

# LPWI Excom Meeting Minutes

Wilderness)

Saturday April 18th, 2009, Monk's Bar and Grill (at the

45 Hillman Rd., Wisconsin Dells, WI

**Meeting called to order** at approximately 9AM by Chair Jim Maas

**Roll Call:** Excom members attendees

Jim Maas – Party Chairman

John Gatewood – Party Secretary

Terry Gray – At-Large representative number 2

Brad Sponholz - 1st District Representative (Alternate)

Ben Olson – 3rd District Representative (Primary)

Randy Palmer – 3rd District Representative (Alternate)

Tim Peterson – 5th District Representative (Primary)

Tim Krenz - 7th District Representative (Alternate)

Ralph Klingsporn – 8th District Representative (Primary)

NonExcom members attendees:

General membership attended as this was the first part of the LPWI annual convention

Excom Positions Absent:

Ed Thompson - Party Vice Chairman

Markus Rostig – Party Treasurer

John Biebsheimer – At-Large representative number 1

Ben Masel -2nd District Representative

Mike McKenna – 4th District Representative (Primary)

Excom Positions Vacant:

6th District Representation

A quorum consists of 7 voting members, 8 voting members were present

**Discussed current state of Liberty Action**

Todd K. is not answering the LPWI phone and seems upset at most of the

ExCom.

Tim P. said Todd good at making contacts, but has difficulty communicating with the ExCom. Recommends letting relationship slide for one quarter. Secretary (John G) said we may need to address situation sooner, need to evaluate current telemarketing contract to see how to end it. Chair (Jim M) wants secretary to contact Markus to see what is needed to terminate the contract. Tim Nerenz stepped forward and said he knows of Todd calling candidates and asking them to avoid convention. Tim P then agreed that things have probably gone too far to repair, we should end the relationship as soon as possible. He also stated that Todd will get carry over commissions even though contract ended. Tim P suggested he and I will talk to Markus about the best way to end the contract.

Since no one is now answering the phone, Paul Ehlers suggested the ExCom do it, rotating the call among different area representatives each month. Possibly get a cell phone we can hand off at ExCom meetings.

There was concern expressed that the State Fair financing may have already begun. Markus had provided a budget for the year, and there was no indication of any monies spent thus far. Tim P called Markus and asked about that and verified no commitment yet to do the fair.

### **Discussed general state of LPWI**

Tim P. said the party is in trouble, that we need to find a way to grow membership, especially with Todd no longer bringing in contacts and members. Tim Krenz agreed with Tim P, said we need to have less bureaucracy and be run more like a business board. He is concerned that membership could drastically sink if we do not do something.

### **Agenda for General Business meeting which follows**

Jim M. outlined what he sees as the agenda for the general membership meeting:

Officer Reports  
LNC Report  
Affiliates Report

Election of Officers for next ExCom  
District Caucuses to elect area Representatives

Committee Reports – Judicial and Platform

Vote on proposed changes to Constitution and By-laws

### **Discussion of new Milwaukee area Affiliate**

Brad S. spoke regarding his effort to reform the Milwaukee area affiliate. He has established a state wide face-book for the new group, has about 40 members, 15 members attended the initial meeting. He also has a volunteer coordinator to help with fund raising and other activities. He has submitted a petition to the LPWI to accept this new affiliate.

**Motion:** Accept the new LPMC (Libertarian Party of Milwaukee County) Affiliate party per Brad's petition, and dissolve the previous Milwaukee Metro Affiliate

**By:** John G

**Second:** Tim K.

**Result:** Carried

### **Discussion of Affiliate parties and State Fair**

Jim M. asked about affiliate parties, what accountability to LPWI is needed. He also asked about section 3, Article I of By-laws which describes disbursing a percentage of LPWI member's dues to each affiliate party and asked if this needs changing. Secretary pointed out that we are in compliance now with this section, with the percentage established at zero (no dues are currently returned to affiliates).

Tim P. stated that this will be the first year in a long time without a State Fair presence unless someone steps forward to do this.

