

LPWI Excom Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 26th, 2009, Shooter's Banquet and Recreation,
5330 Harding Ave., Plover, WI

Meeting called to order at approximately 12:15 PM by Chair Ben Olson

Roll Call: Excom members attendees

Ben Olson – Party Chairman

Jim Maas – Party Vice Chairman

John Gatewood – Party Secretary

Tim Krenz – Party Treasurer

Paul Ehlers– At-Large representative number 2

Terry Gray – At-Large representative number 1

Brad Sponholz - 1st District Representative (Primary)

Tim Nerenz - 2nd District Representative (Primary)

Todd Welch - 3rd District Representative (Primary)

Tim Peterson – 5th District Representative (Primary)

Will Losch - 7th District Representative (Alternate)

NonExcom members attendees:

Julie Fox, LNC Representative

Lynn Buss

Diane Rozek

Excom Positions Absent:

Ralph Klingsporn and Alan Basche - 8th District Representation, Primary and Alternate respectively

Mike McKenna – 4th District Representative (Primary; there is no Alternate)

Excom Positions Vacant:

6th District Representation

A quorum consists of 7 voting members, 11 voting members were present

First order of business after roll call was District 7 Representation:

Motion: Make the current District 7 Alternate, Will Losch, the District 7 Primary Representative.

By: Paul Ehlers.

Second: Tim P.

Result: Carried

Officer Reports:

Secretary Report

The meeting minutes were read by the Secretary. No corrections were noted (was a typo on name of an LNC member, secretary will correct that).

Motion: Accept the January 26th meeting minutes as read by Secretary

By: Tim P.

Second: Brad S.

Result: Carried

A brief report on current membership was given by the Secretary, reporting that the current total is 211 members, a decrease of 7 from September last year. There are 29 active pledgers, a decrease of 1 since last December. Tim Krenz indicated that the pledger numbers may go down a little more yet.

An Affiliate report was given by the Secretary and the ExCom members who are chairs of affiliates. The Secretary first verified information on current affiliate chairs, then reported that the 3 chairs he attempted to contact for a report did not respond (SE Wisconsin, Chippawa Valley and Green County affiliates. Since then, Joe Marx did call and give a brief Green County report). The rest of the report was from the various chairs of the affiliates in attendance:

Metro Milwaukee, Brad Sponholz reported that he and his affiliate helped an individual in an eminent domain dispute with the city of Milwaukee. Also helping someone run for city council in Milwaukee.

Dane County, Terry Gray (Dane County Chair, Tim S. was not present) reported that the LPDC picnic was held yesterday (Saturday, 7/25). Also, currently no Treasurer. Getting to the square in Madison for outreach and to Ale Asylum for a social hour occasionally. Getting about one new member each week.

Waukesha County, Tim Peterson reported on several fronts: He is active in the Independent Businessmen Association, he recommends Wisconsin Forum which hosts speakers and has a dinner in downtown Milwaukee – expects great speakers this year. He attended Campaign for Liberty hosted by Ron Paul (great speech). An organization called Freedom Fest has great speakers. Tim is hosting a party at his house in Oconomowoc on Saturday, 9/5, everyone is welcome. Tim is helping the Tim Nerenz campaign and encourages others to help as well. Tim has written letters to the editor based on John Birch Society mailings he has received.. Tim is active on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Chippewa Valley, Todd Welch reported that he attended the Eau Claire Tea Party on July 4th, about 500 people were there and Ken Van Doren spoke. One new member was acquired at this event There is a monthly meeting, about 10 people attend. Todd is State Interim Director or the Campaign for Liberty (Ron Paul). Monthly meeting has lapsed recently, Todd is helping in the Tim N. campaign also.

St. Croix Valley, Tim Krenz reports that this group has not met yet, hopefully will soon.

Rhineland area, Paul Ehlers reported that this group is close to actually meeting, do breakfasts on Sat AM sometimes at Bailey's Bar. Paul helped a candidate, John B. of Lincoln City Board, run for Senate. Occasional letters to the editor, he would like to see new members tracked. Will Losch has been very helpful in this affiliate.

