

# **Libertarian Party of North Carolina**

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**07 July 2022**

**In Attendance:**

Joe Garcia, Chair  
Ryan Brown, Secretary  
Mike Ross, Treasurer  
Jonathan Hopper, At large  
Kimberly Acer, At large  
Steven DiFiore, At large  
Sarah Brady, At large  
Brian Irving, Executive Director

**Absent:**

Reid Deal, Vice-Chair (Excused)

**LPNC Guest members:**

Andy Shawhan  
Austin Scott  
Bob Derr  
Chase Roycroft  
Cliff Reynolds  
David Coatney  
Dee Watson  
Dereck Meadows  
Emmanuel Ruiz  
Erik Lindborg  
Eryn Thompson  
Joe Serio  
John Mazza  
Kate Shawhan  
Ken Schlegel  
Kyle Ward  
Mac Browder  
Micao Penaflor  
Noah Zenger  
Phil Jacobson  
Rena Hamilton  
Robert Raborn  
Robert Yates  
Sean Acton

Stephen Sumner  
Thomas Bivens  
Tom Finger  
William Wells

***Call to Order:***

Joe Garcia called the meeting to order at 8:33 PM, EST.

***Chair Report:***

Jeremy Hussey will be stepping down as Affiliate Team Coordinator. He isn't leaving the LPNC but has other commitments he needs to tend to. Joe Garcia or Brian Irving will be posting a job listing in the coming days. Brian will also go over the staffing and onboarding that has been going on. Joe also reminds the Executive Committee and guests of the upcoming Rally for Justice and Peace in Gastonia in support of Pastor Moses and Joshua Rohrer.

***Previous Minutes:***

The previous minutes were accepted without objection.

***Treasurer Report:***

The State account balance is \$30,099.85. The Federal account balance is \$190.54. The PayPal account is \$313.08. In the past month, there was 1 canceled \$10 monthly donation and two new \$20 monthly donations.

***Officer Reports:***

**Executive Director Report: [Appendix 1: Executive Director Report]** The report is posted in Slack and will be attached at the bottom of the minutes. There are plenty of new members joining as liaisons to groups and on issues. Joe and Brian have been filling staff positions as fast as possible. All positions are posted on the website so that members may see what positions are available.

The North Carolina State Board of Elections has put rules for the Electronic Voting Machine source code on the agenda for their July 14th meeting. Brian will update the Executive Committee after that meeting if needed.

Joe and Brian are working under what they call a "staff-team" process. They hope it will allow for staff to work independently and with autonomy.

Erik Raudsep has agreed to be Outreach Director, Susan Hogarth has agreed to be the Volunteer Coordinator, and Mac Browder has agreed to be Coalition Coordinator.

***Committee Reports:***

None

### **Electronic Voting:**

Jonathan Hopper moves to have the social media team make the following post/statement:

“Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.

We believe the most effective way to prevent abortion is to allow the free market to create better non-government-controlled alternatives.”

Ryan Brown proposes, and Jonathan Hopper accepts, the addition of the following words.

“We believe the most effective way to prevent abortion is to allow the free market to create better non-government-controlled alternatives. We condemn state-funded and state-mandated abortions. It is particularly harsh to force someone who believes that abortion is murder to pay for another’s abortion.”

The final wording was:

“Recognizing that abortion is a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, we believe that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.

We believe the most effective way to prevent abortion is to allow the free market to create better non-government-controlled alternatives. We condemn state-funded and state-mandated abortions. It is particularly harsh to force someone who believes that abortion is murder to pay for another’s abortion.”

### **Roll call vote June 25th, 2022:**

**Yes: Kimberly Acer, Jonathan Hopper, Sarah Brady, Reid Deal, Joe Garcia.**

**No: Ryan Brown, Steven DiFiore**

**Abstain:**

**The motion passed, 5-2-0.**

### **Old Business:**

- Affiliate team spending/card access: Kimberly Acer reviewed previous minutes and affiliate team notes to determine where the affiliate team might need to spend money. Based on those goals, it would make sense to them to have a way to spend money once or twice a year in order to bulk purchase materials for affiliates. Jeremy is resigning as the Affiliate Coordinator and Kimberly would like to postpone this discussion while they fill the role for the Affiliate Coordinator. Brian Irving suggests that Kimberly, Erik, and Brian work to get a plan together.

- Website position/opinion/contributor paper guideline draft: Sarah Brady presents a draft policy for the Issue Paper section of the LPNC website [**Appendix 2**]. The process in the draft is mostly what the current practice is codified in writing. The proposed motion is withdrawn to be considered further.

