

**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 Scott Schulte for Senate Committee**

Summary of the Allegations and Responses

In a letter dated September 14, 2006, Scott Schulte, candidate, notified the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board ("the Board") that the Scott Schulte for Senate Committee accepted a \$300 contribution from the IAFF Local #1935 on March 7, 2006. The IAFF Local #1935 registered with the Board as a political fund on October 25, 1982. 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 political committee or political fund 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.

Responding to an inquiry Mr. Schulte writes, "In my pre-primary report I erroneously reported receiving the check from the Coon Rapids Professional Fire Fighters IAFF Local 1935 PAC...on May 4th 2006. In reality my campaign received the check on March 7th, 2006...I understand fully now that even on March 7th, 2006 we were still in violation of Minnesota Statute #10A.273 in receiving this donation... I would however ask that the record state, that this contribution was sent to us without application or request...There was certainly no malice intended here as we are all very new to State politics."

A copy of the check issued by the IAFF Local 1935 PAC dated March 7, 2006, was provided.

This matter was considered by the Board in executive session on October 17, 2006.

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

Finding Concerning Probable Cause

There is evidence that the Scott Schulte for Senate Committee accepted a \$300 contribution from a political committee 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. For accepting a contribution from the IAFF Local #1935 during the 2006 legislative session the Board orders the Scott Schulte for Senate Committee to pay a civil penalty of \$300, which is one times the amount of the contribution.
2. The Board directs the Scott Schulte for Senate Committee to return \$300 to the IAFF Local #1935 and forward to the Board a copy of the letter and check returning the contribution.
3. The Scott Schulte for Senate Committee is directed to send to the Board payment of the civil penalty and a copy of the check returning the contribution within thirty days of receipt of this order.
4. If the Scott Schulte for Senate 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 Scott Schulte for Senate Committee of the civil fine imposed herein, the matter is concluded.

Dated: October 17, 2006



Bob Milbert, Chair
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

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.