Motion: Accept the Secretary Report

By: Tim K.

Second: Tim P.

Result: Carried

Treasurer Report

Tim Krenz gave the Treasurer's report on LPWI finances for the 2nd quarter of 2009 . We lost \$2294.83, with revenues of \$1959.51 and expenses of \$4254.34. Tim noted it is good we are not doing the State Fair this year. He also noted that the report needs amending since it is \$11 off somewhere. Tim would like to transition out of the Treasurer's position once he has found the source of the \$11 error. Tim's business is demanding too much of his time. Diane Rozek volunteered to be the next Treasurer. Julie pointed out that as long as the report is filed on time, which it has been, it is OK to amend the report later.

Motion: Accept the Treasurer's report as read

By: Paul E.

Second: Terry G.

Result: Carried

Chairman Report

Chairman Ben Olsen gave his report. He indicated that the first 3 months have been interesting, and that he has discovered he has enough time to do the job. He feels that people are beginning to see that less government is the answer to our problems. Ben has traveled the state, visiting various libertarians. He also attended Madison and Milwaukee affiliate meetings, talked with former Chairs, attended hearings in Madison and marched with Marijuana protest group in Madison. Ben is a dues paying member of various libertarian groups and is encouraging different groups talking and reaching common ground. First few weeks spent resolving disputes. He is available by phone and encourages us to call him. He is disappointed at how little contact info for us is out there for members to access. Would like email and/or phone info in LPWI newsletter so members can easily contact us. Ben has also sent either regular mail or email to new people who have showed interest in LPWI. Ben would like all of the general membership to meet and get to know one other. He has written letters to Editors and congressional reps., and would like to find a lawyer to help Brad in his Milwaukee eminent domain case. Would also like to get a full slate of Libertarian candidates for Fall elections. There were 30,000 people at Midwest Renewable Energy Group, Ben would like us to participate next year. He appreciates the efforts of Jim Maas and Tim Krenz. For future efforts, he would like to see more communicating among members – each district rep. should get out and meet members in district, and encourage members to meet each other. Networking is important if we are to succeed in Fall elections. Ben would like fill the 2 existing committees (Judicial and Platform), plus two new ones: Business and Campaign, both primarily from outside the ExCom. Business committee will fund raise, campaign committee will encourage candidates and help with questions and issues relating to campaigns. Ben wants resumes for members of 2 new committees. He wants to review the 800 phone # answering situation, and how to process new members better (Business committee). Ben wants discussion of DB issues; Todd Welch has a program he got from Alicia Matson of national LP. Paul Ehlers teaches DB stuff, he can hopefully help.

Motion: Accept the Chairman report

By: Tim P.

Second: Tim K.

Result: Carried

Committee Reports

The Judicial committee (Tim Peterson and Julie Fox) reported no new activity.

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

.LNC Report

Julie reported on the LNC meeting held in St. Louis the weekend of July 18, 19. She indicated there will be a written report soon, this is highlights only.

The LNC Chairman had lunch with George Will who now wants to get LP info. Bob S., LP Secretary, spoke on 2010 LP Convention planning. Wes Benedict, new LP Director, spoke – his goals are fund raising and membership recruiting. Jim Lark will work with Students for Liberty. Adrian Peterson leaving 8/14 to join CATO Institute. There are 5 new credentialed LNC members. Planning for 2012 presidential convention has begun. Finally, Bill Redpath gave report on ballot access – OK and WV are the worst states for access.

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

Julie announced she will not run for LNC committee again, so if anyone is interested there is an opening. Alternate representative is a good place to start.

Motion: Accept the LNC committee report

By: Tim P.

Second: Paul E.

Result: Carried

Old Business

Discussion of Answering 800 number

Should be going to Ben's cell phone, but he hasn't been getting calls. Tim P. called the number and got 5 options. Option 3 is membership, should go to Todd K. Tim P. suggests that it is OK if Todd K. continues taking membership calls, Ben agreed. Tim K. tested calling the 800 # with it switched to Todd W.'s cell and it came through OK. Not sure why Ben is not getting calls. Paul E. suggested getting a marketing organization to answer phone. Ben tabled further action to the about to be formed new Business committee.

