some or all of the IP ticket.

Such a scenario would be seen as a disaster by many in the camps of the current two-party duopoly, and by many special interests. There may be attempts and independent expenditures by special interests to cause the defeat of one or more IP endorsed candidates in the August primary. The IP voter turnout is likely to be low -- in 2010 **Horner** won with 11,380 votes, and in 2012 **Stephen Williams** won with only 3,066 votes. While it appears likely there will be either one or two major primary contests for Republicans, both Gov. **Mark Dayton** and Sen. **Al Franken** are expected to win by wide margins. Any Minnesota voter can vote in any Party Primary, but voters cannot “mix and match” – voting for partisan candidates for different offices in more than one Party Primary.

**Colorful, name-changing, costumed, “maybe-socialist”, eccentric, “off-message”, outsider, rock-turning, trouble-making candidates need not apply**

The 2014 all-rookie squad of IP endorsed statewide candidates is a wholesome looking, reasonable sound-bite-sounding bunch. But this must be said: significant historical elements of the IP are somewhere between history and the Orwellian memory tube. Gone (and apparently banished) are: feather boas (now constricted), wrestling referee and start-up sports league moonlighting gigs, unusual reincarnation aspirations, name changers, and boasts that “Our Governor can...”... with a wide variety of possible and unpredictable sentence endings. Gone also are “off-message” candidates – outsiders, trouble-makers, eccentrics – persistently looking under rocks and claiming to uncover things that many see as impractical issues to raise when seeking to win a lot of votes in a campaign for public office.

Only one shiny head remains – Senate candidate Kevin Terrell apparently shaves his -- as did Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The non-verbal but front-and-center message delivered to Minnesota with unity from the IP Delegates via their statewide candidate slate is this: “We’re a normal, regular bunch of accomplished, civic minded people... we’re NOT politicians... we’re NOT ‘wing nuts’... instead, we have teamed up so ‘*We the People*’ can fix what’s wrong with our government and our political system”.

But what about the candidates who were filtered out? Who are they... and why did the Executive Committee stamp them “unqualified”? We’ll look at the actions and views of two “unqualified” candidates who have said they will be on the IP primary ballot, challenging **Hannah Nicollet**, the endorsed candidate.

Adopting rules is a typical agenda item for political conventions, and happens near the start of the Convention. When that agenda item came up, **Bill McGaughey**, a seated delegate who the Executive Committee had earlier deemed “unqualified” to be a candidate for Governor, and who subsequently decided not to run in the primary, made a motion to allow candidates deemed “unqualified” to address the Convention. During the debate, **McGaughey** pointed out that neither the Executive Committee nor the Convention is the final authority. Candidates are nominated to the November ballot by means of the August primary – party conventions endorse candidates as a recommendation to primary voters. **McGaughey’s** motion drew some support, but was defeated. The Convention then approved a partial accommodation – allowing “unqualified” candidates to address delegates informally during the lunch hour recess. However, the rules proposed for the Convention were not modified – only Executive Committee approved candidates were allowed to be nominated for endorsing votes by the Convention.

**Captain Jack Sparrow** was one of the most colorful of the 2013 platoon of Minneapolis Mayoral candidates. That contest attracted national media attention for both unusual, off-beat candidates – and for the high number (35) who plopped down the \$20 filing fee and signed on to the first Ranked Choice Voting election ballot with no incumbent Mayor. The 2013 Minneapolis Ranked Choice Voting procedure allowed voters to rank up to three candidates. If a voter’s first choice was eliminated, the second vote was counted; if that choice was eliminated the vote was transferred to the third and final choice. Limitations of hardware and software were cited by the City as reasons for limiting voters to three rankings – the City determined more would have required an expensive hand count. Each candidate could also list either a political party or a political principle up to three words by their name



on the ballot. **Sparrow** chose “Count All Rankings”; he opposed limiting the choice to three rankings (**Disclosure:** this reporter had been on **Sparrow’s** exploratory committee, but recently resigned; this reporter originally suggested the phrase “Count All Rankings” to **Sparrow**). **Sparrow** had this to say of the IP screening and endorsing process:

*“All candidates that were not selected by the Executive Committee were described to the Convention as ‘unqualified’ candidates. When I was at the Executive Committee screening meeting a week before the Convention, the main concerns expressed were that I had changed my name to ‘Captain Jack Sparrow’ and that I wore a pirate costume while campaigning for Mayor of Minneapolis in 2013.”*

