

Libertarian Party of Wisconsin
Executive Committee Regular Meeting

July 21st, 7:00 PM on Zoom

Minutes

Question on Quorum – Quorum is still 8 with officer suspended.

Preliminaries

Call to Order – meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

Ground rules—Only officers, at-large representatives, and primary representatives may participate in the discussions during main items, unless: 1) Alternate Representatives may participate in absence of Primary; or 2) Someone gets called upon for information. All others in gallery may use chat function, until open forum or “for the good of the Party.”

Roll Call/Quorum determination - Quorum confirmed.

Agenda Approval – no objection

Previous Meeting Minutes Errata and Approval:

- Secretary – Minutes Attached.
- Michael Chianese motions to approve.
- Michael Schisel seconds.
- Approved without objection.

Acting Chair – Report Attached

I have three goals

- Bring stability and focus moving forward.
- Would like to see ExCom and committees focus on upcoming election in order to build membership.
- Focus on non-partisan spring elections next Spring.
 - Jeff Kortsch states that August 13th is next candidate support committee meeting.

Treasurer – Report Attached.

- Motions from report:
 - **I (Brian Bell) move that the Executive Committee reconfirms that it has appointed Brian Bell as Treasurer and Timothy Krenz as Acting Chair to deposit and withdraw funds from the LPWI bank accounts.**
 - Michael Chianese seconds.
 - Kristin Walker speaks in favor.

- **Passed without objections.**
- **I (Brian Bell) move that the Executive Committee authorizes the Treasurer and Acting Chair to establish a savings account at the same depository institution (BMO Harris Bank) as the existing checking account for the purpose of safeguarding organization funds.**
 - Tom Leary seconds.
 - Michael Chianese is in favor but asks about interest on the accounts and if that causes any problems.
 - Brian Bell answers that it's not an issue. Just needs to be recorded.
 - Kristin Walker speaks in favor and says as long as interest is less than \$10 it's not a concern for taxes.
 - Michael Chianese clarifies his concern with FEC related.
 - **Passed without objections.**

Committee Reports

Questions on Reports by Groups, Teams and Directors:

Constitution and Bylaws (Michael Conard, Chair)

Candidate Support (Jeff Kortsch, Chair)

Convention (Bryan Voss, Chair)

- Brian Bell asks about the Convention report which stated preliminary outreach had been made. If someone at that committee could please share who has been contacted that would be helpful.

Communications (Tim Krenz, Chair)

Fundraising (Vacant)

Platform (Aaron Kammer, Chair)

Strategic Planning (Phil Anderson, Chair)

Affiliate Support (Phil Anderson and Jeff Kortsch, Co-Coordiators)

Events (Teresa Boris, Coordinator)

Information Technology Services (Michael Chianese, Director)

Membership Services (Michael Conard, Director)

- Tim Krenz asks about membership report.
 - Michael Conard states that the graph should be used for trends, numbers in the report for actual numbers.
- Tim Krenz asks about new lifetime member.
 - Michael Conard clarifies this could be someone that was missed in the initial sweep.

Motions by Reports:

- **Strategic Planning recommends the ExCom set minimum membership dues as:**
 - **\$60 in dues/donations in the last 12 months**
 - **Continuing membership: \$75 yearly membership or \$5 monthly increments**
 - **\$1000 lifetime membership**
 - Michael Chianese speaks in favor and explains intent.

