

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

**FINDINGS IN THE MATTER OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF
A CONTRIBUTION DURING THE 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
BY THE LINDA SLOCUM VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

Summary of the Allegations and Responses

In a letter dated August 10, 2006, Frank Googins, Treasurer for the Linda Slocum Volunteer Committee ("the Committee"), voluntarily notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the Committee accepted two \$100 contributions from registered lobbyists on March 7, 2006. The regular 2006 Legislative Session which was held from March 1, to May 21, 2006.

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1, prohibits candidates from soliciting or accepting a contribution from a lobbyist during a regular legislative session. A candidate who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty imposed by the board of up to \$1,000.

Mr. Googins states, "Your software flagged these contributions when I inputted them. At the time these contributions were made I had not attended any of your training sessions and was not aware that they were not allowed. ...Please accept our sincere apologies for our error." Attached to Mr. Googins letter were copies of the checks received from the lobbyists and copies of letters used to return the contributions to the lobbyists. The checks from the lobbyists included the contributor's lobbyist registration number. The contributions were not returned within 60 days of receipt by the Committee as provided by Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.15, subdivision 3.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on September 15, 2006.

Relevant Statutes

Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1. **Contributions during legislative session.**
(a) A candidate for the legislature or for constitutional office, the candidate's principal campaign committee, or a political committee or party unit established by all or a part of the party organization within a house of the legislature, must not solicit or accept a contribution from a registered lobbyist, political committee, political fund, or dissolving principal campaign committee, or from a party unit established by the party organization within a house of the legislature, during a regular session of the legislature.

Based on the above Summary of the Allegations and Responses and Relevant Statutes, the Board makes the following:

Finding of Probable Cause

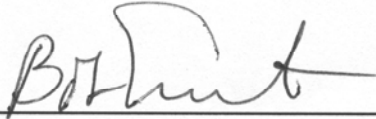
There is evidence that the Linda Slocum Volunteer Committee accepted \$200 in contributions from registered lobbyists during the 2006 regular legislative session. The Board finds probable cause to believe that the Committee inadvertently violated Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273, subdivision 1.

Based on the above Finding Concerning Probable Cause, the Board issues the following:

ORDER

1. The Board imposes a civil fine of \$200, one times the amount of the contributions, on the Linda Slocum Volunteer Committee for inadvertent acceptance of prohibited contributions during the regular 2006 legislative session.
2. The Board directs the Linda Slocum Volunteer Committee to forward to the Board copies of the checks used to return the contributions.
3. The Linda Slocum Volunteer Committee is directed to send to the Board payment of the civil fine and a copy of the checks returning the contribution within thirty days of receipt of this order.
4. If the Linda Slocum Volunteer Committee does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's Executive Director shall refer this matter to the Ramsey County Attorney for civil enforcement pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.273.
5. The Board investigation of this matter is entered into the public record in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.02, subdivision 11, and upon payment by the Linda Slocum Volunteer Committee of the civil fine imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: September 15, 2006



Bob Milbert, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board