

# LPWI Excom Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 24th, 2009, Shooter's Banquet and Recreation,  
5330 Harding Ave., Plover, WI

**Meeting called to order** at 12:07 PM by Chair Ben Olson

**Roll Call:** Excom members attendees

Ben Olson – Party Chairman

Jim Maas – Party Vice Chairman

John Gatewood – Party Secretary

Paul Ehlers– At-Large representative

Terry Gray – At-Large representative

Brad Sponholz - 1st District Representative (Primary)

Jim Sewell - 1st District Representative (Alternate)

Tim Nerenz - 2nd District Representative (Primary)

Tim Peterson – 5th District Representative (Primary)

Ralph Klingsporn - 8th District Representative (Primary)

NonExcom members attendees:

Don Carlson

Excom Positions Absent:

Tim Krenz – Party Treasurer

Todd Welch or Randy Palmer - 3rd District Representation, Primary and  
Alternate respectively

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

Will Losch - 7th District Representative (Primary, there is no Alternate)

Excom Positions Vacant:

6th District Representation

A quorum consists of 7 voting members, 9 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 213 members, a decrease of 5 from September last year.

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 from 6 to 10 people are meeting informally once a month, and that he hopes to have more formal meetings with speakers coming from Madison after the first of the year. The rest of the report was from the various chairs of the affiliates in attendance:

Metro Milwaukee, Brad Sponholz reported that affiliate meets formally quarterly, speakers attend. They meet with Liberty on the Rocks, about 10 to 15 people attend. Also informal meeting monthly on Tuesday. Affiliate has an editor for a blog.

Jim Sewell of Racine/Kenosha affiliate (George Meyers is chair, not present) reported that monthly meetings are held, 6 to 8 people attend. They were at Racine county fair where they distributed world's shortest quiz and had a raffle. Keith Deschler may run for office.

Dane County, Terry Gray (Dane County Chair, Tim S. was not present) reported that no formal meetings for a while. Meet weekly on Tuesday informally at the Ale Asylum which is well attended.

Waukesha County, Tim Peterson reported on attending an event in which net neutrality was the speaker's topic, he is working with Jim Sensenbrenner and Scott Walker on Libertarian issues. He is active on Wisconsin Forum board which hosts speakers and has a dinner in downtown Milwaukee – Cato Institute will speak in February on Health care. He attended Julie Fox's kickoff for Illinois Comptroller campaign. Next week will have lunch with Rebecca Kleefish, a very good speaker and libertarian. Tim met with Bob Collison whose prognosis (cancer) is not good.

Rhineland area, Paul Ehlers reported that no formal meetings, do see each other informally, about 4 or 5 people in group. Trying to fight smart growth in Lincoln and Langly counties.

Ralph Klingsporn has been active in Green Bay area. He got 2 new young people to attend a meeting, they are interested in running for office. Ralph setup a website for the group, hopes to meet in November and get 6 people to attend. Secretary will add a new affiliate to list, 8<sup>th</sup> district.

**Motion:** Accept the Secretary Report

**By:** Terry G.

Second: Paul E.

Result: Carried

## **Treasurer Report**

Tim Krenz did not attend and did not provide a Treasurer's report on LPWI finances for the third quarter of 2009 .Discussion was held. Ben has talked with Tim and believes he is in no hurry to hand off Treasurer's position to Diane Rozek as was discussed at last Excom meeting. Ben stated he will contact Tim regarding 2 issues: Finish the quarterly treasurer's report, and contact Diane Rozek about Treasurer position.

### **Discussion**

Tim P. will contact Diane Rozek regarding running for office. Secretary provided contact info for her.

Ed Thompson may run for State Assembly as a Republican.

