



June 14, 2003

Executive Committee Meeting

Accepted 07-26-03

A regular meeting held at 10 AM at Mack Kells Pub,  
Asheville, NC

These minutes were e-mailed to: [ecLPNC@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ecLPNC@yahoogroups.com), [JudiciaryComm@LPNC.com](mailto:JudiciaryComm@LPNC.com)

With Ms Howe presiding and Ms Wilcox recording, the meeting came to order at 10:10 AM. Present were Mr. Wrights, Ms Montague, Ms Mills, Mr. Owen, Mr. Goree, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Fortner, and Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Hill and Mr. Haugh.

Ms Howe held Mr. Howe's proxy and Mr. Woodcock's proxy. Mr. Blackburn held Mr. Pitts proxy.

Absent was Mr. Dixon.

Observing (at various times) were Dr. Jim Lark and Mr. Clark Walter.

### **I. Opening**

- A. The agenda was amended to add a discussion of outreach activities and was then accepted.
- B. Upon review, the minutes of the annual convention of 2003 and the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2003 were approved.

### **II. Executive Director's Report**

- A. Mr. Haugh reported that the filing period for local candidates will open soon and that he will focus on this time period in conjunction with the Political Director.
- B. Mr. Haugh reported that he had hired a sub contractor for fundraising, as allowed in his contract. Jason Mara has agreed to work on fundraising with Sean.
- C. Mr. Haugh reminded everyone that announcements of upcoming events need to be forwarded to him to be included in the events notices.
- D. Mr. Haugh reminded the Committee that his contract will expire in July and that he and Ms Howe will discuss any potential changes, or suggestions for changes and that interested persons should contact Ms Howe with suggestions.
- E. Mr. Haugh noted that he will be away from 6-22 through 7-3 to attend an LNC meeting.

### **III. Officer Reports**

#### **A. Chair**

- 1. Ms Howe noted that it was good to have another successful convention completed.
- 2. Ms Howe reported that she is continuing to spend time in Raleigh watching legislation of importance to our party.
- 3. She explained that there is some outside hope that electoral fairness is not dead and could be tacked onto Senate Bill 1119 which is still in committee.

**B. Vice-chair**

1. Mr. Wrights reported that Rutherford County is organized and seems to have lots of good energy.

**C. Recording Secretary**

1. Ms Wilcox expressed concerns regarding the process in place for the safe keeping of records and was assured by Mr. Haugh that he will contact the current archivist for information.
2. Ms Wilcox also suggested that once Executive Committee minutes are approved that they be made available at the web site.

**D. Treasurer**

1. Ms Montague tendered her resignation with regret but has determined that she does not, at the present time, have the computer skills necessary for the complicated record keeping made necessary by the burdensome regulations under which we operate.
2. Ms Montague reported that the process for setting up signature cards is in place.
3. Ms Montague reported that all convention expenses had been paid.
4. Ms Howe volunteered to work as the interim treasurer until a replacement can be found. Ms Howe will complete any forms necessary to comply with SBOE regulations.
5. It was reported that National is still two months behind in UMP.
6. The position will be advertised in the next Tarheel Libertarian.
7. Ms Montague reported that the \$750 loan to the state party of Illinois was still outstanding. At this point Dr. Lark graciously stepped forward to volunteer to pay off this loan because of his close ties with folks in both states. His offer was accepted with a round of applause.

**E. Newsletter Editor**

1. Mr. Owen reported that he has all of the necessary software and has the shell of the newsletter ready to go but that because he had very little written material from others he had not yet put the newsletter together.
2. Mr. Owen agreed that with the items and advice he received at the meeting he would try to get the newsletter out before the end of the month.

**F. Outreach Director**

1. No report

**G. Ballot Access Director**

1. Mr. Goree reported that he had been in discussion with members of the Green Party on methods by which we can take advantage of areas in which both parties agree.
2. Mr. Goree will prepare a proposal regarding a statewide program addressing areas of consensus between the Green Party and the Libertarian Party.
3. Mr. Goree shared that he plans to propose a joint venture fundraiser with the proceeds split between his local campaign and the ballot access fund.

**H. Press Secretary**

1. Ms Mills reported that she has issued three press releases.
2. Ms Mills reported that the Gebbie database has been purchased and arrangements will be made with the treasurer for payment.

**I. Membership Secretary**

1. It was reported that Mr. Woodcock will be resigning from the position in the middle of July because he will be moving out of state.
2. Mr. Haugh volunteered to take over the duties for one month with the understanding that he will only do it for one month and that after that he will charge an as yet undetermined fee in the range of \$200 to \$500 per month.
- 3.

