

LPWI Excom Meeting Minutes

Sunday September 21st, 2008, Tee Pee Supper Club
825 Superior Ave., Tomah, WI
And Web Meeting dial-in

Meeting called to order at approximately 1:15 PM

Roll Call: Excom members attendees

Jim Maas – Party Chairman
Ed Thompson - Party Vice Chairman
Markus Rostig – Party Treasurer
John Gatewood – Party Secretary
John Biebsheimer – At-Large representative number 1
Jim Sewell - 1st District Representative (Primary)
Stu Seffern – 2nd District Representative (Primary)
Randy Palmer – 3rd District Representative (Primary)
Ken Van Doren – 3rd District Representative (Alternate)
Tim Peterson – 5th District Representative (Primary)
Andy Sutton – 7th District Representative (Primary)
Alan Basche – 8th District Representative (Alternate)

NonExcom members attendees:

Julie Fox, LNC Representative
Ben Olson, recent candidate for US Congress from District 3
Brad Sponholz, candidate for Assembly
Rolf Lindgren
Kevin Barrett, candidate for US Congress, district 3
Pamela Owens
Bob Reuschlein, representing “The Midwest and the Military Budget”
Jo Ann Oravec, representing “The Midwest and the Military Budget”

Excom Positions Absent:

4th District Representative - Mike McKenna
At-Large representative number 2 - Kevin Schultz

Excom Positions Vacant:

6th District Representation

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

Approval of Minutes from July 15th meeting:

Since everyone had read the minutes before the meeting began, the minutes were ready for approval without being read by the Secretary. The Secretary pointed out one minor correction (a first name was incorrect).

Motion: Accept the July 15th meeting minutes as corrected by Secretary

By: Tim Peterson

Second: John B.

Result: Carried

Officer Reports:

Treasurer Report

The Secretary read verbatim the Treasurer's preliminary report on LPWI finances for first 8 months of the year. Pledges have increased from \$556/month in January to \$700/month in August with a peak in June of \$921/month. Cash is currently at \$1667, liabilities at \$1300 with July and August invoices from Liberty action not yet received, so the \$1300 is an estimate. Net cash position is thus approximately \$367. Year to date we are at a \$5500 loss, with the State Fair and Ballot Access initiative the major expenses. The report indicates we are running at a loss, and next year's State Fair may be impacted. Tim questioned the gross vs. net numbers, which Markus answered. Markus noted that Todd's efforts have had a very positive impact on the party.

Motion: Accept the Treasurer's report as read

By: Tim Peterson

Second: John G.

Result: Carried

Secretary Report

A brief report on current membership was given by the Secretary, reporting that the current total is 218 members, an increase in 12 from April. Markus confirmed that there are 33 active pledgers, the same total as in April. Affiliate activity was then reported by the Secretary. Milwaukee Metro Chair was contacted by phone, but there was a problem with the connection so no report was received. Joe Marx from Green County reports that he is gathering a group together, and hopes for an initial meeting in late October or early November. George Meyers of the Racine area affiliate is focused on the 3 campaigns (he, Joe Kexel and Keith Deschler) underway in his area. Tim reported on Waukesha affiliate, indicating he held a fund raiser on Sept. 6th and raised \$640 which went to candidates, mostly Bob Barr but also Brad Sponholz (\$100). He also attended Freedom Fest in Las Vegas, is on the board of Wisconsin Forum and is working with the business

association of Waukesha county where great lakes water access is an issue.. Randy gave a report on 3rd district indicating Ron Paul meetup activity is still occurring. He and Ken Van Doren went to the recent Minneapolis Rally for the Republic convention. Randy also attended a Richard Campagnia book signing in Polk county. Stu gave a report on 2nd district activity, stating that he is doing radio regularly and just did a show on 9/11. Terry Gray is back in the affiliate, as well as a secretary. Press releases are being done also. ..

Chairman Report

Chairman Jim Maas gave his report. He stated that an election year is best time to grow, there are more candidates than ever this year. He then read Dave's last report. He hopes to lead by example, and is busy doing talk interviews, Wis. Politics lunch, invited to Wisconsin Eye, and columns to the paper every month as well as special ones. He has been invited to speak to Hmong voters at a seminar and has done press releases. Still no state coordinator for Barr campaign, but he has sent materials to several people. He read the LPWI purpose from Article II of our constitution and stressed we need to get past our differences and work toward common goals.

Status of Campaigns

Rolf Lindgren spoke on the Kevin Barrett campaign for US Congress in the 3rd district. Lots of radio ads, robo calls and polls. Barrett doing radio interview today (9/21) from 2-4 PM.

