

LPWI General Membership Meeting

Minutes

Saturday, April 10th, 2010, Olympia Resort & Conference Ctr.,
1350 Royale Mile Rd., Oconomowoc, WI

Meeting called to order at approximately 10:25 AM by Chair Ben Olson

Officer Reports:

Secretary Report

The secretary went over highlights of all 2009 ExCom meetings minutes since this was for the entire membership. This included Tim Krenz now doing newsletter and the forming of two new committees – Business and Campaign – to handle most of the activities relating to fund raising and member/new contact handling (Business) and helping candidates run for office (Campaign). Also a big item in 2009 was changing annual memberships to be based on voluntary donation rather than a required set amount (\$25) as it had been.

A brief report on current membership was given by the Secretary, reporting that the current total is 179 members, a decrease of 27 from April last year. It is difficult to compare to previous years since we went to a no minimum annual dues at the start of 2010. No State Fair last year and limited outreach for new contacts are factors in the decline.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer's report for the first quarter of 2010 was given by Treasurer Tim Krenz. Tim will have a spreadsheet soon on Jan-March finances. Current balance is \$7070.95. Tim set up a separate savings account in February, with Pay Pal withdrawal which he used to pay convention costs. He is having problems with Pay Pal and credit card payments and could use some help. Tim K. then asked how members renew since credit cards not being added. Someone responded that Donor Town Square will email the member when the credit card has expired, and then the member can renew online.

Motion: Accept the Treasurer's report

By: Terry G.

Second: Tim P.

Result: Carried

Chairman Report

Chairman Ben Olson gave his report. He said there is a Business Committee meeting this Monday, we should be able to straighten out several issues then. Ben is interested in running more candidates, see Brad S. of Campaign committee if interested in running. Ben is happy with work the Campaign Committee has done. Ben believes that running in WI is better achieved than in most states, we get on the ballot easier, fewer requirements.

Motion: Accept the Chairman's report

By: ??

Second: ??

Result: Carried

Committee Reports

Business Committee

The Business committee (Tim Nerenz, Chair) reported on recent activities. There have been 2 or 3 teleconference meetings so far. The no minimum dues trusts the members to donate even though no donation required. This annual membership will be on trial for one year. Committee has been concentrating on this state convention, getting speakers lined up, etc. Getting membership to increase is a priority of the Committee.

Motion: Accept the Business Committee report

By: ??

Second: ??

Result: Carried

Newsletter Activities

Tim K. is now doing the LPWI Newsletter. Ben commented on state of Newsletter: First one was late, but Tim started on the second one early and did a good job with it. Tim reports that he likes doing the Newsletter, and Ben said he would like more periodic letters, such as email updates weekly or monthly (e-letter). Brad suggested trying to attract recent immigrants, such as having a Spanish version of the Newsletter. Ben suggested that Brad meet with Tim N about this possibility. Todd W. stated that the web site is set up for an e-letter, it is ready to go. Charles Oberg asked how to submit something for the Newsletter. Tim K. stated the email address to submit to (I didn't get that in my notes).

Campaign Committee

The Campaign committee (Brad Sponholz, Chair) reported on candidates running for office, and that Don Carlson has just been elected to Racine area school board (yea!). He introduced the members who are running for office. These included: Terry Virgil (Lt. Gov.), Craig Mohn (Treasurer), and others. Joe Kexel and Tim Nerenz are running for US Congress, George Meyers for state assembly, district 61. We have LPWI candidates for assembly districts 61, 76, 78, 81 and 85. There are state senate candidates for district 3, 13 and 27.

Brad urged someone to run for Attorney General and Secretary of State since we need state wide candidate to get 1% to keep our ballot status Tim P. suggested that S. Sullivan would be a good Secretary of State candidate. Brad stated that signature gathering is from June 1 to July 13, and he gave minimum requirements for each office sought, and asked for volunteers. He is planning an outing or two to a Brewers game to collect signatures.

LNC Report

Julie reported on the LNC meeting held in Austin, TX over the weekend of 2/27, 2/28 this year.. She indicated this is highlights only, a lot of activity occurred at this meeting. The 2010 LP convention will be in St. Louis over Memorial day weekend. No mandatory advance registration of delegates was passed at this meeting. Good prices for the Renaissance hotel, but book early. Julie is not running again for LNC, and alternate (Jake Porter) may not run also, so we need at least one person to run for election to LNC. The cost to the LNC member is about \$2000 per year, so could use funding help. New Executive Director, Wes Benedict, has done a good job, ~\$5000 per month in pledges under Wes. Julie is running for State Controller in Illinois and needs signatures, she stated who from ExCom said they would assist – 25 thousand are needed. The signature collection period has started and runs through 3rd week in June. Maybe a CUBS game trip to collect signatures, she needs 5% to retain ballot access for ILL LP.

Electing Delegation to LP Convention

Ben stated the number of delegates maximum (I didn't put in my notes, I believe it is 18). Ben asked for a show of hands of who wants to be in the delegation, and it was less than our allotment so Secretary passed out a sheet to sign up, either as primary or alternate. Ben then read the proposed delegation, and the following motion was made:

Motion: Accept the Delegation to LP National Convention as read by the Chair.

By: Tim K.

Second: Virgil

Result: Carried

Secretary pointed out that the Chair and Vice Chair of the delegation is elected by the delegation, not by the general membership, and should be done before close of the LPWI convention.. Tim P, emcee of the afternoon activities, said he would ask the delegation to meet for that purpose in between speakers.

Proposed Platform changes

Will Losch, member of the Platform committee, presented the proposed changes which had been recommended by Paul Ehlers, Chairman of the Platform committee.. A copy of these changes were handed out to all members in advance. A vote was then taken on each proposed change, 2/3 majority need for passage, with the following results:.

Amend the platform on **Principles - LIFE**: Failed

Amend the platform on **Principles - PROPERTY**: Failed

Amend the platform on **Taxes**: Passed

Amend the platform on **State Mandates**: Passed

Amend the platform on **Guns**: Failed (this was just to move location, no content change)

Amend the platform on **Education**: Failed

Amend the platform on **Government Welfare**: Passed

Amend the platform on **Federal "Strings"**: Passed

Amend the platform on **Environment**: Passed

The changes will be effective at the close of this convention. The Platform Committee is responsible for updating the current platform with the approved changes.

Replacing ExCom Representatives and Alternates

Charles Oberg of Fond Du Lac has expressed interest in being the District 6 Representative to the ExCom. There are no other District 6 members present. Ben wanted to appoint Charles to the position, but our By-Laws require either an election by

the district or an election as interim representative by the entire ExCom. We will have an online poll in ExCom for this purpose.

Meeting Adjourned:

At approximately 12:10 PM, the general membership meeting was adjourned and Lunch was served.

Motion: Adjourn the general membership meeting.

By: Jim Maas

Second: Terry Gray

Result: Carried