### **Chairman Report**

Chairman Ben Olsen gave his report. He reiterated his statements from last ExCom meeting, and stressed better communication within ExCom and with general members. Each district representative needs to get to know the members in his/her district. Ben is very interested in data dump from LP of contacts and prospective new members, wanting to be able to contact any person quickly (LP has ~5000 names of former and prospective state members). Paul E. suggested that this should be easy to do. Ben recommends a no fee membership, we will get many new members and some will donate.

**Motion:** Accept the Chairman report

**By:** Tim P.

**Second:** Paul E.

**Result:** Carried

### **Committee Reports**

The Judicial committee (Tim Peterson, only attending member) reported no new activity.

**Motion:** Accept the Judicial Committee report

**By:** Brad S.

**Second:** Terry G.

**Result:** Carried

The Platform committee (Paul E., no recruited members as yet) handed out suggested revisions to LPWI Platform, and we discussed each one. There were no specific wording change recommendations other than the Environment plank in which Paul feels the third sentence should be altered or removed. Paul would like a statement recognizing global warming as an issue to be addressed. Paul suggested additions to other planks, but the wording of these are yet to be created and Paul is looking for help with that. Ben suggested the ExCom as a whole assist in this effort. Secretary pointed out that any LPWI member can submit proposed changes to the Platform committee, it need not come through the ExCom although there is nothing prohibiting that approach. [Rest of this

paragraph not from meeting but subsequent analysis by Secretary] The By-Laws specify a process for presenting proposed changes, and they stipulate proposals need to be submitted in printed form six months prior to the even-year convention in which the membership votes on Platform changes. The Platform committee then has until two months prior to the convention to approve or reject proposals. Since it is the Platform committee itself which is proposing changes, it would seem the two month prior to convention is the actual deadline for getting in writing proposed changes to the Platform. That allows until around mid-February to create actual wording for proposed changes given our convention is mid-April.

**Motion:** Accept the Platform Committee report

**By:** Tim P..

**Second:** Ralph K.

**Result:** Carried

The Business committee (Tim N., chair, Tim P., Tim K, Kevin K.) via Tim N. reported on activities. Tim reported on 4 main issues which are outlined in printed report to the ExCom.

1 – Website Update: Current website needs modification and updating, want consistent look and feel which national and other state sites have, contact has been made with IL Webmaster, need to designate an LPWI resource to make desired changes. Tim knows some resources, hopefully won't need pro to help.

2 – Outreach to current and lapsed members: Will pay 2 people to call lapsed members and solicit updated information, Tim P. to set up new DB to manage contact info, A script has been developed and approved for phone solicitation, the Sept data dump has been sorted by city/county and sent to county affiliates (Dane and Milwaukee) for local outreach. Will be doing this in Nov/Dec

3 - Membership and Dues structure: 3 proposals – free basic membership, but pay to participate, Each one / Reach one to double membership by 12/31, and build membership through convention. After discussion of free membership and noting Article VI of the by-laws, the pay to participate part of membership structure was dropped. Following motion made from first proposal:

**Motion:** Change current paid annual membership to a free annual basic membership with donations welcome.

**By:** Paul E..

**Second:** Terry G..

**Result:** Carried

4 – Speaker's bureau: (see Tim's report for details) Tim looking for volunteers as speakers, he volunteered to be coordinator of speaking requests. Tim P. volunteered to speak.

Fund raising was asked about – Tim stated there is no plan in place for this as yet, but this is partly covered by Outreach and new membership dues structure as already discussed.

**Motion:** Accept the Business Committee report

**By:** Terry G..

**Second:** Ralph K.

**Result:** Carried

The Campaign committee (Brad S., chair, Don Carlson., Todd W., Joel Royal, Chris Wainscott) via Brad reported on activities. Brad reports that committee is divided by area of responsibility, each person will have an area of expertise. Committee will guide candidates through process, will help in various areas including brochures for candidates. Sons of Liberty to have an outreach booth in Oconomowoc which will help in this area. Brad will create a list of people who can be approached for signatures or asked for votes. Jim Maas suggested a photographer at state convention to get professional pics for candidates running for office.

