

Libertarian Party of North Carolina

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

27 October 2022

In Attendance:

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

Absent:

LPNC Guest members:

Mac Browder
Rob Yates
Dee Watson
Daniel Cavender
Stephen Sumner

Call to Order:

Joe Garcia called the meeting to order at 8:32 PM, EST.

Chair Report:

The LPNC has just scheduled the 9th Rally for Justice and Compassion in Gastonia. One of the things that the LPNC will be rallying support for is a citizen journalist, Scotty Reid, who was arrested while standing on a sidewalk outside the courthouse in Gastonia.

The LPNC had a pretty successful state fair this year as only one shift did not get covered and Joe is hoping to have the same or better turnout next year.

Electronic Voting:

Previous Minutes:

The previous minutes were accepted without objection.

Treasurer Report:

Primary Checking Balance - \$31,130.19. PayPal Balance - \$121.06. Federal Checking Balance - \$190.54.

The more detailed Treasurer's report will be attached at the end of the minutes.

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

European Election Observers. The LPNC has received a request from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to meet with their representatives in the U.S. to observe the mid-term elections. Brian has not contacted them yet.

The LPNC fair was touched on by Joe. The Raleigh gun show in December was approved. Kimberly Acer has completed an affiliate team guide, which will probably be rolled into the policy manual at a later date. Dee Watson is in full election mode, on both her campaign and others. There are at least four Libertarians running for the non partisan Soil and Water races.

Brian is working on making changes to the new policy manual. Brian and Joe clarify that it was downloaded and adopted from Minnesota's policy manual and not yet adopted policy in North Carolina.

The Executive Director's report is attached in full below.

Mac Browder adds that the Raleigh gun show has accepted the LPNC application and will send out details closer to the event date. Justin Hinckley is also working on 2A specific literature for the gun show.

Committee Reports:

Convention Planning Committee Report: The committee has been meeting and have communications with Ann from the hotel. We are close to getting everything nailed down and will come back with a proposed contract as soon as possible. While we were communicating with the hotel, the date that we wished to hold the convention was reserved by another group. We agreed to try for the first weekend in May.

Old Business:

- Gun tabling event in Raleigh in December. Follow up with Mac.: As Mac reported during the Executive Director's report, the table was approved and Justin Hinckley is working on 2A materials.
- Review of SOP & Policy Manual edits - Brian Irving: Brian covered this in his Executive Director report. Ryan sends a link to the document to the Executive Committee so that they can keep it in mind as Brian is making changes. Once this is past the alpha stage, this can be put forward for public comment.

New Business:

- Filling of Vice Chair vacancy.
There were 2 applicants for the position of Vice-Chair. Ryan Brown, the current Secretary and Jonathan Hopper, a current At-Large member. NOTA was also on the ballot. Each candidate was given a few minutes to speak to the Executive Committee and then each member of the Executive Committee was given a chance to ask questions of the candidates. Ryan Brown was the only voting member of the Executive Committee not called on to ask questions of any candidate.

A roll call vote was held and the members of the Executive Committee expressed their preference for Vice Chair as follows.

Jonathan Hopper: Steven DiFiore, Kimberly Acer, Jonathan Hopper

Ryan Brown: Sarah Brady, Ryan Brown

NOTA:

Abstain: Joe Garcia

Jonathan Hopper was elected to Vice Chair by a vote of 3-2-0-1

- Fill At-Large vacancy:
After Jonathan Hopper was elected Vice Chair, there was a vacancy. Ryan Brown moves, **“that the LPNC accept applications for the vacant At-Large position starting at the end of this meeting until November 10th, which is the next LPNC Executive Committee meeting.”** Seconded by Kimberly Acer. The motion passes without objection.
- Consider allowing non-voting EC members the ability to make and second motions.
- Brian.

Brian has reviewed LPNC bylaws and Democratic Rules of Order and believes that these documents allow non voting members of the Executive Committee to make and second motions. He believes the only rights not granted to the Treasurer and Executive Director are voting rights. Brian asks for clarification from the Executive Committee.

