



LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NORTH DAKOTA

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May 22, 2021 Libertarian Party of North Dakota State Convention Minutes

Ramkota Inn

Bismarck, North Dakota

Attendees:

Officers:

State Chair: Dalton Brown
Vice Chair: Dylan Stuckey
Secretary: Maggie Kohls
Interim Treasurer: Marty Riske

Members and Guests:

Taylor Bakken
Kent Berdahl
Cale Dunwoody
Dana Hartshorn
Adam Heupel
Eric Olson
Dave Owen
Kaitlyn Leingang
Tony Mangnall
Adam Petty
Mattie Richardson
Del Ruff
Dan Schmitz
Bret Weiland

Call to Order

Dalton Brown, Chair, called the convention to order at 10:18 AM.

Adoption of Agenda

Agenda Adopted with addition of “New Business.”

Chair’s Report

Chair reported we have many new members and new local affiliates are forming.

We still need to get ballot access for 2022. The LNC has offered to help us financially. We will need to petition this summer.

Taylor Bakken has been acting as IT chair. Brown asked Taylor to report.

Taylor reported we have over 1,000 members in ND, with 248 recently added. He has updated the website and installed a new email system so officers can email to the entire database. The template for such emails has been set up.

People can also donate through the website.

Treasurer's Report

Marty Riske is still in contact with Joshua Voytek, who was our treasurer for many years and has moved out of state. The accounts have not been completely switched over. Joshua will return to take care of this.

We have over \$3,000 in the treasury.

Fundraising Auction

Bret Weiland served as auctioneer.

30 rounds of PMAG 30 AR/M4 was the first item. There were two sets. The first set sold for \$70; the second for \$60.

A knife, handmade by John Phillips, was the second item. Sold for \$220.

Election of Officers

Brett nominated Adam Heupel for chair. Elected by acclamation.

Taylor Bakken nominated for vice chair. Elected by acclamation.

Maggie Kohls nominated for Secretary. Elected by acclamation.

Del Ruff nominated for Treasurer. Elected by acclamation.

Adam gave an acceptance speech, outlining his previous leadership experience, his roots in libertarianism, and his hopes to bring in younger members. He currently runs a podcast and will start using his Twitter account.

Taylor also explained his libertarian roots and his plans for more social gatherings. He has started an affiliate in Williams and McKenzie Counties and will be the contact for those starting local affiliates.

Maggie thanked the members for their support and acknowledged some of Taylor's other contributions.

Del mentioned some of his previous event organizing experience and his libertarian conversion.

Dalton thanked the group, explaining he is leaving the state. He emphasized the importance of talking to people to change their minds, finding one issue you agree on to start. He turned the gavel over to Adam.

Spike Cohen

Spike Cohen, 2020 Libertarian candidate for Vice President, spoke via Zoom. He spoke of the future of the Party and took questions.

Lunch Break

Broke for lunch at 12:04 pm.

Reconvene

Adam called the group to order at 1:50.

New Business

Brett Weiland

Bret spoke against the draconian COVID-19 lockdowns over the past year and restrictions on our liberties.

He mentioned Governor Burghum's contributing to election campaigns. We must make voters aware that principled politicians are possible.

He warned of vaccine passports, red flag laws.

Dave Owen

Dave explained the initiative process in North Dakota.

One change being proposed is to require a 60% vote for initiatives to pass. This would remove some level of power from the populace. It is a reaction to seeing out of state groups bully their way into our process.

The next initiatives in the works are for the legalization of recreational marijuana. One is constitutional and one is statutory.

He mentioned spending down the Legacy Fund. The energy sector is continuing to consume this fund. Liberals support this because it stops coal. Conservatives are bankrupting the state to bail out failing industries.

Ballot access for us requires 8,000 signatures. Once on the primary ballot, we still must get 1% of the vote to progress to the election ballot.

An initiative to change the constitution to get rid of the primary requirement would require 16,000 signatures. This would allow us to maintain permanent ballot status. We could petition for both the initiative and ballot access at the same time.

Bylaw Revisions

The following changes were proposed. Final wording is on the website lnorthdakota.org.

All changes passed unanimously.

Dave Owen – Section 2.1

Maggie Kohls – Section 2.2

Dalton Brown – Section 2.3

Maggie Kohls – multiple sections, eliminating adjectives creating confusion over membership status

Dave Owen – Section 9.2

Dave Owen – Section 9.3

Dave Owen – Section 9.4

Dave Owen – Section 3.5

Kent Berdahl – Section 3.4

Dalton Brown – Section 6.1

Kaitlyn Leingang – Section 7.5.

Dalton Brown – Section 3.10, 3.11, 3.4.

All changes went into effect immediately upon passage.

Dave Owen moved to close the bylaws portion of the Convention. Passed.

New Affiliates

Taylor asked the body to recommend that the Executive Committee recognize a new affiliate in Williams and McKenzie County called the North Dakota Bakken Libertarian Party. Nathan Olmstead is Chair; Taylor Bakken is Vice Chair.

He reported three other areas are working on becoming affiliated – Grand Forks, Bismarck, and Fargo areas.

The recommendation was approved by acclamation.

Expulsion of Member

Bret Weiland moved to expel Roland Riemers. Motion passed.

He is not to attend any future meetings. The new bylaws do allow for reinstatement.

Resolutions

Dave Owen proposed the following resolution:

Whereas the Libertarian Party of North Dakota values individuals' rights to freedom, travel, and assembly,

Whereas the Libertarian Party of North Dakota further acknowledges individuals' rights to work and create a better future for themselves and their families;

Whereas the Libertarian Party has observed and seen the consequences of needless lockdowns and restrictions across our state and country;

Whereas these consequences have included destruction of mental health, financial stability, and inherent human rights;

We do hereby unequivocally condemn the restrictions, mandates, lockdowns, and imposition of tyranny;

We do hereby call on all governments to end any and all remaining restrictions on the populace.

We do hereby demand that such measures never be implemented again.

We do hereby call on all North Dakotans to remember their inalienable rights and oppose tyranny wherever it may appear.

Passwd unanimously.

Platform:

Maggie will send the Exec. Committee a modified version of the proposed new platform for distribution to members.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:40.

Business Meeting

A business meeting was called to order at 4:42.

There was no new business and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Kohls

Secretary