

Libertarian Party of Wisconsin  
Executive Committee Regular Meeting

November 19, 2023, 7:00 PM on Zoom

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Stephen Ecker at 7:05 PM.

Roll call

Quorum confirmed.

Chair's Comments

Brief introduction from Tom Patrowsky.

Approval of previous minutes

Michael Chianese motions to approve.

Michael Conard seconds.

No objections – approved.

Approval of Agenda

Michael Conard motions to approve.

Michael Chianese seconds.

No objections – approved.

**Officer Reports**

Chair – Report Included. No comments.

Vice Chair – Report Included.

- Priority is website until that's done.

Treasurer – Report Included.

- Question on check to Waupaca County Libertarians – this check was for a booth at the county fair.
- Further question on reporting transactions in support of a candidate. **The threshold for reporting to Wisconsin Ethics Commission (WEC) is \$2,500.**
- **This includes both accepting and making contributions/disbursements in favor of a candidate.** Using as an example the check for LP Waupaca's booth. Waupaca spent \$265 on a booth and received \$265 from LPWI. That counts as \$530 towards the threshold. Also counts as "Express Advocacy" of a candidate since that candidate attended and worked the booth.
- Tim Krenz: A disorganized affiliate (Polk County), will they need to report to ethics?
  - o Brian Bell: So long as you're not spending or collecting money in support of a candidate, no. But if so and over the threshold, yes.
- Michael Conard: Raffle license support for affiliates – how will that affect affiliate reporting?
  - o Brian Bell: Local affiliate – has \$2500 in a reporting period. Which includes raffles. If they go over that threshold they will have to report.

- Brian Bell: LP Dane – don’t officially endorse a candidate...Issue advocacy is not part of this and money spent won’t matter for threshold.
- Michael Conard: Need to make this threshold clear to affiliates.
  - o Should an article be written for the LP Wire? – Suggested that Brian Bell write something.
  - o Krenz – have an affiliate checklist?
  - o Continued education recommended.
- Michael Chianese - Motion that the LPWI does not give out funds unless an affiliate is registered with the WI ethics committee. – Seconded by Brian Bell
  - o Brian Bell, Friendly amendment – LPWI shall not disburse funds to an affiliate unless they are a registered committee with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission
  - o Tim Krenz pointed out Article 1, section 3 – “The Party Treasurer shall not remit moneys to any affiliate party that is not in compliance with applicable state law and administrative code.”
  - o Discussion generally opposed. Concern over limiting LPWI ability to help affiliates with small amounts.
  - o Michael Chianese withdraws motion.

## Committee Reports

Constitution and Bylaws (David Grover, Chair) – No Report. Not present.

Candidate Support (Jeff Kortsch, Chair) – Report Included. No Comments.

Convention (Teresa Boris, Chair) – No Report. Not present.

Communications (Tim Krenz, Chair): Report Included.

- **Motion from Committee – Communications Committee would like the ExCom to approve a budget of \$250 for 2024 to do social media boosting, primarily on Facebook.**
  - o What’s the timeframe for the use of the \$250?
  - o To be used as a bit of an experiment to see how successful this would be. Michael Schisel tracking engagement/views and would use this to find out how worthwhile this is.
  - o This \$250 would boost the convention/website primarily rather than candidates.
  - o **No objections – Approved**
  - o Question on how money is appropriated? Would use LPWI Debit Card.
  - o Who has access to Facebook account?
    - Michael Chianese
    - Tom Leary
    - Michael Schisel
    - Michael Schisel will get Brian Bell added.
  - o Paypal is an option as well. Brian prefers debit card.
- Tim Krenz: Last meeting discussed LPWI literature handouts, LP National will have a sale on Black Friday of their literature. Do we want to use that instead?
  - o Nate Gall: Would be ideal to have LPWI branding.
  - o The committee has authorization for money and will discuss further on how best to utilize.
- **Motion from Committee: The Communications Committee requests full funding for 2024, somewhere in the range of \$1600 to \$2400 for a new content and data management system, NationBuilder.**