**Motion:** Accept the Campaign Committee report

**By:** Terry G..

**Second:** Ralph K.

**Result:** Carried

#### **.LNC Report**

The Secretary read highlights of Julie's LNC meeting annual report. Some of the highlights:

The number of Libertarians currently holding office is around 150. Active members as of 9/30 are 14,415, down from 16,460 a year ago (non-election year usually sees decrease). At December meeting, LNC voted to provide \$15K to Washington state LP to fight 'top two' legislation which if passed will disallow 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidates from the ballot. Was Benedict new Executive director in July. Next LNC meeting in Nashville 12/5 and 12/6. Jake Porter, alternate rep will attend this meeting in Julie's stead, Julie will attend subsequent meeting in Austin in late Jan or early Feb 2010.

**Motion:** Accept the LNC committee report

**By:** Tim P.

**Second:** Paul E.

**Result:** Carried

#### **Old Business**

##### **Discussion of Answering 800 number**

This is covered for now by Liberty Action contract (until end of year), Ben happy to have 800

number go to his cell phone after that.

### **Liberty Action Status**

Question was asked when L.A. Contract ends. Tim N. indicated that phone answering part ends 12/31 this year, professional fund raising should have ended since dependent on performance and that has been met. Tim N. indicated business committee not in favor of renewing L.A. contract. Jim M. indicated that no 2009 newsletters were linked to LPWI website. Ben will contact Todd K., see how he feels and if there is still interest in LPWI work. Ben indicated we have 2 areas of exposure: phone answering and newsletter. ExCom members volunteered to help with phone answering, Ben indicated he is happy to do that. Tim N. to investigate what answering service costs. Ben to discuss all of this with Todd, possible on-line poll after that.

### **Transition from Tim K. to next Treasurer**

There was no 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Treasurer's report, Ben will discuss this with Tim K. and see what's going on. Diane Rozek had expressed interest in taking over as Treasurer, but Ben is concerned that if she runs for an office she may not have time for both. Ben will discuss Tim's interest in transitioning from the Treasurer's position and emphasize that whoever is Treasurer we have to have a Treasurer's report each quarter and it needs to be presented to the ExCom.

### **2010 State Convention Planning**

Ben would like our convention to be at Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc with our next ExCom meeting at same site. Paul expressed concern that if we do convention together with C4L that LPWI would appear to be aligned with them. Ben suggested no action on this yet, we first need the date which C4L will have its convention and decide if that is appropriate for LPWI and whether or not to do this on same date as C4L. [this isn't in my notes, but I believe we discussed contacting the convention coordinator from last year, Deb Hunt, to be coordinator again this year, but no action was taken]

### **New Business**

#### **Membership Renewals**

Business committee via Tim N. to create new form letter to send out for annual renewals since old letter states amount of dues and that has changed. Jim M. suggested content to include supported candidates running for office. Jim S. will then mail renewal letter to the membership.

## **Miscellaneous**

LPWI brochures are currently in short supply, Ben would like to see these in several sites for better access by those needing them for outreach events. Jim M. suggested window or bumper stickers with 800 # and other info on them. Ben will look into ordering what we need. Site for stickers is [libertystickers.com](http://libertystickers.com).

Brad S. needs \$50 for a booth at Brothers for Liberty event to be held in Oconomowoc in November. Ben Okayed that amount. After discussion, the following motion was made:

**Motion:** The Chairman shall have up to \$250 discretionary spending without approval by the ExCom for the expense.

**By:** Tim N.

**Second:** Terry G.

**Result:** Carried

### **Next Excom Meeting:**

The next Excom meeting to be held tentatively on Jan 30 (Sat) at Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc. Ben will check on availability.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

At approximately 3:45 PM, the following motion was made

**Motion:** This Excom meeting is adjourned

**By:** Terry G.

**Second:** Brad S.

**Result:** Carried