**Sparrow** had legally changed his name in early 2012, after he had been arrested at an Occupy protest event while seeking a meeting with **Richard Davis**, President of US Bank. **Sparrow** wanted to be named in possible future legal proceedings as the character he had chosen for the protest. **Sparrow** continued:

*“They asked me if I was a Socialist – I said I did not use that word because the meaning had been taken over by Bolsheviks. I did not dispute that I was a Socialist, but I am more a pragmatist -- I want to do what works based on empirical evidence. In my view, the real concern of the Executive Committee was that I might tax the rich and give some of the money to the poor – something I vowed to do while brandishing a toy pirate pistol at a 2013 Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority public hearing -- and that was not consistent with the views of the Independence Party’s Executive Committee.”*

**Sparrow** said he was very tired the day of the Convention; he napped in the hallway during the lunch hour, and declined to address the Convention, believing it would be ineffective. **Sparrow** is planning to run in the August Primary, has a running mate, and plans to file in the next few days.

**Adam Steele** participated in the Convention as a Delegate, and accepted the opportunity to address delegates during the lunch break.

**Steele** recounted that on May 9<sup>th</sup> he had e-mailed candidate screening material to IP State Chair **Mark Jenkins**, but was told it hadn’t been received. He sent the material a second time May 15<sup>th</sup>, and a third time May 16<sup>th</sup>—and was told **Jenkins** received the third transmission. **Steele** said he had used the same e-mail address each time, but noted that e-mail sometimes goes into “junk” folders. **Steele** appeared briefly before the Executive Committee on the morning of the Convention, and was told he was

“unqualified.” At that time, the Executive Committee had not designated any candidate for Governor as qualified. It is unclear whether the Committee may have been aware at that time of the possibility or intention of **Hannah Nicollet’s** last-minute decision to run for Governor.

**Steele** is raising two main issues as reasons for his candidacy – both were addressed in his brief speech to Delegates, and both are set forth on his web site at: <http://northernherald.finalhost.net/campsite.pdf> The first is his view that “Providence” and “Country” are mutually separate, but are both essential to a free state. **Steel’s** web site says:

*“The First Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion....” This means that we may not have a state church; government may not condone a particular religion, or persecute a person for having no religion. Church and State must be separate. But this does not mean that we must practice, in public places (including schools) enforced atheism. Years ago, the biggest problems that concerned teachers were students chewing gum, and talking in class. Today, their biggest concerns are weapons and physical assault by students. In the interim, between then, and now, we threw Providence out of the schools. At about the same time, we also threw out the moral compass. Since then, there has been escalating violence in the schools, including the mass shootings that have made national headlines. Do you think there may be a connection?”*

**Steel’s** second issue is framed as a pledge – stated on his web site: “If elected, I will not enforce any law which is clearly unconstitutional on its face or by its application.”

**Steel’s** site goes on to say:

*“A purpose of my candidacy for this office is to bring Constitutional justice to Northern Minnesota.”*

*“Criminals, of course, are not entitled to the same rights as others. But not everyone accused of a crime is a criminal. Still, here, in Northern Minnesota, due to corruption and “frontier justice”, a lot of those people are, nonetheless, denied their Constitutional rights to a speedy trial, to bail, to due process, to competent and unbiased counsel, and to a fair trial with the ability to present all facts and evidence in their defense.”*

*“Some of them are sentenced to a term of many years, for violation of laws which, themselves, are unconstitutional. They can, of course, challenge those unconstitutional laws in federal court,*

*but the catch is, that they have to be wrongfully imprisoned, again without being allowed bail, during the long pendency -sometimes many years - of the proceedings. This is just wrong. It is why many people end up being coerced to plead "guilty" to things they didn't do. This endemic denial of judicial rights in Minnesota is something that endangers everyone in the State."*