- While this involves phasing out the current CiviCRM system we use for free from the LNC we believe the benefits of using Nation Builder to build the urgently needed new website operation, and to use it to integrate the next phase of our customer resource management (CRM) needs, make this request both a sensible and critical component of our success. Please refer to the minutes and our previous report from September for our reason to make this important request.
- Michael Chianese: Big range? What does this include?
  - Minimum is \$1600, if we get more members, the cost goes up. This is an annual cost.
- Michael Conard: Nation Builder appears to use the same basic platform – Wordpress – that CiviCRM uses. So, if you’re familiar with CiviCRM, NationBuilder and WildApricot will be very easy to adapt to. Asked NationBuilder if they could import data from CiviCRM and they said yes.
- Nate Gall: Loves NationBuilder. Was used before switching to Civi, was much easier to get people to use, permissions with Civi are fickle. The problem is...NationBuilder charges for everyone that is entered. Perhaps the best answer is using Civi for larger contact list. And use NationBuilder for main contacts. Provided that LNC does not abandon Civi. There’s been talk of this so might be good to know.
- Phil Anderson: \$1600-\$2400 based on current contacts of 500-600 people. Currently don’t have good control over Civi to do what we want to do.
- Stephen Ecker: In the last LNC meeting there wasn’t talk of getting rid of Civi – but mood was that it was a mistake.
- Michael Conard: Only good thing with Civi right now is that it currently has all this data. When Conard finally got to Civi’s numbers, they don’t jive with Caryn Ann Harlos’ (LNC Secretary) numbers with members from Wisconsin.
- Tim Krenz: Is Website, LPWI.org owned by LPWI?
  - Michael Chianese: Yes. GoDaddy.com has it registered. The website/CiviCRM is hosted by National.
- Nate Gall: If we need to pull a list from National/Civi to send emails then we can still do that. But NationBuilder would give us much more control over priority contact list.
- Phil Anderson volunteered to be very involved with building/transitioning to it as well.
- NationBuilder would replace MailChimp? Potentially. Which, cost savings could partially offset cost of NationBuilder.
- **No objections - Approved**

Fundraising (Jason Boris, Chair) – Report Included.

- Prices set for convention advertising.

Historical Preservation (VACANT) – VACANT, no report.

Platform (Jeff Kortsch, Chair) – Report Included. No comments.

Strategic Planning (Tim Krenz, Chair) – Report Included.

- **Tim Krenz describes motion listed in report.**
  - Motion is to add language to Policy & Procedures Manual.
  - Nate Gall speaks in favor.
  - **No objections – Approved**
- Recommendation to create a data management team based on the above motion’s vision.

- **Tim Krenz makes motion to create team. Phil Anderson seconds.**
  - If this is passed, a chair would be nominated.
  - Michael Chianese suggests this may work better under communications committee?
  - Krenz points out the work this group would do would be related to but separate from communications committee and would be better served by someone who is familiar with data management.
- **No objections – Approved**
  - Asking for a team leader. Should that be done now or under New Business? Chair will review.

### **Coordinators and Directors**

Affiliate Support (Tyler Danke, Coordinator) – Not Present. No report.

Events (Teresa Boris, Coordinator) – Not Present, No Report.

Information Technology Services (Michael Chianese, Director) – No Report.

Membership Services (Michael Conard, Director) – Report Included.

- Phil Anderson: Do we know the list of National members that are not state members?
  - Michael Conard: We can. Would need to run a query. LNC states we have 218 members that count towards apportionment of delegates. Conard can only find 172 in national database. National members that claim Wisconsin as residency.
- Tim Krenz: Any way of contacting LPWI losses over first three quarters?
  - Michael Conard: Yes, unfortunately the quality of contact information is hit or miss.
  - Tim Krenz offers to contact everyone if list can be provided.

### **Unfinished Business**

Open Positions

- Secretary (\*See New Business)
- CD7 Alt Rep Appointment
  - Was a notice put out? There was after the last ExCom.
  - **Michael Conard nominates himself.**
  - **No objections – Approved**
- Historical Preservation Committee Chair
  - No candidates right now.

### **New Business**

Consideration of Tom Patrowsky for LPWI Secretary

- **No objections - Approved**

**Thank you, Michael Chianese, for your help over the last few months.**

### **Good of the Party**

- Nate Gall – Accepting nominations for awards in the next couple of meetings – so think about who you want to nominate.

- Ed Thompson Liberty Award – goes to an individual, organization or business that reflects values as libertarians. Public facing orgs and individuals.
- Dave Harmon Freedom Award – an individual in the party that has gone above and beyond to make the party better in the last year. More internal
- Phil Anderson – starting some campaign activities after Thanksgiving. Dodgeville, Beloit, Milwaukee, Marshfield and Appleton. Please join if you can.

#### Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Michael Chianese.
- Second by Tim Krenz
- No objections - Approved

#### Next Meetings

Dec 17, 2023, 7:00 PM

Jan 21, 2023, 7:00 PM

Feb 18, 2023, 7:00 PM

#### Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88066271683?pwd=Mjg3M3ZjQllnelA5MjJBdjV6WG1oZz09>