**J. Political Director**

1. No report

**K. Webmaster**

1. No report

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. Convention**

1. Elizabeth Vance forwarded the following report to the Executive Committee:

**LPNC Convention 2003  
Report to LPNC Executive Committee  
Submitted by Elizabeth Vance, 2003 Convention Chair**

Overall, the convention went smoothly in terms of meals, programs, speakers, and registration. I received numerous compliments both on the organization of the event, the facilities, the service, set-up, and the amenities. Overall, the survey results of respondents were positive, with a majority stating that the various parts of the convention were either "good" or "excellent." More than 50% of the people who attended the convention turned in a survey. Several people told me they thought it was the best convention they had attended.

Several factors contributed to the success of the convention. First, the early publicity in the Tarheel Libertarian gave people plenty of notice about the dates, location, and highlights of the weekend. Second, the hotel staff, overall, was easy to work with. (Early on in the planning, I had difficulty getting to actually speak to the sales staff, due to phone tag and miscommunication amongst their staff members. However, once the sales contract was signed and our account was turned over to the convention services department, things went more smoothly.) I was concerned at first that, with the Hilton being known for large conventions, we would get treated like a little fish in a big pond. However, their emphasis on convention services and customer service helped, as they accommodated every last minute request, and took the planning process, and our needs, seriously. I found out after the convention, mainly through the surveys, that some people were uncomfortable or had complaints, but they didn't bring them to my attention or to the hotel staff's attention, so we couldn't help them. The people who told me that there were problems, either with check-in, with their rooms, etc., had them resolved once they reported them to the staff.

Third, executive Committee Members Barbara Howe, Tom Howe, Doug Adams, Jeff Bentley, Bob Dorsey, and Christy Dunovant were very helpful (invaluable, actually) in advising and assisting along the way with various questions that arose concerning policy, precedent, publicity, and registration. Sean Haugh's guidance was helpful throughout the process.

Fourth, I noticed that many delegates referred to the Parliamentary Motions Guide included in the delegate packets, and I believe this helped in the business sessions. We need to find a way to incorporate

parliamentary training in the convention process - either by having a workshop on Friday evening, early Saturday morning, or perhaps a series of workshops at county conventions. Much of the frustration during the business sessions seems to come from people's lack of familiarity with Robert's Rules.

The packets were assembled ahead of time, thanks to the vendors and committee chairs getting things to me prior to the deadline, and thanks to our College Libertarian volunteers who assembled them prior to convention weekend. Our ad income from the packets was higher than before, and hopefully this will be an ongoing trend!

Unfortunately, due to a combination of family crises and work commitments, I was unable to attend fall and winter executive committee meetings in late 2002 and the first meeting in 2003, and I think this was detrimental early on in the process as far as planning, theme selection, and communication. I would encourage executive committee members and future convention chair(s) to communicate early on in the process, beginning August/September, as the location and date need to be decided by December at the latest.

One of the biggest problems I encountered was the tradition of the convention preparation being a one-person job. Although, technically, there is a convention "committee", it seems that every year there is one chair with no committee. I would highly recommend that there be co-chairs appointed, so that the duties and responsibilities can be shared, and that two people have input on some of the bigger decisions. It has been suggested in the past, and I would like to reiterate, that at least one of the at-large members of the Executive Committee be selected to serve as one of the convention co-chairs. This would very much improve communication with the Executive Committee, and give the convention chair(s) an opportunity to participate in EC discussions that may have an impact on the convention.

One "negative" part of the planning process was the resistance to any new ideas or events being introduced at the convention. Most of the rude/vicious emails I received were in regard to the theme and the pageant. There were a few other changes to "tradition" that I suggested, and these were also met with resistance. Although everything turned out well, in the end, it is very frustrating to be criticized and bombarded with negativity by party members who refuse to volunteer or make positive contributions to the planning process. (I know every group in the country has this same problem, it's just my dream that Libertarians will lead the way in breaking this tradition.)

Much of the problems with handling registration and trying to plan for meals (the most expensive part of any convention) was the resistance so many of our members have to paying for things. Ironically, we as Libertarians frequently use the mantra "There's no such thing as a free lunch." While most people paid for their registration packages without comment or complaint (and I'm very grateful to them), I spent a good deal of time and energy trying to convince members that they needed to pay for their share of the convention expenses, and listening to people complain that the convention cost money.

