

# **Libertarian Party of North Carolina**

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee**

Date: September 19, 2015

Convening at 11:03 am

Location: Country Club, Greensboro

### **In attendance:**

JJ. Summerell (chair), Brian Irving (vice chair), Windy McKinney (secretary), Kenneth Penkowski (at-large member), Lonnie Holcomb (at-large member), Tim Cole (at-large member), Chris Dooley (at-large member), Brad Hessel (non-voting member) and John Vincent (visitor to the meeting).

### **Absent:**

Alex Vuchnich, Erik Raudsep, Tom Hohman (at-large member), Jess Dunlap (at-large member), Brian Lewis (at-large member), and Jeremy Hussey (at-large member).

### **Opening:**

The agenda was accepted and the minutes from August 8, 2015 were approved.

There have been no online votes since the last meeting.

### **Officer Reports:**

#### 1. Chair –

A. JJ. Summerell put forward likely candidates for some of the vacant positions on the Executive Committee, mentioned in detail below, under “Old Business.”

B. He also discussed the potential for candidates in 2016. He attended the Guilford County LP meeting in September where Sean Haugh discussed his upcoming candidacy for US Senate. This campaign is going to be a more serious campaign than his 2014 campaign, and he plans to raise a lot of money to support it. JJ. Summerell also mentioned the potential for a good candidate in Currituck and Dare counties to upset the Democrat hold there, and specifically the potential for a Libertarian candidate in that region's US House district race.

C. JJ. Summerell's friend Brad Stanbeck also made an offer to donate money, but is working on how to get a tax break while doing so.

D. JJ. Summerell has also been working on fund raising across the state.

#### 2. Treasurer –

No treasurer's report. However, B. Hessel showed the Executive Committee a document which was submitted by A. Vuchnich which indicated a statement of organization on August 8, 2015, making the LPNC in legal compliance with the state. B. Irving noted that since Mr. Vuchnich has missed three consecutive meetings and therefore under the bylaws he has resigned his position.

## **Director Reports:**

1. University Relations Director – No University Relations report.
2. County Affiliate Coordinators –

Western region: W. McKinney reported that Buncombe, Haywood and Henderson are thriving and getting good numbers of people to meetings. Burke is becoming active again, and Cleveland-Gaston is active. The move to organize Watauga stalled after first organizational meeting, but a new fresh faced volunteer has surfaced that is interested in organizing there. The attempts at a Jackson-Macon-Swain affiliate is moving forward slowly. The next target is Transylvania County, and moves are being made toward Lincoln County. Also attempting to get Catawba County resurrected.

## **Committee Reports:**

1. Strategic Planning Committee –

K. Penkowski: Job descriptions for vacant positions within the party are still a work in progress.

2. Budget Committee –

B. Irving moved to have this committee abolished, indicating that the finance director and the treasurer fulfill these duties already. If a budget committee is needed in the future, it can be re-established. A vote was taken, and the committee was abolished with 5 consenting ayes.

3. 2016 State Convention –

B. Lewis was absent and therefore unable to give a full report, but L. Holcomb reported that Gary Johnson would not be able to speak. B. Irving suggested inviting all 16 candidates to speak and B. Hessel suggested that the LPNC sponsor a debate between them in order to gain publicity. K. Penkowski reviewed the venues he presented at the previous Executive Committee meeting, and stated that they planned to have chosen the venue by the end of November. L. Holcomb, B. Lewis and K. Penkowski will meet to discuss venues further (the idea of meeting in an event space at Ashley Christensen's "Death and Taxes" venue was enthusiastically received by the members). The discussion is mostly a decision between downtown Raleigh and a hotel somewhere in Raleigh.

**ACTION:** The convention committee will discuss further the details of the Raleigh location, and decide on a location by the end of November. More discussion on the speakers is also needed.

4. Platform Committee -

Members agreed to approve the new platform committee members per the last Executive Committee meeting: Tim Cole, Kenneth Penkowski and Windy McKinney. The committee will meet right after the executive committee meeting concludes. For a full list of Platform Committee members, see the attached file.

