

# Libertarian Party of North Carolina

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**29 September 2022**

**In Attendance:**

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

**Absent:**

Sarah Brady, At large (Excused)

**LPNC Guest members:**

Mac Browder  
Phil Jacobson  
Dee Watson  
John (Stratton) Lobdel  
Stephen Sumner  
Rob Yates

***Call to Order:***

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

***Chair Report:***

Since the last meeting, LPNC Vice Chair Reid Deal passed. A moment of silence was held. The LPNC will wait 30 days to open applications for the Vice Chair role out of respect for Reid.

***Electronic Voting:***

Joseph Garcia moves **“that funds up to \$200.00 be set aside for the purchase of flowers to be sent to the funeral of deceased LPNC member Donald Reid Deal.”**

**The motion passed 6-0-0.**

**Yes:** Ryan Brown, Joe Garcia, Sarah Brady, Kimberly Acer, Jonathan Hopper, Steven DiFiore.

**No:**

**Abstain:**

**Previous Minutes:**

The previous minutes were accepted without objection.

**Treasurer Report:**

Primary Checking Balance - \$29,059.07. PayPal Balance - \$1,526.56. Federal Checking Balance - \$190.54. Mike will transfer the PayPal balance to the checking in preparation for the Q3 financial report.

**Officer and Director Reports:****Executive Director Report.**

The Executive Director's report is attached in full below. Brian speaks about how the GOP is trying to stay part of a ruling in Holmes vs Moore. After talking with Joe and Jeff Scott, our liaison to the Green Party, the LPNC, at the moment, is leaning towards not joining in a statement of support.

**Political and Policy Director Report.**

Dee Watson reports that she has updated the LP National Database with all of the LPNC's candidates. She has also sent a document to the IT team and has requested that changes be made to the LPNC candidate web page. Jonathan Hopper says he will try and make the changes this weekend.

**Committee Reports:****Convention Committee Report:**

The convention committee is waiting for the hotel to respond to our latest emails and Zac Lentz will follow up with the hotel again.

**Old Business:**

- **John (Stratton) Lobdell. October 8th Freedom Fire Fest funding proposal:**  
Stratton gives details of the event and requests that the LPNC provide funds to the Cape Fear Libertarian Party to help cover room costs and light refreshments.

Jonathan Hopper moves "that the LPNC allocate \$300 for the Cape Fear Libertarian Party's Freedom Fire Fest." Seconded by Ryan Brown. After discussion there is a vote. Kimberly Acer abstains. The motion passes without objection.

- Phil Jacobson's request re: Reconstitution of the Messaging Committee:

Phil requests "that the Messaging Committee be reconstituted as a committee outside the staff structure which makes recommendations directly to the EC (as the elected representatives of the Party members) and functioning the same as the Bylaws or Platform committees do."

After discussion, the LPNC did not reconstitute the Messaging Committee as

requested.

- Phil Jacobson's request re: forming committees to create policy proposals:

Phil recommends "that ALL policy proposals be made, similarly, in committees open to viewing and participation by all party members. The staff structure should be used to implement policy, not make policy - as is called for by LPNC Bylaws. If my recommendation is formally considered by the EC I request that the vote on the proposal be done online, so that all LPNC members can weigh in."

During informal discussion at our previous meeting, the LPNC agreed that anyone can propose policies and would provide reasonable public notice and allow comment on pending policy changes. In order to formalize what was informally agreed to,

Steven DiFiore moved "that any proposed draft policies that are created by staff be posted publicly in the Executive Public channel on Slack for LPNC members to see with a comment period of 7 days. After the 7 day period is over, the policy will be discussed and voted on at the following Executive Committee meeting to decide if it will be adopted." The motion was seconded by Jonathan Hopper.

**The motion passed.** Ryan Brown voted no and the rest of the Executive Committee did not object.

During discussion, Brian Irving requested that the LPNC Executive Committee define what is and is not a policy. Ryan Brown took on the responsibility of defining what a policy is compared to guidelines and what the requirements should be for notice.

### **New Business:**

- LPNC beach trip funding proposal. Before the meeting, Ryan moved "That the LPNC allocate \$3,500 toward a weekend beach trip as proposed by Rob Yates for the days of November 17th to November 20th, 2022. These funds would be used to pay for the cost of housing and food. Any unused funds will be returned to the general fund." The motion was seconded by Steven. There was previous discussion during the week and discussion was continued during the meeting.

No vote was taken during the meeting as Rob would work with Kim to nail down specific places and costs. This would allow work towards getting a web page, email, and details out to the LPNC members.

The motion was withdrawn and further discussion would take place in Slack.

Adjournment at 10:08 PM EST.

Submitted, Ryan Brown, Secretary

## **Executive Director's report in full.**

To: LPNC Chair and Executive Committee

Subject: Executive Director Report

Sept. 29, 2022

**1. Republican amicus curiae brief, Holmes vs. Moore.** The Republican Party's general council, Philip Thomas, emailed the Chair asking if the LPNC would be interested in supporting an effort to stay part of the trial court's judgment in the Holmes v. Moore case. The case concerns the implementation of the voter ID constitutional amendment, but the bill also includes a provision for political parties to appoint statewide at-large election observers. The GOP wants to sever that section and lift the stay on that part of that law.

They've approached the Green Party and the State Board of Elections. They ask that we would agree to sign a joint motion. The GOP attorneys are drafting the motion, so it would not involve any legal work by the LPNC. And they urged us to have our attorney review it.

The Chair and I have discussed the pros and cons of joining this case, and I've briefed the Political Director. We've not made a decision but are leaning toward declining involvement.

**2. National Candidate Database.** Political Director Dee Watson has uploaded info on all our 32 candidates into the national database. She's trying to get maintenance access. Not all the photos uploaded. She's awaiting a response from the LPNC IT team regarding updating the information on the LPNC website.

**3. Committees.** Although it's not within the scope of my responsibility, since there's been some discussion about secrecy and open meetings, I have a suggestion regarding appointed committees, to publish full information on the membership, purpose, and meeting time and places of every existing committee on the website and our LPNC Members Facebook group, and for the Chair, Secretary or each committee chair make a regular public notice of this information to all LPNC members.

## **4. Ongoing Items**

b. SOP & Policy Manual. Revision and update.

c. Voting System Source Code Review.

In liberty,  
Brian Irving  
*LPNC Executive Director*