

LPWI Excom Meeting Minutes

Saturday, January 30th, 2010, Olympia Resort & Conference Ctr.,
1350 Royale Mile Rd., Oconomowoc, WI

Meeting called to order at 12:25 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

Terry Gray – At-Large representative

Brad Sponholz - 1st District Representative (Primary)

Jim Sewell - 1st District Representative (Alternate)

Tim Szykutowicz - 2nd District Representative (Alternate)

Todd Welch - 3rd District Representative (Primary)

Tim Peterson – 5th District Representative (Primary)

Ralph Klingsporn - 8th District Representative (Primary)

NonExcom members attendees:

Don Carlson (Racine area)

Ziggy Bigtrovic (Dane Co.)

Kevin Kesleric (Treasurer, Dane Co. Affiliate)

Rich Yeager (Madison, may run for Alderman)

Margaret Szykutowicz (Secretary, Dane Co. Affiliate)

Torrey Jaechle (Running for State Assembly, district 76)

Charles Oberg (Running for County Board, district 15, Fond Du Lac)

Patty Stemwedel (Convention Coordinator)

Excom Positions Absent:

Paul Ehlers– At-Large representative

Mike McKenna – 4th District Representative (3rd consecutive)

Will Losch - 7th District Representative (2nd consecutive)

Excom Positions Vacant:

6th District Representation

A quorum consists of 7 voting members, 10 voting members were present

Officer Reports:

Secretary Report

The meeting minutes were read by the Secretary. No corrections were noted

A brief report on current membership was given by the Secretary, reporting that the current total is 223 members, if including expirations from last year. The total is 151 if just current members. Can't compare to previous years, annual membership is now free and expirations just occurred 1 month ago.

Membership renewal letter was discussed. Jim S. reports that letter had tearoff for \$25 donation since trying to use up about 500 old forms in stock. This is confusing to recipients. Jim M. asked about policy going forward since letter asks for donation and annual membership is now no minimum.

Ben suggested calling lapsed members. Tim P. suggested Tim K's Cepia Club good candidate for making calls, this is paid position, should have LP ties. Brad suggested county affiliates make the calls. Jim M. agreed it makes sense to use affiliates first for renewal calls. No motion made.

An Affiliate report was given by the Secretary and the ExCom members who are chairs of affiliates. The Secretary reported on Green County affiliate as reported by the chairman Joe Marx. Joe reported that no formal meetings, beers together occasionally. Just signed up a new member, now 3 total. and that there is interest in attending State convention and possibly National as well. Racine/Kenosha affiliate report from George Meyers to Secretary: Mostly supporting other groups, trying to revive Ron Paul group, attending tea parties. 4 or 5 people to run for office: Keith Deschler for Alderman (non-partisan, to win), rest running to spread the word. He and Joe Kexel doing weekly blog radio program – Sunday night “Libertarianism on Leash”, Wed. AM general issues discussion.

The rest of the report was from the various chairs of the affiliates in attendance:

Metro Milwaukee - Brad Sponholz reported that affiliate meeting monthly at end of month, both social and business gatherings. Focus is on getting people to run for office. Don Carlson running now for School board, will be many seats open in Spring. Affiliate may do an event with “Liberty on the Rocks” at the Badger gun range

Dane County - Tim Szcsyikutowicz reported that the web site is up (LPDANE.ORG) where there is info on candidates. Meet weekly informally at the Ale Asylum – social gathering mostly. Three people running for office including Tim Nerenz for U.S. Congress. May be a fourth candidate to run. Nothing done

yet with data dump for Dane Co. Last formal meeting in December, usually meet monthly.

Chippawa Valley – Todd Welch reports there is a political talk monthly. One person running for city council in Eau Claire. Many signatures gathered, but many thrown out due to order requirement. That person is now running for another office.

St. Croix Valley – Tim Krenz reports that informal meetings are held, attempts to get new members via phone and emails. Two candidates suggestions for 2012 races. Craig Mohn may run for a State wide office to help LPWI maintain ballot access. Another person from Hudson may also run. Doing networking/communications with new contacts, slow going. 5 or 6 people meeting for lunch upon occasion.

