

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

**FINDINGS REGARDING THE
3rd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT RPM**

Procedural Background

In response to an inquiry from the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (“the Board”), Lynn Swon, treasurer, 3rd Congressional District RPM, notified the Board that the 3rd Congressional District RPM, a registered political party unit, accepted a \$5,000 contribution from the Jim Ramstad Volunteer Committee, an association that is not registered with the Board.

Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), prohibits a registered political party unit 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 April 6, 2005, Lynn Swon stated “we believed that the required disclosure statement that met the reporting requirements of the Minnesota statute had been provided by the donor. Upon receiving your letter, we have been advised that the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board did not receive the required disclosure statement.”

The 3rd Congressional District RPM provided the Board with a copy of the check returning \$5,000 to the Jim Ramstad Volunteer Committee.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session in its meeting on June 7, 2005. The Board’s decision was based upon correspondence from Lynn Swon and Board records.

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

EVIDENTIARY FINDINGS

1. There is evidence that the 3rd Congressional District RPM inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), when it accepted a contribution in excess of \$100 from the Jim Ramstad Volunteer Committee, an unregistered association, without the required disclosure.
2. There is evidence that the contribution was returned to the Jim Ramstad Volunteer Committee. However, the 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 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 3rd Congressional District RPM inadvertently violated Minn. Stat. §10A.27, subd. 13 (a), by accepting a contribution in excess of \$100 from the Jim Ramstad Volunteer Committee without the required disclosure. The 3rd Congressional District RPM has provided the Board with a copy of the check returning \$5,000 to the Jim Ramstad Volunteer Committee however, the contribution was not returned within 60 days.

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

ORDER

1. The Board imposes a civil penalty of \$4,900, one times the amount by which the contribution exceeded \$100, on the 3rd Congressional District RPM, for accepting a contribution in excess of \$100 from an unregistered association without the disclosure required by Minn. Stat. §10A.20.
2. The 3rd Congressional District RPM is directed to forward to the Board payment of the \$4,900 civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within thirty days of receipt of this order.
3. If the 3rd Congressional District RPM 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.
4. 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 of the civil penalty imposed herein, this matter is concluded.

Dated: June 7, 2005



Terri Ashmore, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board