Brad Sponholz spoke on his campaign for state assembly. He is \$140 short of his financing goal and is looking for donations. He attended an event last week for 3rd party candidates (Craig Mohn was there as well). Brad is about half done with a literature drop (mostly in Greenfield), and plans to hit voting wards hard. He is working with Joe Kexel and has worked with Todd. Brad is working on the issue of private schools to limit government involvement and interference.

The Secretary read his report on the other candidates, which was the email responses from each per emailed request to provide a status of each campaign. This report follows:

[Craig Mohn, 29th District Assembly candidate:](#)

There is very little if any support from the LPWI or its membership. I could use some letters to the editor to the papers in my 29th district from individuals. Press releases to the papers in 29th district from the LPWI. A person feels basically on their own. After the primaries the news stations and papers mentioned me as one of the three seeking the 29th assembly seat. I do not have to file any reports with the state as I filed as not collecting or spending \$1000. I will not make the meeting on the 21st. It only takes 34% of the vote to win and anything can happen in this atmosphere of people wanting change.

Sincerely,
Craig Mohn - Libertarian29th Assembly Candidate

[Keith Deschler, 1st District Assembly Candidate:](#)

Thanks for the invite, but I will probably be out getting signatures for a petition calling on my opponent (Cory Mason) to support a 4% cut in state spending. I call this the "4% solution", to balance the state budget with a \$2.5 billion spending reduction, and NO tax increases. He has not been upfront at all on fiscal issues. He's a big-time socialistic Democrat, who likes to promise a laundry list of "investments" for the common people. I

have emailed Jim Sewell to get some information out to the LPWI website, including the speech I was going to give to the Racine Taxpayers Association today. I was unable to attend this function due to work commitments. I do want the "4% solution" to get some exposure through our party, and to be used by all our state legislative candidates. It includes a line-by-line analysis of each item in the state budget, prioritizing items by importance, along with eliminating programs of lesser importance, or which can be turned over to local governments or privatized. It involves the legislature working together to use proper accounting principles and make legitimate cuts in spending, without gimmicks or shell games or "cooking the books". If you folks want to help myself and George, get some bodies down here to get petitions out for this. If we can get at least 1,000 signatures out a few weeks before the election to Cory Mason, we have made a good start on putting pressure on the legislature to make the tough choices needed to balance the books in Madison. Press releases to major media outlets encouraging letter writing and petitions to legislators running for reelection on this would be helpful as well. I'd like 2,000 or more signatures, but time may not be on our side. We'll have to keep this going throughout 2009, to really put the pressure on to trim state government a bit. Having the form online (on LPWI.org), along with my speech text and biography, would also help. Thanks again for your desire to help us get the message out. Not easy to do this as a "hobby", but we can at least give people a smaller government choice in November.

Sincerely,
Keith R. Deschler

[Ted Bureson - 91st District State Assembly Candidate:](#)

Thanks for the invite, but I won't be able to go because I have to work at that time.

As far as the campaign goes, since I am otherwise committed for 13 - 16 hours a day to work and school, I don't have much time left for campaigning. I have received one individual campaign contribution, and if I got one from a special interest group, I'd send it back. So, due to extremely limited resources, I've scaled back the campaign to a "paper campaign". I will be doing a TV interview with channel 8 out of La Crosse at some point soon, and I may try to get to a debate or 2, if I am invited. I don't have time to do heavy duty research on specific issues, so I'd focus on concepts like personal responsibility, low taxes, spending reduction, etc.

I don't think I have a snowball's chance against the ridiculous money being spent by the democrats in this district.

Thanks again
Ted

[Brad Sponholz - 7th District State Assembly Candidate](#)

I am planning to attend the X-com meeting on the 21st. I am looking forward to meeting with everyone. I am excited to be a candidate as a Libertarian here in Wisconsin.

Brad Sponholz
Sponholz for Assembly

[George Meyers - State Assembly Candidate:](#)

No info available.

[Joe Kexel - US Congress, 1st District, Candidate](#)

No info available.

The Secretary will get Keith Deschler's info to Andy to get onto the LPWI web site.

Bob Barr bumper stickers were handed out by the Secretary to interested Excom members. We then discussed his campaign. Tim expressed that Bob Barr is one of the best candidates for President that the LP has ever had and encouraged everyone to support him.

Committee Reports

The Judicial committee (Stu Seffern-chair, Ben Masel, Tim Peterson and Julie Fox) had no report.

Similarly, the Platform committee (Keith Deschler, Joe Kexler) had no members present and had no report. Jim Maas and Rolf Lindgren had been members of this committee, but Rolf resigned due to his commitment to Barrett campaign, and Jim as an officer cannot be on this committee.

The Chairman pointed out that we need more members on these committees.

Internet Presence

John B. to assist Andy to moderate the LPWI discussion list (Markus moderates the ExCom list). Stu noted that Ben Masel has created a My Space and Facebook entries for LPWI and they can be used now.