After a short discussion, Jonathan Hopper moves, **“that the Executive Director and Treasurer are entitled to introduce and second motions and participate in debate on all matters before the Committee.”**

Yes: Joe Garcia, Jonathan Hopper, Steven DiFiore, Sarah Brady, Kimberly Acer

No: Ryan Brown

Abstain:

The motion passes 5-1-0.

- Nationbuilder Funding - Mike Ross.
While preparing a more detailed Treasurer’s report Mike Ross saw the bill for

NationBuilder was last paid in November 2022. Last year's NationBuilder expense was billed on November 17th, 2022 and was for a total of \$2,565.05. Joe will reach out to Brad and determine if we should renew NationBuilder for a year or if we can move to CiviCRM within a year. This year's expense would be due November 15th at a cost of \$2,582.40. After reviewing last year's motion to fund NationBuilder for one year, it was agreed that when we would fund this round of funding for NationBuilder with a vote. The Executive Committee will vote with an electronic vote, if needed.

- Naming Chair for the Strategic Planning Committee - Joe.

The Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting regularly and has recommended to Joe Garcia that Mac Browder be approved as chair for the Strategic Planning Committee. Joe Garcia recommends Mac Browder as chair for the Strategic Planning Guide. The Executive Committee does not object to this appointment.

Adjournment at 9:32 PM EST.

Submitted, Ryan Brown, Secretary

LPNC Treasurer's Report – 10/27/22

Account Balances:

Truist Main - \$31,130.19

PayPal - \$121.06

Truist Federal - \$190.54

Year To Date Operating Expenses (As of 10/24, not counting PayPal Fees)

Advertising - Facebook Boosting \$75.27

Contract Services \$10,113.00

Contribution to Candidate \$500.00

Donation to County Party \$9,755.63

Event Expense \$1,100.00

Insurance – Property \$371.00

Office Supplies \$344.46

Postage & Delivery \$6.50

Printing and Reproduction \$731.74

Travel Expense \$223.74

Total Operating Expenses \$23,221.34

Updates

Will work on creating custom categories to better track expenses next year

Zelle set up with Truist as alternative to PayPal for direct donations

Donations can be made via Zelle to treasurer@lpnc.org

Flat 1% fee for all Zelle transfers

Would like to work with the EC and potentially committees to build a budget for 2023

Executive Director's report in full.

To: LPNC Chair and Executive Committee

Subject: Executive Director Report

Oct. 27, 2022

1. Political & Public Policy

a. European Election Observers. We've received a request from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to meet with their representatives in the U.S. to observe the mid-term elections. I have not contact them yet.

b. The Political Director is full election mode, both on her own campaign and working with other campaigns. She's uncovered at least four Libertarians running for soil and water conservation supervisor positions.

2. Communications

a. Radio interview with Lockwood Philips, WTKF in Moorhead City on election prospects. He's also planning an interview with the Libertarian and Green U.S. Senate candidates.

b. Planning for second edition or revived newsletter to go out post-election. The CD was planning on sending out a Halloween themed press release, but I talked him out of it.

3. Outreach

a. State Fair (report from Brad Hessel). Thanks to everyone who scrambled to help make our 2022 State Fair booth operate productively. In the end, we recruited enough volunteers to cover all but one shift and there was only one no-show out of all 80 filled slots.

The WSPQ and the trifold brochure performed their usual proselytizing magic and we scored more contacts than 2021 (overall fair attendance was also up sharply). Sales were down, mostly due to a lack of anything new — and paucity of old stuff — to sell.

Looking ahead, WakeLP should have no issues staffing the booth in 2023 but we need have a better plan for 2024 when Early Voting and the Fair will likely again collide.

b. C&E Raleigh Gun show application was approved.

c. Affiliate Team Guide completed by Kim Acer.