Waukesha County - Tim Peterson reports that he has spoken with a Maureen ?? who is a good speaker and may talk at State convention. He is active on Independent Businessmen's Assoc board where net neutrality is active topic. Also active on Wisconsin Forum board which have very good speakers. Fred Snitch is one of them, speaks on Cap and Trade, would charge \$300 to come to State convention. He is active supporting Rebecca Kleefish for Lt. Governor (Republican). Contact with Janice Parker of Oconomowoc who may run for office Bob Collison due back from N.Y. hospital by Feb. 24th, he may speak at Wis. Forum. Attended Tea Party in Kenosha, very libertarian attendance (a Charles Windsor was holding up sign saying "join LP" and he is not a member!) People are banging down our door, we just need to let them in. C4L is a great organization, Tim urges us to join or find out more.

Charles Oberg from Fond Du Lac is running for County board, district 15. Trying to do outreach and to start a new affiliate. Ben suggested a social meeting to start things going.

Jim M. suggested around the table introductions since so many new faces. That was done.

Motion: Accept the Secretary Report

By: Terry G.

Second: Tim P.

Result: Carried

Treasurer's Report

Tim K. gave Treasurer's Report for 3 month period from October 27 2009 to

January 29 2010. We had revenues of \$3660.15 and expenses of \$763.14 with a final balance of \$9377.15. Tim proposed a budget for 2010 which had assumptions of revenues based on 70 convention attendees, 20 new pledgers and other estimates. This budget estimates a small year profit of about \$500. Ben then asked Tim how much longer he will remain Treasurer, and Tim replied at least until State convention, longer if he gets some help. Diane Rozek has moved to Florida, so no help there. Kevin Kesleric was asked if he is interested, but he replied school would not allow that commitment.

Motion: Accept the Treasurer's Report

By: Brad S.

Second: Ralph K.

Result: Carried

Chairman Report

Chairman Ben Olsen gave his report. He said we have an issue with supporting Republicans for any office since LPWI person may step up late to run. He suggested we not support non-LPWI candidates until after the slate is set. He stated that Tim Nerenz is the LPWI flagship candidate for National office and we need to assist in that effort. Ben and Paul E. have their wife's permission to run for Governor/ Lt. Governor which they are considering doing. Ben not eager, but will run if things seem right, time to decide later. Ben would like someone to run for Attorney General to get LPWI ballot status. Campaign committee to look into Ziggy running for a State wide office. Ben will be going to Austin for State Chairs meeting in late February, inquired about funding for trip.

Motion: Approve up to \$800 for Ben for Austin trip, Ben will itemize actual cost for reimbursement.

By: Tim P.

Second: Ralph K.

Result: Carried

Ben indicated speakers are lined up for convention, hopefully Fred Smith and Wayne Allen Root will speak. Mr. Root may be too expensive, possibly \$1000 to cover his cost. Should find out more soon and finalize speakers.

Motion: Accept the Chairman report

By: Tim P.

Second: Jim M.

Result: Carried

Committee Reports

The Judicial committee (Tim Peterson, only attending member) reported no new activity. Tim explained role of Judicial committee and asked if others would like to join. Currently only Tim and Julie are on this committee.

The Platform committee (Paul E., charman) did not give a report since Paul not in attendance. Secretary referenced Paul's latest post with specific proposals. Ben suggested we take one week to give feedback on the proposals.

Motion: Post the proposed Platform changes to LPWI site (Todd W.)

By: Todd W.

Second: Brad S.

Result: Carried

The Business committee (Tim N., chair, Tim P., Tim K, Kevin K.) via Tim P. reported on activities.

1 – Website Update Status: Todd W. reported on Website progress – it is to have Logo added to it Todd was asked how long to bring up revised site, he said it is slow going at this point, would cost \$50 to \$100 to get a template which would get the site up more quickly. Tim K. has been in contact with a Web site vendor. He stated \$30/month for hosting, \$400 to \$600 for conversion of current site. If simple graphics, total cost under \$1000, and it would be designed for easy updating (one of our main requirements). Tim P. suggested keeping Andy Sutton as host, he does this for free. Also, get bids for updaters of Website, important that it be someone with Libertarian ties. He stated we need a Wbmaster and asked Todd if he would do that (this isn't in my notes, but I believe Todd said he would do that). Todd said we should buy the template and keep Andy S. as host. Brad suggested a fund raiser to help with costs associated with Website conversion. Todd indicated that if we get a template, the updating will be easy to do and he will do the updating. Ben said he would use discretionary \$250 to buy the template, so no motion or ExCon approval needed for this purchase. Tim P. said Todd's work will be time consuming and thankless, but this is very important work and Todd should submit an invoice now and then to cover his time and costs. Tim K. volunteered to help select colors, design, etc. for site. Todd given round of applause for taking the Website effort on.