- Nathan Gall speaks opposed to this motion.
- Tom Leary asks about the yearly membership being more than the monthly.
 - Brian Bell answers that the intent is to encourage monthly memberships over annual.
- Jeff Kortsch asks about lifetime membership.
 - Michael Chianese answers that it is a one time \$1000 donation to be lifetime. Not a cumulative.
- Michael Chianese speaks in favor.
- Nate Gall speaks against and believes membership should be based on principle rather than money or time. Also thinks the structure is confusing.
- Bryce Thon speaks against.
- Brian Bell takes gavel from chair Tim Krenz.
- Tim Krenz speaks against.
- Kristin Walker asks if eliminating the annual membership would be an option if we want to encourage monthly.
 - Michael Chianese believes this would prevent people from mailing in annual membership checks and avoiding the website option.
- Tim Krenz motions to amend the motion to remove the third bullet, and update the second line to read \$60 yearly.
 - Michael Chianese seconds.
 - Michael Chianese asks if we can grandfather in lifetime membership.
 - **Michael Conard motions that we refer this back to the strategic planning committee.**
 - Seconded.
 - Michael Chianese disagrees that we should table it. He believes what we have is workable and we should proceed.
 - Michael Conard wants to have input on the structure as he was absent from strategic planning meeting.
 - Nate Gall speaks favor.
 - Bryce Thon speaks in favor. Likes the first half of the amendment but not the lifetime.
 - Phil Anderson clarifies that Michael Conard was invited but was unable to attend.
 - Phil Andeson also states these meeting minutes were posted a week ago so please give your insight prior to the meeting if you can and be sure to read the minutes.
 - Kristin Walker speaks in favor of tabling and thinks lifetime members often fall away and it should be considered that regular dues paying members will often give the same amount.
 - **Approved without objections.**

Brian Bell returns gavel to Chair, Tim Krenz.

Unfinished Business

- POTUS/VPOTUS WEC registration; from 2024 Convention Delegations (Chianese & Bell)
 - o Brian was mailed the nomination form from LNC via the previous chair. Brian submitted that to the Wisconsin Elections Commission and asked to be notified when it was received.
 - WEC requires an additional form that is notarized.
 - Brian has not heard back and left a voicemail and will be following up on Monday.
 - o Michael Chianese states that we have until September to complete and asks if Brian submitted the list of electors.
 - Brian confirms that he did.
 - o Tim Krenz asks Brian to please keep the party apprised on progress.

- New Webmail (Chianese)
 - o Michael Chianese is continuing to research.

New Business

- Anderson Campaign donation from Party; or alternative (Schisel & Bell)
 - o **I, Michael Schisel, move that the executive committee donates \$5,000 to the campaign of Phil Anderson for U.S Senate. So long as it stands within the rules of the WEC.**
 - Kristin Walker seconds.
 - Bryce Thon speaks in favor. Asks how much money we have?
 - Brian Bell states that the current LPWI balance is \$38,029.49. Our budget for this year is \$22,634. Additional details are available in Treasurer's report.
 - o Tim Krenz asks how much have we used of that budget.
 - Brian Bell does not have that figure now.
 - o Next 12 months with minimal fundraising, after this \$22k we would have \$16k remaining.
 - o Tim Krenz asks if \$16k is a prudent reserve?
 - Brian Bell states he is trying to work on revenue forecasting. States it would be preferable to have a full year's budget in reserve in case of significant membership drop in order to still put on a convention and keep the lights on.
 - Brian Bell states that this motion would require us to set up a separate federal bank account and register with the FEC because this is a federal election and not a state election. There are also different contribution limits at the federal level that would need to be identified. Alternatively, there are ways to support these campaigns with our current accounts. Avoiding magic words of "vote for" or "vote against".

- Kristin Walker asks if we can table this until after the next candidate support committee meeting?
 - Michael Chianese believes we should not wait.
- Bryan Voss speaks against.
- Michael Chianese speaks in favor and asks what the effort would be for this.
- Brian says he could set up the account and then have Tim countersign. The time-consuming part would be the FEC reporting.
- Ideally we need a page on our website that is separate from the state side and is specific to federal elections.
- Phil Anderson comments that he was endorsed at the convention but also that setting this up will likely be too late for the current election.
- Tim Krenz points out that we probably won't be spending this sort of money next year.
- Brian Bell points out that we previously voted in a policy for donating to campaigns and had established amounts.
 - Michael Chianese states that he believes that motion was to establish guidelines, not maximums.
 - Phil Anderson states, just because the ExCom voted on a policy earlier this year, that doesn't mean we can't vote on a new policy this year.
- **Michael Chianese moves to amend the motion to read, "commit" in place of donates and replace "Phil Anderson" to "to issue advocacy".**
 - Tim Krenz asks that if Phil Anderson is specified, does that count as an in-kind donation?
 - Brian Bell says, yes we would need it to be for issue advocacy congruent to current liberty minded candidates.
 - Bryan Voss speaks against.
 - Brian Bell asks who is going to execute this if it is not going to a committee. Is it ComCom?
 - Tim Krenz confirms.
 - Brian Bell seconds.
 - **Passed without objections. Phil Anderson abstains.**
- **Motion that the executive committee commit \$5,000 to issue advocacy.**
 - Chris Nass speaks against.
 - Brian Bell states that this grants a lot of latitude to help push our message and spread awareness that we exist and any help to active campaigns is a side effect.
 - **Passed 8-0-3**
 - Chair will assign to ComCom for execution.