I have compared the LPNC convention prices to the prices of other states LP conventions, and to a variety of professional association convention prices. I can guarantee that we are one of the best values anywhere for a convention of our size and quality. Most people who couldn't afford the full rates graciously offered their services as volunteers and/or requested scholarships. Others simply complained, whined, and/or demanded that they be allowed to attend without paying. Although, legally, we must allow a free "delegate only" pass, there is no way to enforce this. At least one person attended the business sessions, speakers, and ate breakfast without paying for anything because he demanded a "delegate only" package, and even though he was told in advance that he could attend only the business sessions. I know of at least one other member who attended, but who did not register or pay for any part of the convention. Although I don't see a way to police events under our current set-up, I do think it is unfair and very un-Libertarian to allow some members to take advantage of their fellow party members in this way.

I am very proud of the participation of several members in donating money to the scholarship program, and several other party members paid for registrations on behalf of other delegates. This was very heartening, and allowed about 14 people to attend who otherwise couldn't have. I hope that future chairs will continue the scholarship program and encourage even more members to contribute to it in future years.

There were several comments that the convention needs to be longer, that we do not have enough time for all the business we have to conduct. However, I think that most people would not be able or willing to take a day off work to expand it until Friday. Lengthening the time on Sunday for business is a consideration, but many people with long drives are anxious to get on the road, so the number of delegates may be significantly decreased. The length of the convention needs to be addressed by the Executive Committee. (As best I can tell, the convention was a Saturday-only event until 1998.)

I have written a detailed report for the 2004 convention chair, and have added many helpful items to the convention file archives. Since I cannot be at this meeting, I will make arrangements to pass on the bulk of the information to the next convention chair(s) as soon as possible.

I appreciate the trust and confidence the Executive Committee had in appointing me as Convention Chair, and I hope that my service was a benefit to the LPNC. I am glad to answer any questions about this report, about the convention itself, and to serve as a resource for the next convention chair(s). I enjoyed the convention planning process and am very proud of our party's turnout and participation at the 2003 convention.

**B. County Affiliate Affairs**

1. No report

**C. Platform**

1. The Executive Committee needs to populate this committee

**D. Strategic Planning Effort**

1. No report

**E. Archive and Knowledge Base**

1. No report

**V. Old Business**

- A. Disposal of e-mails votes. Ms Howe ruled that the following motions had been passed:
  1. Motion by Mr. Goree on May 13, 2003: "I move that LPNC officially endorse the protest concerning the Electoral Fairness Act to be held on Tuesday, May 20 as to ensure its maximum result." Ayes 10.
  2. Motion by Ms. Mills on 5/13/03: "I move that the LPNC appropriate \$240 for the purchase of the Gebbie databases for TV/Radio and for newspapers." 10 Ayes, 1 abstention.
- B. Dissolution of partnership with Ladies of Liberty Project - - motion by Mr. Fortner, seconded by Mr. Wrights: "I move that Ms Mills provide to the LPNC 350 of the remaining Ladies of Liberty calendars, that the outstanding debt be dissolved, and that our partnership with the Mills campaign be ended by mutual consent." Passed with Ms Mills and Mr. Owen abstaining.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Discussion – Strategic Planning Team Report – Mr. Haugh reported his concern that LNC had eliminated Strategy #14 from the Strategic Plan and expressed concern about its elimination. He will come back to the committee with a resolution addressing his concerns - - for discussion and possible approval.
- B. Discussion – Small Business Owner core constituency strategy – Mr. Haugh reported that the LNC has decided to target small business owners for membership in the Libertarian party and that he will forward the information gathered by Mr. Schreiber that was used to make this decision.
- C. Discussion - Possible national dues membership increase – there were a variety of comments on this issue and concern shown from all directions. No action was taken.
- D. Replacement of resigning Executive Committee members – will be published in Tarheel Libertarian. All members of the EC should give consideration to those party members who might be suited for either open slot.
- E. Appointment of Platform Committee – All EC members have several months to consider appointments to this committee.
- F. Discussion of location for next Convention – It was strongly suggested that the next convention be in the Raleigh area because it will be an election year. There was no opposition and Mr. Haugh volunteered to look into a venue while researching for another event.
- G. Approval of next fundraising letter – Motion: by Mr. Goree, seconded by Mr. Wrights to eliminate the funding for the scheduled ballot access fundraising letter and to budget, from the general fund, \$1,000 for Mr. Haugh's next fundraiser. Unanimous.
- H. Outreach discussion – Mr. Hill suggested that we set up a system by which the state organization becomes more involved in outreach projects across the state, especially in areas that are not already organized. This discussion will be continued at the next Executive Committee meeting.

## **VII. Adjournment**

- A. The next meeting is set for July 26, 2003 in Durham at 11 AM at Satisfactions.
- B. The September meeting is set for September 6, 2003 in Concord at 11 AM at Troutman's Barbecue.
- C. The meeting was adjourned at 2 PM