

# LPWI Excom Meeting Minutes

Sat., January 28th, 2012, Cafe Noir,  
1024 S. 5<sup>th</sup> street., Milwaukee, WI

## **Meeting called to order**

by former Chairman Ben Olson at approximately 12:45 PM

## **Roll Call:** Excom member attendees

Paul Ehlers – Party Treasurer

Dave Harmon – At-Large representative

Jim Sewell – 1st District Representative (Primary)

Brad Sponholz – 1st District Representative (Alternate)

Ben Olson – 3rd District Representative (Primary)

Melba Morris-Page – 4th District Representative (Primary)

Tim Peterson – 5th District Representative (Primary)

John Gatewood – 5th District Representative (Alternate)

Jim Maas – 7th District Representative (Primary)

## NonExcom member attendees:

Don Carlson - 1<sup>st</sup> district

Joseph Kexel - 1<sup>st</sup> district

George Meyers - 1<sup>st</sup> district

Ken Morgan - Milwaukee

Nathan Graewin – LPWI candidate for Governor in recall election

Theresa Graewin – Nathan's wife

Melba Johnson – Tailors Falls

## Excom Positions Absent:

Party Chairman - Terry Gray (he was here, but left ill before meeting started)

Party Vice Chairman - Wil Losch

At-Large representative - James Stemwedel

2nd District Representative – Terry Virgil

6th District Representative – Scott Jazdzewski

8th District Representative – Ralph Klingsporn

## Excom Positions Vacant:

Party Secretary

There are 13 total Excom positions (with no Secretary), quorum is  $> \frac{1}{2}$ . which is 7 voting members. 7 voting members were present

John Gatewood agreed to take the minutes for the meeting since there is no Secretary currently. Following roll call, the non-Excom members introduced

themselves. This included Nathan Graewin who would like to be the LPWI Governor candidate in the upcoming recall election. He gave background information including his run for State Assembly.

### **Ballot Access Petitions:**

Ben spoke about the state of the ballot access petitions. He has extra petition forms in his car for those that want some. Each sheet must be for the same district, so we will need to know what district each signer is in given an address, and take along extra sheets and a map of the districts. There is a new map due to redistricting, so some areas may be different than they were. Also, the date on the bottom must be after the last date of any signer or those signers after the date on the bottom will be rejected. The date of Primary on upper right of form should be Aug 14 2012.

Tim P. suggested we carry a brochure or literature regarding Gary Johnson, the most likely LP presidential candidate when petitioning since people will ask us why they should want a 3<sup>rd</sup> party on the ballot.

### **Officer Reports:**

#### **Secretary Report**

There is no Secretary, but the October meeting minutes were reviewed by all. Ben noted 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of Minutes of the October Excom meeting is inaccurate.

**Motion:** Delete the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the October Excom meeting minutes.

**By:** Tim K.

**Second:** Ben O.

**Result:** Carried

**Motion:** Accept the October Excom meeting minutes as amended.

**By:** Jim M.

**Second:** Tim K.

**Result:** Carried

Jim Maas agreed to do the actual modification to the minutes per the passed motions above.

### **Questioning the candidate for Governor**

Dave Harmon asked questions of Nathan regarding his stance on the issues. He also asked about the signatures needed to get on the ballot (2,000) and said if we get 1% or more in the recall election, LPWI will be back on the ballot regardless of the 10,000 signatures obtained via the petitions. Tim P. then asked Nathan: why let a Libertarian on the ballot for Governor when Walker is doing what we want him to do? Nathan responded by pointing out issues with Walker, such as balancing the State budget by postponing spending, not really same as balancing the budget. Ben stated many people dislike both Democrats and Republicans and we offer a good alternative. Paul then pointed out that the LPWI has been hurt in the past by candidates who are really libertarian leaning Republicans, so he wants to be sure Nathan is genuinely a libertarian. Help was offered by Tim P. and others if Nathan wishes it on libertarian stance on issues. A question was raised about the Excom needing to endorse candidates for state wide office. Jim M. showed that is covered in Article IX of the By-laws (it is unclear if this applies since it indicates that the state convention is where this occurs, and this is a recall election which may require a decision before April 14)

## **Business Committee Report**

Tim K. handed out minutes of the Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> business committee meeting. He stated that data management is very important to the committee. The strategy for data dump is to eliminate all names from prior to 2003, then add new memberships. Tim K. suggested a direct marketing campaign. Discussion ensued over email vs. regular mail. Paul E. suggested that regular mail is no longer effective, prefers email campaign.

Tim K. spoke on the Virtual Office tool. More than one person can be on it at a time. Tim K. recommends a button to be added to LPWI web page to allow access. No cost, immediate impact. Tim K. will add this button and let ExCom know when it is done.