- Michael Chianese motions the LPWI to budget \$500 for campaign signs from the Phil Anderson Senate Campaign and \$500 for campaign signs from the Chase Oliver POTUS campaign. The signs will be distributed on a "first come first served" basis to members of LPWI.
 - Bryce Thon seconds.
 - Phil Anderson asks if this would create the same problems with federal guidelines?
 - Brian Bell says yes it would and what would be cleaner and more feasible would be to identify the money to make our own signs.
 - Phil Anderson says you could purchase from the same place the campaign did in order to avoid in-kind contributions but it could be coordination.
 - Jeff Kortsch states it would have to have the "paid for" updated.
 - Michael Chianese speaks in favor, given that we would purchase the signs directly.
 - Brian Bell asks Phil Anderson if yard signs are helpful.
 - Phil Anderson states that currently there is more supply than demand.
 - Bryce Thon speaks in favor especially because it would help ballot access.
 - Michael Chianese clarifies that the senate election will not affect our ballot access.
 - Brian Bell moves to refer this motion to the candidate support committee to confirm this would be an effective use of resources.
 - Tom Leary seconds.
 - Motion fails 0-9-2
 - Brian Bell motions to amend the motion to read "purchase for" rather than "purchase from".
 - Friendly motion accepted.
 - Jeff Kortsch believes this makes it read as an in-kind donation.
 - Phil Anderson suggests "regarding"
 - Friendly motion accepted.
 - **Motion that the LPWI to budget \$500 for campaign signs regarding the Phil Anderson Senate Campaign and \$500 for campaign signs regarding the Chase Oliver POTUS campaign. The signs will be distributed on a "first come first served" basis to members of LPWI.**
 - **Motion passes 7-0-4**
 - Michael Chianese volunteers to execute.
- Radio spots; August; \$1000 to \$1500; for ComCom (Krenz)
 - Withdrawn given previous passed motions.
 - Special Convention (Chianese & Voss)

- I (Michael Chianese) move that the LPWI recognizes the interpretation of the bylaws as determined by the Executive Committee, specifically stating that only LPWI members that are also residents of the State of Wisconsin may vote and be counted in LPWI conventions, including special conventions. This interpretation shall be used as the guiding principle for all relevant future actions and decisions unless and until the bylaws are formally amended or a different interpretation is adopted by a vote of the Executive Committee.
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rqzWkmKY77cwOj-d9rSBtpIs_NVX4K75/edit?usp=sharing&oid=107962287293026346395&rtpof=true&sd=true
 - Nate Gall objects to the consideration of the question.
 - Bryce Thon seconds.
 - Objection fails 3-7-1
 - Bryan Voss seconds.
 - Michael Chianese speaks in favor.
 - Bryce Thon speaks opposed.
 - Phil Anderson speaks in favor.
 - Michael Chianese asks Michael Conard for his parliamentary interpretation.
 - Michael Conard thinks this is unnecessary.
 - Nate Gall speaks against. He does not think the ExCom should be interpreting the by-laws. By-laws interpret themselves.
 - Michael Chianese states that this is in order to confirm that we all understand the by-laws in the same way.
 - Phil Anderson speaks in favor.
 - Bryce Thon speaks against.
 - Phil Anderson speaks in favor.
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 - Phil Anderson speaks in favor.
 - Bryce Thon speaks in against.
 - Michale Chianese speaks in favor.
 - Bryan Voss speaks in favor.
 - Nate Gall speaks against. States that he interprets the by-laws in the same way as Michael Chianese.
 - Bryce Thon speaks against.
 - Michael Chianese speaks in favor.
 - Phil Anderson speaks in favor and states that we are the sole interpreters of these by-laws.
 - Nate Gall states that “members in good standing” are already defined in our by-laws.
 - Michael Chianese does not believe our by-laws define what a member in good standing is, just who is a member in good standing.
 - Michael Chianese informally calls the question.
 - There is an objection so debate continues.
 - Phil Anderson speaks in favor.
 - Bryce Thon speaks against and states that RONR cannot apply here to determine who is a member in good standing.
 - Nate Gall speaks against.