New Business

New Judicial Committee

After a brief discussion, following motion made:

Motion: Form new Judicial committee consisting of Tim Nerenz, Tim Peterson and Julie Fox. Chair to be determined by committee.

By: John Gatewood
Second: Terry Gray
Result: Carried

New Platform Committee

Paul Ehlers has expressed interest in this committee.

Motion: Form new Platform committee consisting of Paul Ehlers as Chairman.
Paul will recruit other members.

By: Terry Gray
Second: Todd Welch
Result: Carried

Secretary provided contact info to Paul of past committee members. There will be online votes for new proposed members.

Need for New Committees

Ben asked how should the new campaign committee work. He offered 2 recommendations – needs to be helpful to candidates running a campaign, and provide a schedule of forms due when running for office. Don Carlson (who was not present) would be a good member of campaign committee. Terry suggested the committee be proactive and search out candidates. Tim N. stated that he has done what is needed, help get campaigns started, submit signatures, inform about due dates of materials. Julie stated that national LP can be helpful, experienced petitioners and info on website on campaigning. Tim N. volunteered to be on the Business committee.

Motion: Form new Business committee consisting of Tim Nerenz as Chairman.
Tim will recruit other members.

By: Paul E.
Second: Terry G.
Result: Carried

Brad S. and Todd W. volunteered for new Campaign committee.

Motion: Form new Campaign committee consisting of Brad Sponholz and Todd Welch as initial members. They will recruit others for the committee.

By: Terry G.
Second: Paul E..
Result: Carried

Overview of 'Theme Marketing'

Tim Krenz gave the ExCom an overview of “theme marketing” (his business does this). A really nice presentation.

We need to show things to people, not just tell them. People need to discover for themselves what we want them to know.

Summary: Run LPWI like a business, then people will come to us, not vice-versa.

Approach to new contacts / prospective members

It was suggested that we have a welcome pack, as determined by Business committee. Tim Krenz is good candidate for that committee. Todd W. described what he would like to see – new people greeted with a common approach. Julie suggested that affiliates do the same, send a packet out and follow up with phone call.

Data Dump

Todd and Paul will work on data dump issue (relates to earlier discussion)

Read the Bills act proposed by dowsizedc.org

Brad would like to see us endorse the 'Read the Bills' act as proposed by Downsizedc.org. Discussion ensued. Diane Rozek does not like it since the bill is unenforcable. Will Losch pointed out that we have not read the proposed bill ourselves, so shouldn't endorse it yet.

Motion: Have an on-line vote on endorsing the Read the Bills act after we have had a chance to read it ourselves.

By: Tim P.

Second: Terry G.

Result: Carried

Endorsing non-Libertarian candidates for office

Todd would like us to support someone such as Rick Rickardt, who comes to our ExCom meeting asking for support. Paul disagrees with this, individuals can endorse or help, but the LPWI should only support LPWI candidates. Tim N. suggests case-by-case basis, don't run a Libertarian candidate if another party's candidate is very libertarian. No motion made on this issue.

Miscellaneous

Tim N. asked about an LPWI affiliate at UW-Madison, how to handle? Julie suggested that a faculty advisor would be assigned, and we could interface through him/her.

Convention planning for next year – Tim K suggested a permanent convention committee. Julie said that doing conventions is difficult, need a break and can't do every year. Hopefully Deborah Hunt will be interested in doing it again next year, we should contact her. Ben suggests Oconomowoc for location, but Tim N is running for U.S. Congress, so may be better somewhere in his district (2nd).

Diane R. described her experience running for office in Florida. She expected about 2000 votes, got 85,000

Next Excom Meeting:

The next Excom meeting to be held at this site (Shooter's Banquet and Recreation, 5330 Harding Ave., Plover, WI), at twelve noon on Saturday, October 24th, 2009.

Meeting Adjourned:

At approximately 4:30 PM, the following motion was made

Motion: This Excom meeting is adjourned

By: Terry Gray

Second: Paul Ehlers

Result: Carried