

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of a Complaint by David Parian, Meriden

File No. 2018-044

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The Complainant, David Parian, originally brought this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, alleging that Lois DeMayo (the “Respondent”), chairperson of the *We The People Party of Meriden* (the “WPPM”), violated Connecticut’s campaign finance laws. The following are the Commission’s findings of fact and conclusions of law:

**FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

1. On or about January 30, 2009 Bob R. Williams and Joseph Luca registered the WPPM with the Commission.
2. At all times relevant hereto, the WPPM was a party committee as defined by General Statutes § 9-601 (2).
3. From on or about April 1, 2010 through on or about May 31, 2018, David Parian was the treasurer of the WPPM.
4. At all times relevant hereto, Karen Parian was and is the wife of David Parian.
5. From on or about April 1, 2010 through on or about May 31, 2018, Karen Parian was the deputy treasurer of the WPPM.
6. From on or about August 26, 2016 through the present, Respondent DeMayo was and is the chairperson of the WPPM.

**COUNT I**

7. Complainant alleges that, prior to a fundraiser, Respondent DeMayo requested that the Complainant, as treasurer of the WPPM, provide her with two blank committee checks with the Complainant’s signature on them.

8. The investigation into this matter revealed that on or about April 28 and April 29, 2018, the WPPM had a booth to conduct fundraising activities at Meriden's annual daffodil festival.
9. In response to the instant complaint the Respondent admitted that she had discussed obtaining signed committee checks with the payee filled in, but the amount blank, in order to pay for equipment rental at the daffodil festival with Karen Parian.
10. Whether Respondent DeMayo and Karen Parian reached an agreement for them to provide a blank check is a point of dispute. However, all parties acknowledge that David Parian ultimately refused to provide Respondent DeMayo with the requested signed, blank checks.

11. General Statutes § 9-606 (a) provides, in pertinent part:

The treasurer of each committee shall be responsible for (1) depositing, receiving and reporting all contributions and other funds in the manner specified in section 9-608, (2) making and reporting expenditures, (3) reporting expenses incurred but not yet paid, (4) filing the statements required under section 9-608, and (5) keeping internal records of each entry made on such statements.

12. General Statutes § 9-607 (a) further provides, in pertinent part, that “[n]o financial obligation shall be incurred by a committee unless authorized by the treasurer, except that certain expenditures of a candidate's personal funds may be reimbursed as provided in subsection (k) of this section.”

13. General Statutes § 9-607 (d) further provides:

Except as provided in subsections (j) and (k) of this section, no payment in satisfaction of any financial obligation incurred by a committee shall be made by or accepted from any person other than the treasurer and then only according to the tenor of an authorization issued pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

14. In 2011, the Commission, when considering a case where a candidate personally signed a candidate committee check, concluded that, “[b]y signing checks on behalf of the Committee, Respondent Perkins acted as its *de facto* campaign treasurer. The Commission therefore concludes that Respondent Perkins violated General Statutes §§ 9-606 (d) and 9-607 (d) and (e).” *In the Matter of a Complaint by Leo Canty*, 2012-077.
15. Just as in *Canty*, if the treasurer of the WPPM had provided a blank, signed check to Respondent DeMayo and Respondent DeMayo had then completed the check and used it to pay for items, the Respondent would be acting as a *de facto* treasurer in violation of General Statutes §§ 9-606 (d) and 9-607 (d).

16. Moreover, if the treasurer or deputy treasurer had issued such checks, they too may have been liable for failing to do their duties as treasurer pursuant to General Statutes §9-606 and 9-607.
17. Fortunately, in this case, the Complainant, David Parian, refused to provide Respondent DeMayo with such checks.
18. Accordingly, this count should be dismissed.

## **COUNT II**


1. Complainant alleges that, after a fundraiser, Respondent DeMayo failed to provide the treasurer of the WPPM with the proceeds of a fundraiser in a timely manner.
2. As noted above, on or about April 28 and April 29, 2018, the WPPM had a booth to conduct fundraising activities at Meriden's annual daffodil festival.
3. On or about May 2, 2018, Respondent DeMayo reported receiving a check for proceeds from the daffodil festival fundraiser.
4. On or about May 2, 2018, Respondent DeMayo was advised by festival officials not to deposit the check for proceeds from the daffodil festival fundraiser because the total was inaccurate.
5. On or about May 17, 2018, Respondent DeMayo received a check with the additional funds due and owing.
6. After receipt of the May 17, 2018 letter, the funds were properly deposited into the account of the WPPM.
7. General Statutes § 9-606 (a) (4) requires that "The treasurer of each committee shall deposit contributions in the committee's designated depository not later than twenty days after receiving them."
8. In this case, the delay in delivering funds to the treasurer was the result of accounting issues outside of the control of the Respondent.
9. Accordingly, this count should be dismissed.

ORDER

The following Order is recommended on the basis of the aforementioned findings:

That this matter be dismissed.

Adopted this 7 day of April, 2019 at Hartford, Connecticut.

  
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Anthony J. Castagno, Chairperson  
By Order of the Commission