## **Treasurer Report**

Paul E. went over LPWI finances with 2 reports: the first one through end of 2011, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> through activity in January. End of year balance: \$7,135.38, total from RCU Checking, RCU Savings and Anchor Bank. Details of both income and expenses from August 2011 (when Paul took over as Treasurer) through the end of December 2011. The treasury increased about \$1000 during this period. The January 2012 activity shows about \$200 more in expenses than income. There is a section on projected income for 2012 at the end of the report. Paul wishes to consolidate all 3 accounts into one, and get rid of Anchor since there is no Anchor branch near him. Toward that end, he has closed the Anchor account and has a check for about \$3866 which needs to go somewhere. Paul would like to use M&I bank. Paul would also like the business committee to have a debit card for that account since it does most of the spending of LPWI funds.

**Motion:** Paul to open the LPWI account at M&I and deposit the Anchor Bank check there, and a debit card to be issued for the Business Committee.

**By:** Paul E..

**Second:** Dave H.

**Result:** Carried

Paul noted current problem with credit card payments for donations or membership in that a phone number and the 3 digit code on back of the card are not asked for on our web site, so we can't process that income. Currently about \$1000 out there we can't collect due to this. Also PayPal problems, not sure how to get that money out for processing. Also, current accounts not balancing, so Paul expects an audit (which is good since some clarification is needed).

**Motion:** Accept the Treasurer's report as given by Paul

**By:** Tim P.

**Second:** Dave H.

**Result:** Carried

## **Miscellaneous:**

Jim M and Ben both stressed need to find a Party Secretary. No one volunteered, the search will continue.

**Motion:** Allow George Meyers 5 minutes to address ExCom on best ways to spend party money.

**By:** Jim S.

**Second:** Paul E.

**Result:** Carried

George recommends on-line presence, ala Ron Paul and B. Obama. George stressed need for candidates since best way to get out our message; free publicity. Strategy: get good candidates, then create a good website for each. He recommends not spending money directly on campaigns, but on the web sites. These sites can raise money for the web sites of future campaigns.

### **Membership Renewals:**

Jim S. stated we expected about 160 total membership after all renewals are in. Only about 100 now, and that includes about 50 life time members. We need to do another mailing to get the 50 or so missing renewals, Jim S. to do that. The form needs to be enhanced to include phone number and credit card code. Jim S. to do that as well.

### **Facebook Discussion:**

It is working well, but but since Facebook is free, no donations or monies being generated. We need to somehow get donations, or help with ballot access petitions. Jim M. stated that the facebook administrators should convene and strategize. Ben remarked that people are coming to us, and we are not yet acting on that – this needs to change.

### **Stationary for ExCom Members:**

Ben stated that all info (phone number, P.O. Box, etc.) is the same as it has been, so we can use our current inventory. John G stated he has a few boxes of envelopes and stationary in his garage.

### **National Convention Interest:**

Ben indicated that he and his family are going to the convention (weekend of May 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas), asked who else is interested. The WI delegation will be determined at our State convention on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Creating interest in the Ballot Access signature gathering:**

Brad S. suggested we have a contest for the most signatures gathered to be awarded a prize. After some discussion, the following motion was made.

**Motion:** A 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize to be awarded for most signatures. Signatures must be completed by April 7<sup>th</sup>. The prizes are all round trip air fare from MKE to/from LAV for the LP convention. 1<sup>st</sup> prize: 2 tickets (1000 signatures minimum), 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: 1 ticket, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: 1 ticket. No minimums for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.

**By:** Paul Ehlers

**Second:** Tim Peterson

**Result:** Carried

### **LPWI State Convention:**

To be on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Eau Claire, shared with LP of Minnesota. Gary Johnson, hopeful LP candidate for U.S. President, will speak. Wil and Tim K are planning it, neither present during this discussion. Tim P. recommends getting Tim Nerenz to speak – he does great blogs. There will be separate meeting rooms for MN and WI in the morning, then common area for speeches in the afternoon.

### **Campaign 2012 update:**

Jim M. pointed out that the Campaign Committee was disbanded about a year ago, no current committee. Ben suggested getting one person to run this, and he will recruit members as needed. George M. was asked if he would be willing to head up the new Campaign committee, and he said he would.

**Motion:** George Meyers to become the LPWI Campaign Tzar

**By:** Paul Ehlers

**Second:** Jim Sewell

**Result:** Carried

George wants to get about 250 total candidates, there are major races in each county and district.

### **Newsletter:**

Ben is taking this over from Tim K. Next one will be out by 1<sup>st</sup> week in April. Paul would like to link the newsletter to our Facebook page. Ben said he would try. Ben asked for content for the newsletter, some will be from published letters to the Editor of various newspapers around the State.

### **Committee System:**

Ben suggested we get one person to head up a Committee, and that person adds members to the particular committee. Let the committee chair decide on activities of the committee as well. Tim P., Judicial Committee chair, said to get him any updates wanted as soon as possible (John G checked ByLaws: in the even year, only the Platform can be modified, and these proposals need to be to the Judicial committee 3 months prior to the State Convention at which the proposals are voted on by the general membership).

### **Next Excom Meeting:**

Will be at the State convention in the morning of Saturday, April 14 in Eau Claire

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

At approximately 4:15 PM, the following motion carried.

**Motion:** This Excom meeting is adjourned

**By:** Tim Peterson

**Second:** Jim Maas  
**Result:** Carried