4. Administrative

a. SOP & Policy Manual. Review of initial edits still underway.

b. LPNC Staff Organizational and Operational Concept. I posted a review of our operational concept in the LPNC staff channel. (Attachment 1)

7. Action item: Executive Committee Non-voting Member Motions.

Regarding my request for the Executive Committee to reconsider it's policy that non-voting members cannot make and second motions (Attachment 2), if the Committee determines this policy change requires formal action, here is my motion:

The LPNC Bylaws establish the Executive Director and Treasurer as non-voting members of the LPNC Executive Committee. Nothing in the LPNC Bylaws or Democratic Rules of Orders prohibits a non-voting member from participating fully and equally in meetings.

Therefore, I move that the Executive Director and Treasurer are entitled to introduce and second motions and participate in debate on all matters before the Committee.

/s/

Brian Irving

LPNC Executive Director

Attachment 1 - LPNC Staff Organizational and Operational Concept

It's been a few months since we started work as staff, and I haven't had time to set up a second staff meeting. We're still working through some kinks in the organizational chart and still have some key positions to fill, but here is a quick review of how we will operate.

As I said, you are the LPNC staff, even though you're not paid (least in recognizable currency); you'll be treated as staff and expected to act like a staff. To put it plainly, you'll be allowed to do the job you agreed to do and expected to do the job you volunteered to do.

All staff members, including the Executive Director, are appointed by the Chair with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. They can be removed from the jobs by the same process.

The party bylaws define the Executive Director's job, which is to serve as the "principal administrative assistant to the Chair" and "supervise staff members, including volunteers, appointed or hired by the Executive Committee or Chair." My job as Executive Director is to provide overall management and supervision, not to tell you how to do your jobs or micromanage your work. I will, however, fill in when needed, and I'm always available to offer guidance and advice.

While we have an organizational structure (some might call it a hierarchy, a chain-of-command, or a bureaucracy, but it is far from that), our operational concept is to work as a team — as it has always been in the LPNC. This organizational plan may be new and more detailed than we've ever tried, but the working concept is not new or complex.

Each Director is responsible for running their division and coordinating their work up, down, and across the LPNC divisions. Division Directors, Coordinators, managers, and team members, whatever your job title or non-title, should work up, down, and across the staff structure. Each Director is empowered to work on issues and projects in their sphere and develop their programs.

Directors are free to form teams under their division which will report to them, and form teams with other Division Directors. Staff members should work their division's projects, activities, and proposals through the organizational structure before the Division Director brings them to the Executive Director for presentation to the Executive Committee.

This process may seem complicated and overly bureaucratic, especially to libertarians, but it is how professional organizations get things done effectively and efficiently. Even in a volunteer organization, the primary purpose and role of staff is to do the legwork and homework associated with the organization's business so that when the leadership hears a recommendation, they have all the information they need to make a decision.

Attachment 2 - Executive Committee Non-voting Member

I ask the Executive Committee to reconsider the practice of not allowing the non-voting members to make or second motions. There is a precedent for this; Brad Hessel offered motions and seconds when he served.

This ability would facilitate the work of the Executive Director and the Treasurer and improve the efficiency of Executive Committee deliberations. Instead of submitting recommendations and suggestions, we could present the Exec Comm with a complete proposal to accept, reject or modify.

That is in keeping with our roles as LPNC officials.

I could not find any specific reference to the role of non-voting members of a board or committee researching this online. In fact, the term is not used. All the references, including the sacred Robert's Rules, refer to a "member" making a motion. There's no equivalent terminology in Democratic Rules of Order or RRONR. Typical usage is that members can make and second motions and debate them.

There is nothing in our bylaws that contradicts that common usage. The bylaws call both positions "non-voting" members and only restrict one right of a specific category of Exec Comm members. Both the Treasurer and Executive Director already participate in debates.

DRO does not define members but does say what members can do. This includes " the right of each individual member to participate equally and fully in orderly meetings ... (Democratic Principles pgs 3-4) and, by implication, the right to make and second motions (Motions and Decisions, pg 17).

In summary: Both the Treasurer and Executive Director are members of the Executive Committee. The only restriction on the membership is that they cannot vote. Therefore, they should be allowed to exercise all other rights and privileges of members.