### **New Business:**

- Strategic Plan Update: In reviewing the job description for the Executive Director, Brian noticed the duty of implementing the Strategic Plan. The Plan is outdated and needs to be updated. Brian is working to update it but is also soliciting volunteers to help update the document.
- Messaging Team: Brian believes the LPNC needs to decide what the LPNC message is and develop themes, concepts, and content for the LPNC. This is the responsibility of the Messaging Team. As an example, Brian uses Wake County's candidate position papers and themes. Brian believes the LPNC should also have three or four big themes that are focused on by the state party.
- David Coatney for Congress 11th District (speaker): David gives an update on his campaign. David is polling well and has secured two debates for the fall. Jonathan Hopper moves "to allocate \$500 from the LPNC to the David Coatney Campaign." Seconded by Steven DiFiore. The motion passes without objection.
- Creation of a public Slack channel where members of the Executive Committee will make all motions and debate all actions of the Executive Committee: Ryan Brown has determined that Slack can have channels where only certain people can post but all peoples can read. Ryan moves "that the LPNC create a public Slack channel where members of the Executive Committee will make all motions and debate all actions of the Executive Committee so that all members of the LPNC may be aware of the actions of the Executive Committee. This Slack channel will allow members of the Executive Committee to comment and be read only for other members. An Executive Session Slack channel may be used for legal or critical strategy business and discussion." Steven DiFiore seconds the motion. The motion passes without objection.
- Update on Wake LP coaster campaign: Ryan Brown and Micao Penaflor give an update on the Wake LP coaster drive. Wake LP is doing a coaster handout drive with coasters that call for the abolition of the ABC system. 49 bars accepted coasters, 14 pending approval, and 5 rejections. Wake LP is looking to hand out coasters on September 3rd to people at ABC stores. Bar owners are excited to participate and are willing to help. The Executive Committee is happy to hear the progress.
- Ratify the actions of Joe Garcia to issue a retraction on behalf of the Executive Committee on the Facebook post regarding abortion. Ryan Brown moves

“that the Executive Committee ratify the retraction made by Joe Garcia on behalf of the Executive Committee which added a statement to the Facebook post on June 25th regarding abortion that reads

**‘RETRACTION**

The LPNC Executive Committee retracts the statement below. It was not intended as an official statement but as an attempt to find common ground on an issue that’s divided Americans, including Libertarians, for decades.”

After debate, the motion passes.

**Roll call vote:**

**Yes: Kimberly Acer, Jonathan Hopper, Sarah Brady, Steven DiFiore.**

**No:**

**Abstain: Ryan Brown, Joe Garcia**

**The motion passes, 4-0-2.**

Adjournment at 10:31 PM EST.

Submitted, Ryan Brown, Secretary

## **Appendix A: Executive Director Report**

To: LPNC Chair and Executive Committee

Subject: Executive Director Report

July 9, 2022

1. The state chair and I continue recruiting volunteers to fill staff positions. Two of the five director positions are now filled. Our next priority is to recruit a Communications Director. We've also brought aboard a Coalitions Coordinator and several issue and policy group liaisons to work under the Outreach Director, Erik Raudsep. We're keeping the file on the G-Drive updated as people come on board. Link:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1G-ZDG3T\\_jeJsOFzBxHoWogIQc0o6Rcy7xs2N2cdiJVk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1G-ZDG3T_jeJsOFzBxHoWogIQc0o6Rcy7xs2N2cdiJVk/edit?usp=sharing)

2. Website Revision. The website revisions and updates reported in June are complete.

I've worked with the Secretary to draft and implement a file plan for the Good Drive. We will reduce the number of top folders and arrange them based on our organizational structure. Most folders would be moved intact. Some would be moved under other topics.

### 4. Open Items

a. Job Descriptions. The job descriptions for the major Executive Director and major divisions are updated. There are some blanks in coordinator positions under the IT division, which we'll write as we hire people.

b. SOP & Policy Manual. Working with Chair to revise and update.

c. Voting System Source Code Review. Ongoing coordination with the Chair at others on the LPNC response to the proposed rules.

d. LPNC Messaging. Form a team to develop an LPNC message and a plan to promulgate it. This will include finding a place to publish libertarian opinions and position papers.

In liberty,

Brian Irving  
*LPNC Executive Director*

## **Appendix B: Issue Paper Policy for LPNC**

Motion to Adopt the following as the Issue Paper Policy for the LPNC:

In order to help the public to become more familiarized with the political positions of Party members and candidates, the Libertarian Party of North Carolina will host issue papers on the [LPNC.org](http://LPNC.org) website. Any member seeking to have an issue paper published must submit a digital copy of their paper as well as their intended category to the Messaging Committee for approval by a majority of the committee prior to publishing. When no Messaging Committee is seated, members may submit papers directly to the Executive Committee for approval.

Issue papers may be categorized as;

- Opinion Editorials; General issue papers describing the personal opinion of an LPNC member(s) or affiliate groups on a topic of interest
- Candidate Papers; Statements from LPNC candidates describing their position on a topic of interest
- Position Papers; Papers which may elaborate on platform planks of the LPNC Platform using longer essays, or which may address other issues with papers of similar length, but also considered official LPNC positions

Before approving any paper for publishing, the Committee will ensure:

- The author is a member in good standing of the LPNC per bylaws
- The opinion expressed within does not violate or conflict with the Statement of Principles of the LPNC
- The author is identified within the paper
- The paper is relevant to the work of the LPNC and LPNC members
- The paper does not disparage any member or group within the LPNC

**Withdrawn from consideration before a vote.**