Report on State Fair

Secretary gave preliminary report on State Fair results from an email from Todd. The report has a graph showing results when the LPWI banner was displayed and when it was not. On first reading, it appeared that the banner had little effect, yet when comparing the two Saturdays, the sales of items was way down when the banner was up (yet contacts made were better when the banner was up). Stu noted that the banner had little effect, and should stay up every day at the next State Fair. Tim seconded that idea (no motion was made).

Fund Raising

Fund raising letter and effort was discussed. Jim Sewell will get the general membership list to Sales Automation (Tim's company) and it will print the letters. Sales Automation will also address the envelopes, and the Secretary will stuff the envelopes with a return envelope and a donation form, and then mail the letters

(as a follow up from an email from Tim, postage can be done via metering by Sales Automation which will save some in postage cost).

.LNC Report

Julie reported on the LNC meeting held earlier in September in Washington, D.C. The By-laws committee for 2010 convention was appointed. A lawyer will pursue a lawsuit against the FEC regarding the way 3rd parties are treated unfairly in signature and other requirements. The site for the 2010 LP convention was discussed with no final decision- most likely sites are Pittsburgh or St. Louis. Also examined was using electronic voting at LP conventions – more detail is needed before going further. Ballot access for Barr/Root is expected to get to 48 states, currently at 38. Law suit in WV was lost. Ballot access costs were discussed. Jim Maas asked if Wayne Allen Root could get on Stu's radio show in Madison. Not sure of the result.

Julie indicated there has been an LNC presence at the Rally for the Republic in Minneapolis (a Ron Paul event). An At-large LNC member was asked to resign due to a confidentiality rule violation.

Next meeting: December 6th in San Diego.

.Statement on Kevin Barrett

Randy presented a statement which he crafted from an email from Markus on the relationship of the LPWI to candidates running for office in Wisconsin as a Libertarian. This was presented to clarify that Kevin Barret's candidacy is not specifically endorsed by the LPWI, and that any candidate is by law able to run under any party's name as long as the signature requirement is met.

Tim proposed accepting this statement and issuing a press release provided that the line referring to the 'Libertarian candidates on our web page' is removed, and that the statement comes from the LPWI, not just the 3rd district. Tim expressed that a listing of a particular candidate on the LPWI web page is in fact an endorsement of that candidate. There is disagreement about this, and no motion was made to remove the Barrett info from the web page.

Motion: Accept Randy's statement as a press release, provided it is from the entire LPWI and that the line(s) referring to the 'candidates on our web page' is removed from the statement.

By: Tim P..

Second: Randy P.

Result: Carried

2009 LPWI Convention

Ben Olson has been working with Deborah Hunt to start things rolling for next year's convention. Deborah wishes to be the convention coordinator. Ben and

Deborah have been looking into various sites at Wisconsin Dells (best candidate so far is Kalahari resort) and propose April 18th as the convention date. Deborah has already begun working on speakers for the event. Ben believes we can get at least 100 attendees.

Motion: Select the Wisconsin Dells as the convention area for 2009 (exact site to be determined), and to thank Deborah for starting convention planning for next year..

By: Randy P..

Second: Tim P.

Result: Carried

Liberty Action Proposal

Jim Maas presented the email from Todd proposing an agreement between LPWI and Liberty Action which would allow sales of L.A. merchandise at various outreach events which L.A. attends. There was not enough time to digest the proposal in its entirety, so the following proposal was made:

Motion: Approve the Liberty Action proposal on merchandise sales at outreach events, but approve for only one month. A poll will be conducted on line during the one month period which will propose making this agreement permanent...

By: John G.

Second: Tim P.

Result: Carried

ExCom Resignations and Replacement Appointments

Randy Palmer and Ken Van Doren resigned their ExCom positions as District 3 representatives, primary and alternate respectively.

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Motion: Appoint Ben Olson as 3rd district Primary representative and Randy Palmer as Alternate 3rd district representative.

By: Randy Palmer

Second: Stu Seffern

Result: Carried

Next Excom Meeting:

The next Excom meeting to be held at a site to be determined at Wisconsin Dells on Sunday, January 25th (last Sunday in January, no football that weekend) at a time to be determined. An effort will be made to hold the meeting at the same site as the convention so we can see the site before the convention.

Motion: Next ExCom meeting to be held at a site to be determined at Wisconsin Dells on Sunday, January 25th 2009 at a time to be determined.

By: John Gatewood

Second: Stu Seffern

Result: Carried

ExCom Replacement Appointment

Motion: Appoint Brad Sponholz as 1st district Alternate representative.

By: Stu Seffern

Second: Tim Peterson

Result: Carried

Meeting Adjourned:

At approximately 4 PM, the following motion was made

Motion: This Excom meeting is adjourned

By: Tim Peterson

Second: Stu Seffern

Result: Carried