2 – Outreach to current and lapsed members: Ben stated this is in his lap, he will make phone calls, contact district people, try to get people to run for office. Brad and Jim M. recommended contacting affiliates to help us Ben said he would get email to ExCom list next week to divide duties and go forward with effort

3 - Status of Speaker's Bureau: Tim N. and Tim P. are heading this up. Ben

suggested we get a list of all who would speak, post the list on the LPWI Website.

4 – Newsletter: Tim K. stated that Todd K. no longer cares about doing this. Tim K. volunteered to do the newsletter, all except printing – 4 pages of info, pictures, interviews and stories. Ben asked how long to get a newsletter out, he says doable in one week. We need next one done within 2 weeks to promote the state convention. Ben wants Tim K. to do one newsletter, bill us for that one and submit a bid for doing future Newsletters. Jim S. to get list of people to Tim for mailing out newsletter.

Motion: Tim K. to do next newsletter for under \$375, will submit invoice for actual cost. Tim to submit a bid for future newsletters.

By: John G

Second: Todd W

Result: Carried

The Campaign committee (Brad S., chair, Don Carlson., Todd W., Joel Royal, Chris Wainscott) via Brad and Todd reported on activities. Brad reports that no formal meetings yet, emails only, but will meet before Spring elections. Brad suggested State convention be held before April elections, say late March, so general membership can meet LPWI candidates. Ben stated that committee is doing good job, there are several candidates out there and being helped. Ben also encouraged paper campaigns, important to have one extra choice on the ballot.

.LNC Report

The Secretary read highlights of Jake Porter's LNC meeting report. Some of the highlights:

Meeting was held December 5th and 6th in Nashville, TN. LNC adopted 4 goals as proposed by Jim Lark: LP will have minimum 15,000 sustaining members by 5/31/10, LNC will assure each state has an operational state party by 5/1/10, LNC will raise minimum \$500,000 by 5/31/10 and LNC will ensure 2010 LP convention loses no more than \$10,000 with hopefully a profit.

LNC created a subcommittee called Affiliate Support Committee, chaired by LNC vice chair Michael Jingoian. LNC passed a budget for 2010, details not yet available.

Chairman Bill Redpath announced he will not seek 3rd term as LNC chair. Next LNC meeting is during annual leadership alliance meeting on 2/27 and 2/28 in Austin, TX. Julie will attend.

Old Business

Liberty Action – replacing services

Answering 800 number: Todd W. is now answering the 800 number. No proposals made to change that. Ben to contact Todd K. to get info on 800 #.

Outreach services: Ben asked if Tim K. would help. Tim replied if paid position, \$8.50 per hour, he could help, is good at communicating. Ben encouraged all to get involved with tea parties, C4L, speak when opportunity there, work on getting our message out. Todd stated better to have booths at tea parties than to attend various fairs – we have our audience at tea parties. Tim P. suggested get on mailing list of Americans for Prosperity, they know of upcoming tea parties.

2010 State Convention planning

Ben stated we need 6 speakers to fill out afternoon, we will have 6. He then introduced Patty Stemwedel as convention director/coordinator. Questions that arose:

What to charge?

Different packages? (Lunch/no lunch)

A meet and greet fund raiser for LPWI candidates to be held afterwards. Ben to talk to Rick Eckerd, Olympia owner, to get a bar are for this.

Prices to be determined by Business committee.

LPWI Brochures

Ben has acquired a lot of these, and they were available for distribution at the meeting.

Membership Renewals

Ben and Jim S. to discuss changes to letter going out and whether a 2nd mailing is needed.

New Business

Joint Fundraiser for Tim N. and Ed T.

This is no longer viable. LPWI can't support candidates from other parties, although as individuals we are free to support whomever we wish.

Interest in LP national convention in May

Ben to find out from national LP the total delegates permitted for WI, we will

have as part of the general business meeting at state convention the election of a delegation to national convention.

Miscellaneous

Todd stated he would like a decision soon on Ben and Paul running for Governor/ Lt. Governor since there will be a Candidate Forum debate here at Olympia on March 20, would be good to include LPWI candidates for Governor.

Next Excom Meeting:

The next Excom meeting to be held on April 10 (Sat) at Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc as part of the annual State convention. To start at 9AM, general business meeting to follow, both meetings to end by 12PM to gather for lunch.

Meeting Adjourned:

At approximately 4 PM, the Chair (Ben) adjourned the meeting