## **Old Business:**

1. Vacant positions.

- A) Executive Director –

JJ. Summerell stated that if this is to be a paid position, the LPNC will need money with which to pay. He has spoken to Germaine Stuart regarding this position, and has invited him to come to the next Executive Committee meeting. He comes with JJ. Summerell's recommendation.

**ACTION:** JJ. Summerell to invite Mr. Stuart to the next meeting, with a decision pending.

B) County Affiliate Development –

the present 3 way division of the state appears to be working for the moment.

C) Political Director –

JJ. Summerell asked if this was a position that would be best contracted out? B. Irving disagreed, saying that recruiting candidates and targeting does not require contracting out. JJ. Summerell did not concede, but said that more analysis of this idea was needed.

ACTION: further analysis and discussion of the role, and whether it can and should be contracted out.

D) Communications Director –

The Executive Committee was introduced to John Gregory Vincent from Gastonia, who expressed an interest in being the Communications Director. He gave a personal presentation, and said that his talents lie with public speaking and general communications, including social media, and he can help the LPNC build a following on social media. While he is not familiar with Nationbuilder, he is very familiar with CRM. B. Hessel was happy with that, stating that this was more than sufficient. J. Vincent stated that the LPNC had a huge opportunity on the website and with social media to give a more focused message, emphasizing the end game. C. Dooley responded that one problem with the website was content, the other was active participation. B. Hessel agreed that the “tactics are fine, but the strategy is wanting,” to which JJ. Summerell highlighted that this is why the LPNC was actively seeking a Communications Director.

ACTION: The motion to make Mr. Vincent Communications Director passed approved unanimously, although he is not a member of the Executive Committee.

E) Volunteer Coordinator –

JJ. Summerell has been speaking with a potential candidate, who was concerned that her inability to drive due to a DUI might be a problem. The members of the EC did not seem to think that was necessarily prohibitive. ACTION: JJ. Summerell to pursue this candidate.

F) Outreach Director –

JJ. Summerell indicated that this is not a high priority compared to the other vacancies.

G) Finance Director –

JJ. Summerell plans to speak to Ann Lake, who has proven herself capable as a fundraiser for Planned Parenthood and UNC-G.

2. LPNC Membership Card –

K. Penkowski stated that this process is moving forward. He again explained the role of the membership card in reaching out to newly registered Libertarians, and thanking donors, in hopes of generating financial support as well. In July, the LPNC gained 600 newly registered Libertarians, and it seems that now is prime time for reaching out.

3. Upcoming Events -

A) La Fiesta del Pueblo. Sept. 27, noon-7 p.m. In Raleigh. The LPNC is sharing a table with the Libre Initiative. B. Irving has had several LP brochures and immigration information translated into Spanish.

B) NC State Fair -

Oct., 15-25 in Raleigh. We still need people to sign up to man the table. This can be done here:  
[http://www.lpnc.org/nc\\_state\\_fair\\_20151015](http://www.lpnc.org/nc_state_fair_20151015)

**New Business:**

1. Executive Committee resignations –

Because the LPNC bylaws state that any member of the Executive Committee who misses three consecutive meetings is considered to have tendered a resignation, after which the Executive Committee votes to determine whether those resignations are accepted. In addition to Mr. Vuchnich, Mr. Raudsep has missed three meetings. These resignations were accepted unanimously. The motion that Mr. Ralph Lake be appointed Treasure passed unanimously.

2. Status of LPNC.net, LPNC.com etc. -

ACTION: C. Dooley to look into the price of buying .us and .net, and also .com – although he suspects that will be quite expensive and not worth the price.

3. Presidential Debate: B. Hessel suggested that the LPNC host a Presidential Debate for the Libertarian Party online. B. Irving was against the idea, saying that this could potentially give the LPNC negative exposure and that the nominee is chosen at the LP Convention, not by primary. This begs the question why we have a primary at all?

ACTION: JJ. Summerell to feel out situation by asking Wes Benedict what he thinks and if he is willing to co-sponsor, as talking to Nick Sawark.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

The next meeting is set for October 31, 2015 at 11:00 am at the Greensboro County Club. The last meeting of the year is set for December 12, 2015 in the same location.