

LPWI Excom Meeting Minutes

Sunday January 25th, 2009, Monk's Bar and Grill (at the
Wilderness)

45 Hillman Rd., Wisconsin Dells, WI

Meeting called to order at approximately 12:10 PM by Chair Jim Maas

Roll Call: Excom members attendees

Jim Maas – Party Chairman

John Gatewood – Party Secretary

John Biebsheimer – At-Large representative number 1

Terry Gray – At-Large representative number 2

Jim Sewell - 1st District Representative (Primary)

Brad Sponholz - 1st District Representative (Alternate)

Ben Olson – 3rd District Representative (Primary)

Mike McKenna – 4th District Representative (Primary)

Tim Peterson – 5th District Representative (Primary)

Ralph Klingsporn – 8th District Representative (Primary)

Alan Basche – 8th District Representative (Alternate)

NonExcom members attendees:

Julie Fox, LNC Representative

Don Carlson, LPWI member from District 1

Todd Kopecki, Liberty Action for LPWI

Mrs. Mike McKenna, with District 4 Representative

Excom Positions Absent:

Ed Thompson - Party Vice Chairman

Markus Rostig – Party Treasurer

Ben Masel -2nd District Representative

Andy Sutton - 7th District Representative

Excom Positions Vacant:

6th District Representation

A quorum consists of 7 voting members, 9 voting members were present

Reading of Minutes from September 21st meeting:

The meeting minutes were read by the Secretary. Two minor corrections were

noted (a typo on Chair's last name, and a change from 'forced to resign' to 'asked to resign' in last sentence of LNC report).

Based on a motion passed from that meeting, there was to have been a press release on the LPWI position on Kevin Barrett. Tim asked if that had occurred, and the Chair indicated that it had not.

Motion: Accept the September 21st meeting minutes as corrected by Secretary

By: Brad S.

Second: John B.

Result: Carried

Officer Reports:

Secretary Report

A brief report on current membership was given by the Secretary, reporting that the current total is 167 members, a decrease of 51 from September last year. There are 34 active pledgers, an increase of 1 since September so the decrease is due to lack of annual renewals. Since renewals go out in December, as Julie pointed out it is difficult to compare January numbers with numbers from past years that came later in the year. Jim Maas asked if we need to send another dues reminder. Todd indicated OK for now, maybe another reminder just prior to State convention. Affiliate activity was then reported by the Secretary. Milwaukee Metro Chair was contacted by phone. She was dismissive and insulting to Libertarians and full of praise for our new President. She is difficult to contact, and there has been no affiliate activity for more than a year. Brad S. will start affiliate activity and contact current Chair (Shelly Lemar) and assure OK with her. Joe Marx from Green County was not reached, but he had reported in September that he is gathering a group together, and hoped for an initial meeting in late October or early November. George Meyers of the Racine area affiliate is focused on getting candidates on the ballot. He is currently working on the Racine Mayoral race with candidate Jody Harding and is acquiring a voter list from the last city election and hopes to contact most of these voters (~7000). He is campaign manager, Jim S. is Treasurer. This group meets monthly. Paul Ehlers is Chair of the Rhinelander affiliate which is just getting organized. Initial meeting on 12/6 with one other person (Will Losch) who wants to run for State Assembly. Randy Palmer heads the Chippewa Valley (LPCV) group and reports that most activity is through the Ron Paul group, 'Campaign for Liberty' (the blog site is libertywisconsin.com). Randy wants to build coalitions, less emphasis on partisan races. Terry Gray reported that no real Dane County affiliate activity has occurred for years, but he hopes to change that. He is the Secretary, no Chair or Vice Chair. Treasurer (Jason Walker) has been difficult to reach. Julie suggested building coalitions as a start to reform this affiliate. Tim reported on Waukesha affiliate, indicating he has been working on many fronts. He is on board of

directors of the Independent Business Association (IBA) and Wisconsin Forum, fighting the proposed commuter rail project from Kenosha to Milwaukee, working with Milwaukee Metro Association for Commerce (MMAC) and Americans for Prosperity. He met with County executive Scott Walker who is opposed to the commuter rail project. He is working with IBA to fight the proposed Health care tax and paid sick leave. He recommends reaching out to John Birch Society, 90% same as Libertarians. Tim is working with State Superintendent of Schools, Rose Fernandez, and Americans for Prosperity to keep QED (limits on teacher pay raises).

Note: Full Affiliate report is in Files/Affiliates folder in our ExCom group.

There was a brief discussion of candidates for Treasurer. Tim Krenz indicated he would like to see 2 people do it, he doesn't feel comfortable with reporting requirements.

Convention Planning Report

Todd has to leave soon, so this item moved up. Todd reports that speakers have been lined up, including the LP 2004 President/Vice President LP ticket (M. Badnarik and R. Campagna). A handful of current candidates will speak as well. A school for running campaigns will be introduced. Deborah Hunt working on 3 more speakers, wants one from the Independent Institute. Todd wants advanced sales (\$35 each) to get funds to promote the convention. Markus to update LPWI site to include convention registration and payment. Business meetings to run from 9AM to 12:30PM, then lunch and finally speakers until 5PM

Treasurer Report

The Secretary read the Treasurer's preliminary report on LPWI finances for the full 2008 year. Pledges have increased from \$556/month in January to \$877/month in June, back to \$596/month in December 2008. Cash is currently at \$4176, other assets at \$746 and liabilities at \$2936. Year end we are at a \$4497 loss, with the State Fair, Liberty Action fundraising, printing and Ballot Access initiative the major expenses. Total income was \$18,330 and Expenses were \$22,827. The 2009 State Fair and other endeavors are at risk since we ran with a loss this past year. State Fair may be impacted. Todd indicated minimum needed for booth is \$2500, and this is due by June 15th. Tim and Julie suggested an annual budget so we know in advance what funds are needed for various activities.