**Steele** cites as one example the case of **Steven Samuelson**, and provides this account on his web site:

*"There is presently, at the Minnesota state prison at Faribault, an inmate - #234139, Steven Samuelson. Mr. Samuelson is a 47 yr. old disabled Navy vet, who was living peaceably, with his fiancée, at his home on 40 acres near Nashwauk, when deputies entered, the day before Thanksgiving, 2009, and arrested him. He was arrested on a framed (by the deputies) charge of Domestic Abuse - something that his fiancée denied at the time; and has since denied repeatedly in open court. These fabricated and false abuse charges were eventually dropped, but Samuelson has, since November 2009, been continuously incarcerated, without being allowed bail, and is currently serving a five-year sentence, without credit for the more than one year that he was jailed pending trial, solely for the offense of returning his fiancée's desperate phone calls to him at the jail following his arrest. She had left over 100 messages a day for him regarding household necessities such as food, firewood for heat, and money. But she was not allowed, by the judge, to tell that to the jury, which convicted him of 33 counts of violating a no-contact order; an unconstitutional order that the fiancée had never asked for, and had tried to have removed, but that Judge Maturi imposed anyway. This is not an isolated case - there are many people serving time under similar circumstances. In America, we don't send people to prison for a phone call with their fiancée."*

**Steele** is the long-time editor of the Northern Herald, currently available only online. The home page of his web site -- <http://northernherald.finalhost.net> -- has this content, presented here in only one font size:

*"Crime and Corruption Reporting So Accurate, The Print Edition was Banned (most locations) In Bemidji (called, by some, the "Crime Capitol of Minnesota")*

*"If We Don't Like the Facts, You Can't Read Them !"*

*"Bemidji business, as well as the City of Bemidji, by Al Felix, City Attorney, have made a concerted effort to try to keep the facts and the free press out of the hands of Bemidjians who*

want it. That should tell you something about Bemidji business and city management. MENARDS, a major midwest employer and retailer, a few years ago, just said 'No' to Bemidji. Thinking people do. (Now, several years later, Bemidjians have offered Menards a better deal, and they're opening here soon.)”

“For additional boring information on EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS THE FREE PRESS in Bemidji and Park Rapids, click on "Where It's At," below.”

“To view a complete copy of the 7/30/01 Order of the United States Court of Appeals, finding the actions of the City of Bemidji unconstitutional, click here.”

“On June 16th, 2003, the United States District Court, at Minneapolis, ordered the City of Bemidji to pay \$3,001 in damages, plus costs, for violation of First Amendment rights, by attempting to suppress distribution of Northern Herald in Bemidji. Details in issue of 06/30/03 in The Library, Vol. 8 (link below).”

“Northern Herald is published quarterly by Northern Herald Publications, Inc., Bemidji, MN, for the benefit of the sane, normal and thinking people of Northern Minnesota; a distinct minority, but growing. Est. circulation: 5,000”

Frequent candidate **Jack Shepard** is reported to have supplied material to the Executive Committee, seeking the U.S. Senate endorsement, but was declared “unqualified”. Shepard is a convicted felon, and a fugitive, who has lived in Italy for decades – he would have risked arrest if he had attended the Convention. Minnesota Constitutional officers are required to be residents of the state, but Minnesota candidates for the U.S. Congress are not required to be a Minnesota resident until they are sworn in.

Aside from the Convention’s endorsing process, **Steel** felt that Robert’s Rules of Order was followed, and commented: “I thought Mr. **[Mark] Jenkins** conducted the Convention well.” **Captain Jack Sparrow**, who spoke frequently during the platform debates, said he thought the Convention was well run; when he wanted to speak he was recognized by **Jenkins** with two exceptions, including one instance where **Sparrow** said he stated “point of order” but was not recognized. **Sparrow** objected to the fact that **Jenkins** once spoke against a position stated by **Sparrow** without formally relinquishing the Chair. There appeared to be no designated Parliamentarian. **Jenkins** interacted frequently with both the Convention Secretary and the Credentials table, seeking with apparent success to ensure the makers, seconders, and the text of motions and amendments were properly recorded. **Jenkins** routinely gave easy to

understand explanations to the Delegates as to what they were voting on before each vote was taken. The Convention voted by hand held credentials; “Yes”, “No” and “Abstain” were recorded, with occasional exceptions when a vote was overwhelming, and totals were matched to the number of Delegates currently on the floor. Most vote totals matched exactly with the Credentials count of Delegates present – no discrepancy was observed that would have changed the result of a vote.

Based on the histories, views and priorities of **Sparrow** and **Steele**, it appears both the Executive Committee and the Convention concluded that, as a practical matter, the limited resources of the IP should be focused with the greatest possible intensity -- supporting a “clean slate” of candidates who had never run for public office, and who could hammer home the IP’s main message: the partisan divide has become so wide that only a third, center party can provided the needed remedy for what ails both state and national politics. At the same time, as noted during the discussion on Convention rules, the primary election will ultimate determine who the IP’s nominees for Governor and Lt. Governor will be on the November General Election ballot.