- Phil Anderson speaks in favor.
 - Bryce Thon speaks against.
 - Michael Chianese formally calls the question.
 - Phil Anderson seconds.
 - Motion passes
 - Motion passes 7-3-1

- Michael Chianese asks if the suspension of the previous chair requires the ExCom to call a special convention.
 - Bryce Thon states that his interpretation is that a special convention requires a petition and cannot be done by the ExCom
 - Michael Chianese clarifies his first question is does the ExCom need to initiate the petition?
 - Bryce Thon believes the member needs to initiate the petition.
 - Phil Anderson asks another question as to what happens if no petition is completed.
 - Brian Bell states he interprets it as the ExCom could also call a special convention.
 - Bryce Thon believes a petition has to be circulated.
 - Bryan Voss believes the special convention is being triggered by the suspension.
 - Bryce Thon disagrees that this is inherently a trigger.
 - Bryan Voss believes the phrase “called for such a purpose”
 - Phil Anderson points out that the suspension is temporary. The subject to ratification is a separate process. In the meantime, the previous chair is suspended. And as long as there is no special convention he would remain as such.
 - Brian Bell states a special convention MAY be called.
 - Bryce Thon agrees with Phil’s interpretation. But says this is a special convention and the ExCom can only call other conventions.
 - Michael Conard points out that with just one convention a year, any other convention IS a special convention.
 - Michael Chianese thinks the temporary nature could be an issue.
 - Bryce Thon disagrees with Michael Conard’s interpretation of conventions.

- I move that the LPWI recognizes the interpretation of the bylaws as written below. This interpretation shall be used as the guiding principle for all relevant future actions and decisions unless and until the bylaws are formally amended or a different interpretation is adopted by a vote of the Executive Committee or convention. The chair is temporarily suspended until such time a special convention can be held. The ExCom has no need to initiate a convention until a petition is made outside of the ExCom, as the original temporary suspension lasts until the end of the term.
 - Phil Anderson seconds.
 - Michael Chianese speaks in favor.
 - Bryce Thon speaks in favor.
 - Brian Bell asks how to interpret the reception of the petition.
 - Michael Conard answers it would have to be a special ExCom
 - Motion passes with two absentions.

Open Forum/Good of the Party

Tim Krenz runs an awesome campaign seminar.

Phil Anderson just booked Jo Jorgenson for an event in Appleton, Friday, August 16th. Expect Jo Jorgenson to endorse as well.

Chris Nass says the Kickapoo River cleanup was fun. He is not leading the great Midwest marijuana fest this year. The other event in September, the Hemp fest is democrats supporting laws rather than opposing so we are not leading it.

Michael Chianese motions to adjourn.

Bryan Voss seconds.

Passes without objections.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Next Meetings

Aug 18, 2024, 7:00 PM

Sep 15, 2024, 7:00 PM

Oct 20, 2024, 7:00 PM

Zoom Link:

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

Meeting ID: 880 6627 1683

Passcode: 820018

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwtce-qqTosEtfDBqjGqTpjaXE5p8wNed-4/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGgrj0sGNOUthGERpw-Ao_oM-rwtn5dj7dbuD30CQdCVhP8N9pnZ6InB_bV