Motion: Accept the Treasurer's report as read

By: John B.

Second: John G.

Result: Carried

Tim asked Jim Maas to email Markus thanking him for a great Treasurer's report.

Jim will do.

Chairman Report

Chairman Jim Maas gave his report. He asked about past chairs not being involved and stated that going forward we need more support of the Chair and others from everyone. Jim stated we need more discussion on line on poll issues rather than just voting when a poll is active.. Needs before the state convention include a nominating committee for officers, and handling of discussion lists. Todd Welch has said he will help with the LPWI list. Jim then passed around a thank you card from Stu's family for the flowers at the funeral. He then said a few words about Stu's accomplishments

Motion: Accept the Chairman report

By: Tim P.

Second: Alan B..

Result: Carried

Committee Reports

The Judicial committee (Ben Masel, Tim Peterson and Julie Fox) reported via Tim on what the committee does and what is proposed for change in the Constitution and By-laws. Tim agreed to be the Chair and Julie indicated she will stay on. Ben M. did not attend and may no longer be available, so this committee is effectively 2 people. There was a discussion of the current wording of Affiliate parties dues in the By-laws. Secretary pointed out that the current wording does cover what we do now, but the percentage of monies distributed to affiliates is zero.

The Platform committee (Keith Deschler, Joe Kexler) had no members present and had no report.

A new committee should be appointed at the first meeting of the newly elected Excom (this applies to Judicial as well).

Fund Raising

Fund raising history was discussed. It was very bleak this past year (Tim P.), Packer raffle was a good effort but not done the past few years. Jim Maas suggested we need more ideas, suggested possible professional fund raising help. Julie suggested something with a prize, like a pool tournament at Ed's Tee Pee restaurant. Jim Maas said we will defer for now, needs more input and discussion.

Internet Presence

John B. was to assist Andy to moderate the LPWI discussion list (Markus moderates the ExCom list) but he hasn't been able to contact him. Brad S. indicated that there are about 48 people on the LPWI Facebook and My Space. Brad started a Milwaukee county version, about 25 members so far. Brad will accept names of people to add to LPWI version if provided.

Paul Ehlers and Will Losch from Rhinelander came into the meeting and Will spoke about running for office. This info is in the Affiliates report and in the Secretary report of this meeting.

.LNC Report

Julie reported on the LNC meeting held in December in San Diego. She indicated this is highlights only, a lot of activity occurred at this meeting.. The search for a new Executive director is on hold (no money) and the Political Director, Sean Haugh, was let go. There were discussions of Barr campaign problems and what went wrong. He seemed to run his campaign the old-fashioned (Republican?) way, in that he just did what his campaign manager said to do. A resolution from David Nolan, really a list of grievances, was discussed and then voted down.

An At-large LNC member resigned per request of her boss, she is now working for antiwar.com. She had been guilty of a standards violation and had been asked to resign earlier, and finally did.. LNC is looking for her replacement. The FEC imposes limits on bequests which LP is fighting. Problem in Washington state is there are no LP attorneys.

The site for the 2010 LP convention is St. Louis, to be held over Memorial day weekend.

Next LNC meeting:will be at State Chairs conference Feb 28 – March 1 in Charleston, SC.

Julie announced she is running for State Controller in Illinois!! Yea, Julie!! Tim P. then thanked Julie for the LNC report.

Discussion of Affiliate Autonomy

This is John B.s issue, but he had to leave early. Secretary paraphrased John's concerns and a need to get more info from affiliates, such as frequency of meetings and number of members along with activities, such as running candidates. Then the ExCom can make decisions regarding the affiliates and possibly revoke status if warranted. Secretary stated that Affiliates need to remain autonomous as stated in LPWI Constitution since affiliates are independent groups promoting Libertarianism the best way they can, which often does not include regular meetings. Tim P. suggested we have a database of affiliate activities we favor, and use a carrot vs. stick approach. Julie indicated

LNC may have info to help struggling affiliates get organized and she suggested a workshop approach.

Discussion of Nomination of Officers for next ExCom

Jim Maas is not sure if he will run again – he wants to delegate, but difficult getting people to respond. Tim then asked if Secretary is stepping down. Secretary stated that he would like to if someone else will do the job, but will do one more 2 year term if needed. Tim suggested each officer who may want to step down find a replacement before the convention. Tim will spearhead this effort. We are hoping Markus will help the new Treasurer with transition issues, such as filing reports.

Discussion of LPWI presence at 2009 State Fair

Can we do the State Fair given our financial condition? We need to budget it. Jim Maas suggested we may need a finance committee, but deal with this after the State convention. Ben Olson suggested doing a fund raiser just for the Fair costs. Secretary suggested looking at expected income by booth cost due date (June 15th) to see if we can afford it. Ralph K. said if we do a fund raiser for the Fair, then we must do the booth at the Fair.

Motion: Have an LPWI booth at the 2009 State Fair

By: Ralph Klingsporn

Second: Terry Gray

Result: Carried

Next Excom Meeting:

The next Excom meeting to be held at this site (Monk's Bar and Grill, 45 Hillman rd., Wisconsin Dells), in the basement area with the State Convention. 9AM start time on April 18th, followed by general membership business meeting.

Meeting Adjourned:

At approximately 4:10 PM, the following motion was made

Motion: This Excom meeting is adjourned

By: Terry Gray

Second: Tim Peterson

Result: Carried