### **Adjournment**

Jim M. adjourned this informal ExCom meeting at approximately 10AM

## **General membership Meeting Minutes**

**(The first part of this is ExCom meeting business since this was omitted from ExCom meeting)**

### **Reading of Minutes from September 21st meeting:**

The meeting minutes were not read by the Secretary. ExCom members had been asked to review the minutes for corrections or additions. The Secretary asked if

there were any changes, and there were none.

**Motion:** Accept the September 21st meeting minutes as is from Secretary

**By:** Tim P.

**Second:** Ben O.

**Result:** Carried

## **Officer Reports:**

### **Secretary Report**

The secretary went over highlights of all 2008 ExCom meetings minutes since this was for the entire membership. Tim P. pointed out that we also changed how we do the newsletter with Todd K. now producing it. He then asked about comments on quality, and Julie said it was OK and then asked about exact purpose of a newsletter. (I don't have any notes on responses, but I believe there were some).

A brief report on current membership was given by the Secretary, reporting that the current total is 206 members, a decrease of 12 from September last year. There are 30 active pledgers, a decrease of 3 since September with corresponding decrease of 9 regular memberships during the same period. It is difficult to compare April numbers with numbers from last year since the totals change throughout any one year, typically growing as the year proceeds since all expire in December each year.

**Motion:** Accept the Secretary report

**By:** Tim P.

**Second:** Ben O.

**Result:** Carried

### **Treasurer Report**

There is no Treasurer's report on the first quarter of 2009, but Markus did submit a proposed budget for the year. The Secretary summarized the Treasurer's budget, and Tim P. expanded on that. Approximately \$650 a month for telemarketing contract, and about \$1000 per month on average for donations and dues income. We need to maintain levels of sales, budget has us about breaking even. Conservative numbers, probably less sales and less expenses overall.

### **General Discussion**

Tim P. recommends we adopt Paul E.'s plan for answering the phone (rotate among various members).

Paul E. asked about identifying ourselves as LPWI members when writing to an editor. Jim M. suggests we do if an ExCom member. Tim P. suggests it depends on our view being personal or a view shared by the LPWI.

### **Convention Report**

Deborah Hunt and Kevin K. report that there are 36 paid attendees at the convention.

### **Chairman Report**

Chairman Jim Maas gave his report. He said it has been a rough year, and for an election year not as much activity in new memberships as expected. Three different chairs during the past 2 years has been difficult. Timing of fund raising was too late to assist candidates in their campaigns. Tim P. suggests professional fundraising, Jim M. agreed. Ben O. suggests getting a finance committee together now. Jim M. tabled this to be covered under new business later in the meeting. Jim stated he has done press releases and several letters to the editor, has been interviewed on WPR (Joy Cardin) and a Wausau radio station. He attended a Wisconsin Politics luncheon with Stu Seffern, and encourages more people to write letters and attend meetings to express Libertarian views.

### **Report on State Chairs meeting**

Brad S. attended the State Chairmen meeting and reported on it. Alicia Madson could help us with our DB issues, and her name has been given to Jim Sewell who maintains our DB. Julie stated that Illinois has the same DB problems we do, LP national may be able to help us both.

### **.LNC Report**

Julie reported on the LNC meeting held in Charleston over the weekend of 2/28 – 3/1 of this year.. She indicated this is highlights only, a lot of activity occurred at this meeting.. Wisconsin is part of Region 6 and there are 7 total regions in the US. Finances of LP doing OK despite economy, although ballot access was very expensive and left a deficit which we need to address. IL had a huge ballot access cost, while WI was OK, She encouraged WI to help other states such as IL.

There is a new Council position (Hall stepped down). There are ballot access problems, including \$15,000 spent in WA and Virginia also had a huge expense there. Mary Ruwart is helping to increase membership and has ideas on how states can do that.

The 2010 LP convention will be in St. Louis over Memorial day weekend. The next State Chairs conference will be in Austin TX in Jan or Feb 2010.

Julie is running for State Controller in Illinois and would like help from us getting signatures – 25 thousand are needed. This will occur in 2010 starting in 3rd week in March and run through 3rd week in June.

