

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

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND ORDER**

IN THE MATTER OF THE WAZLAWIK (AMI) VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

On October 2, 2016, the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board received a phone call from Ami Wazlawik regarding an advertisement produced for the Wazlawik (Ami) Volunteer Committee. The Wazlawik (Ami) Volunteer Committee is the principal campaign committee of Ami Wazlawik, a candidate for Minnesota House of Representatives district 38B.

Ms. Wazlawik self-reported that her committee did not include the required disclaimer in an advertisement placed in the Women's Press magazine. Ms. Wazlawik reported that she was able to add the required disclaimer to the online edition of the Women's Press, but was unable to add the disclaimer to the printed copies of the Women's Press magazine. On October 3, 2018, Ms. Wazlawik submitted additional information to the Board regarding the failure to include the required disclaimer in her advertisement. On October 12, 2018, Board staff began a staff review.

**Analysis**

Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1, requires candidates to include a disclaimer on campaign material that prominently states "Prepared and paid for by the . . . committee, . . . (address)". Campaign material is defined in Minnesota Statutes section 211B.01, subdivision 2, as "any literature, publication, or material that is disseminated for the purpose of influencing voting at a primary or other election, except for news items or editorial comments by the news media." The copies of the advertisements provided by the Wazlawik committee show that they promoted Ms. Wazlawik's candidacy and were disseminated for the purpose of influencing voting at the upcoming election. The advertisements therefore were campaign material that required a disclaimer.

Ms. Wazlawik states that the Wazlawik committee paid \$455 for the design work and advertisement that was in the Women's Press magazine. Ms. Wazlawik notes that the Women's Press reports that it prints 35,000 copies of each issue of the magazine. Ms. Wazlawik states that she is very sorry about the error, and worked to quickly correct the error for the online version of the magazine. The online circulation for the magazine is estimated to be 45,000.

**Based on the above analysis, the Board makes the following:**

**Findings of Fact**

1. The Wazlawik (Ami) Volunteer Committee prepared an advertisement promoting Ms. Wazlawik's candidacy for the Minnesota House of Representatives and disseminated that advertisement to influence voting at the November election.
2. The advertisement did not include the required disclaimer for campaign material.

3. The advertisement was disseminated in 35,000 print copies of a magazine and in an online magazine that has a circulation estimated to be 45,000.
4. The cost of the design work and advertisement was a total of \$455.
5. The Wazlawik committee added a disclaimer to the online advertisement when the error was identified, but the print version of the advertisement was circulated without the required disclaimer.
6. The Wazlawik committee self-reported the issue to the Board.

**Based on the analysis and the findings of fact, the Board makes the following:**

#### **Conclusions of Law**

1. The advertisement prepared by the Wazlawik (Ami) Volunteer Committee was campaign material under Minnesota Statutes section 211B.01, subdivision 2.
2. The Wazlawik (Ami) Volunteer Committee violated Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04, subdivision 1, when it prepared campaign material without the required disclaimer for publication in the Women's Press magazine.

**Based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board issues the following:**

#### **Order**

1. A civil penalty in the amount of \$200 is assessed against the Wazlawik (Ami) Volunteer Committee for violating the disclaimer requirement in Minnesota Statutes section 211B.04.
2. The Wazlawik (Ami) Volunteer Committee is directed to forward to the Board payment of the civil penalty, by check or money order payable to the State of Minnesota, within 30 days of receipt of this order.
3. If the Wazlawik (Ami) Volunteer Committee does not comply with the provisions of this order, the Board's executive director may request that the attorney general bring an action on behalf of the Board for the remedies available under Minnesota Statutes section 10A.34.
4. The Board investigation of this matter is concluded and hereby made a part of the public records of the Board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 10A.022, subdivision 5.

/s/ Carolyn Flynn  
Carolyn Flynn, Chair  
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Date: November 7, 2018