Tim P. questioned the nature of ballot access, very expensive and does not work. Julie countered that this is the only choice since we need signatures to get on the ballot.

### **Proposed By-law and Constitution changes**

Tim P., chairman of the Judicial committee, presented the proposed changes which had been previously approved by the committee to the general membership. A copy of these changes were handed out to all members in advance. A vote was then taken on all proposed changes, and they were unanimously approved. They will be effective at the close of this convention.

**Motion:** Accept the proposed changes to the By-laws and Constitution as written and proposed by the Judicial Committee.

**By:** Ben O..

**Second:** Paul E.

**Result:** Carried (Unanimous)

### **Committee Reports**

The Judicial committee (Tim Peterson and Julie Fox) reported by conducting the presentation of proposed changes to the By-laws and Constitution which it had previously approved.

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

### **Election of Officers and district Representatives**

.

**Motion:** Nominate Jim Maas for LPWI Chairman

**By:** John Gatewood

**Second:** Julie Fox

**Motion:** Nominate Ben Olsen for LPWI Chairman

**By:** Terry Gray

**Second:** Paul Ehlers

Tim P. recommended we form a slate of all candidates and pass that rather than vote on individual candidates.

**Motion:** Form a slate of all candidates and pass that rather than vote on individual candidates.

**By:** Tim P.

**Second:** Terry Gray

**Result:** Carried

Nominations for the slate then continued.

**Motion:** Nominate Brad Sponholz for LPWI Vice Chairman

**By:** Terry Gray

**Second:** Paul Ehlers

**Motion:** Nominate Jim Maas for LPWI Vice Chairman

**By:** Tim P.

**Second:** Julie Fox

**Motion:** Nominate John Gatewood for LPWI Secretary

**By:** Randy P.

**Second:** Tim K.

**Motion:** Nominate Tim Krenz for LPWI Treasurer

**By:** Paul E.

**Second:** Randy P.

**Motion:** Nominate Terry Gray for LPWI At-large Representative (1)

**By:** John G..

**Second:** Ben O.

**Motion:** Nominate Paul Ehlers for LPWI At-large Representative (2)

**By:** John G..

**Second:** Ben O.

Since there is more than one candidate for Chair and Vice Chair, Tim P. suggests they (Jim M, Brad S and Ben O.) caucus and recommend candidates for the slate.

**Motion:** Jim M, Brad S and Ben O. to caucus and recommend Chair and Vice Chair candidates for the slate.

**By:** Tim P.

**Second:** Holly Olsen

**Result:** Carried

During the caucus for the slate, the districts will caucus as well and elect the district Reps and Alternates.

Results of the caucus created the slate of candidates as follows:

**Chairman:** Ben Olsen  
**Vice Chairman:** Jim Maas  
**Treasurer:** Tim Krenz  
**Secretary:** John Gatewood  
**At-large (1):** Terry Gray  
**At-large (2):** Paul Ehlers

**Motion:** Accept the slate formed above of candidates for officers and At-large Representatives.

**By:** John Gatewood

**Second:** Terry Gray

**Result:** Carried

The caucus among the districts produced the following Area Primary Reps and Alternates:

**District 1:** Brad Sponholz (P)

**District 1:** Jim Sewell (A)

**District 2:** Tim Nerenz (P)

**District 2:** Tim Szczykutowicz (A)

**District 3:** Todd Welch (P)

**District 3:** Randy Palmer (A)

**District 4:** NONE

**District 5:** Tim Peterson (P)

**District 5:** Toni Cattani (A)

**District 6:** NONE

**District 7:** Al Arnold (P) (Resigned on 4/20 in letter to Jim Maas)

**District 7:** Will Losch (A)

**District 8:** Ralph Klingsporn (P)

**District 8:** Alan Basche (A)

#### **Next Excom Meeting:**

This was not discussed at this meeting, this will be decided via emails in the group list.

#### **Meeting Adjourned:**

At approximately 12:35 PM, the general membership meeting was adjourned and Lunch was served.

**Motion:** Adjourn the general membership meeting.

**By:** Jim Maas

**Second:** Terry Gray



**Result:** Carried