



July 16, 2005

Executive Committee Meeting

First Draft

A regular meeting held at
Golden Corral in Sanford, NC

These minutes were e-mailed to: ecLPNC@yahoogroups.com, JudicialCommittee@LPNC.com and the County Contact list.

With Mr. Hill presiding and Mr. Irving recording the meeting came to order at noon.

Members present: Mr. Hill, Mr. Wrights, Ms Wilcox – by proxy (Susan Hogarth), Mr. Vuchnich, Ms Hogarth, Mr. Pitts, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Irving, Mr. Norman, Mr. Powell, Ms Gallivan – by proxy (Jim Pitts), Mr. Anders, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Pasotto and Mr. Smith.

Staff present: Mr. Haugh

Guests: Fernie Williams

I. Opening

- A. The agenda was approved unanimously.

II. Executive Director's Report

- A. Mr. Haugh and Mr. Wrights will be hosts on Matt Mattan show, WWNC radio show, once a month.
- B. A total of 24,450 raw signatures have been collected for the ballot access drives; 14,000 have been verified.
- C. The fundraiser Mr. Haugh contacted wants a 50% commission. Mr. Haugh turned him down.
- D. Regarding a possible lawsuit over the ballot access laws, Mr. Michael Dixon, LP national chair, said it would be worth our while to request funds from LNC, particularly if we come up with a good legal plan. Mr. Haugh said he'd be surprised if they gave us any money.
- E. There are currently 7 Libertarian candidates for local office.
- F. Mr. Dixon promised to match whatever donations were made at today's meeting for the ballot access fund.

III. Officer Reports

A. Chair

1. Mr. Hill has discussed idea of setting up regions with Mr. Jacobson. No firm plans have been drawn up yet. They will be contacting volunteers to determine interest.
2. Mr. Hill is seeking volunteers to help call county contacts.
3. Mr. Hill attended a Justin Cardone fundraiser in Mecklenburg County and the July 4 parade in Harrisburg.

B. Vice-chair

1. Mr. Wrights said there were not many new inquiries, but he has three possible county organizers.
2. Mr. Wrights cited his and Mr. Haugh's experience with Mattan show to emphasize that if any Libertarian gets the opportunity to be on radio, do it. Don't be afraid or ashamed; embrace controversy.

C. Recording Secretary

NO REPORT

D. Treasurer

1. Mr. Vuchnich reported that a member has asked if he could use Pay Pal for donations. Mr. Haugh noted that we had used that service before, but had dropped it because Pay Pal did not handle

firearms sales. Mr. Pitts moved to set up a Pay Pal account to accept donations, in addition to our existing credit card payment system. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Vuchnich moved to set up a procedure by which the Executive Director would prepare his own invoice for payment, to be reviewed by the Treasurer before payment. Motion approved 12-2.

Addendum: After the meeting, Mr. Vuchnich provided this response to questions about the new procedure, which is made part of the record:

In regards to the change in how Mr. Haugh and I are handling his billing, a comment was made to the effect that this would be a change to the current invoicing procedures and effectively is adding additional steps to the process.

In any invoice or billing transaction that comes through our account someone must prepare a bill, invoice or receipt and submit it for payment and someone else must review that bill, invoice or receipt. In all instances within our committee the vendor or contractor provides the bill, invoice or receipt and I review the bill, invoice or receipt.

The only exception to this up until yesterdays meeting was with Mr. Haugh in which I prepared the bill and he reviewed it. The change we enacted was to bring that one exception into the normal operating procedures we follow on every other billing transaction. I mention this because I believe there was still some sentiment that this was somehow making more work rather than streamlining and simplifying things.

One of my goals as Treasurer is that I want to reduce the number of special cases that we encounter in order to improve our efficiency over financial record keeping. This will serve to benefit future Treasurer's who will have to pick the reigns quickly and it will be one less special case they have to deal with.

The second comment I wanted to address was regarding why I felt a motion was necessary in order to open a new Pay Pal account versus why I don't feel it is necessary to have Executive Committee's approval to make a change to who will prepare the Executive Director's bill and who will review the Executive Director's bill.

In the case of the Pay Pal account I would have to enter into a contract on behalf of the Executive Committee and so for that I believe a motion is appropriate. Under our bylaws the Treasurer is not empowered to enter into contracts on behalf of the Executive Committee. However our bylaws do empower the Treasurer to account for the funds of the Party and therefore I believe it is at my discretion to determine whether our records would best be accounted for via one set of procedures versus another.

3. Treasurer's Reported (posted on EC Yahoo Group). The convention made a \$3,200 profit, which was transferred to the ballot access fund.
4. The committee discussed the idea of having the Executive Director prepare packets, including the minutes, agenda, treasurer's report and other items, before each meeting. The committee decided not to require this.

E. Newsletter Editor

1. The May-June issue was mailed this week.
2. Deadline for the July-Aug issue is July 25.

F. Outreach Director

1. Mr. Pitts is working with Sanford Herald on regular newspaper ad. The ad also runs on the newspaper's web site with a link to LP.org. He is trying to create a model to present to other counties.

G. Ballot Access Director

1. Mr. Ritchie asked the committee for opinions on several ideas. The first is to mail the ballot access petition to all registered Libertarians in county. Wake is already doing this, but with poor results.
2. The second ideas was to have the regional contacts Messrs. Hill and Jacobson are setting up to serve as contacts for the ballot access drive.
3. Finally, the committee discussed the idea of setting a bounty for petition signatures. The idea would be to give county affiliates money back for each signature collected. The consensus was to leave this to the discretion of the ballot access working committee (Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Hill and Mr. Haugh).

H. Press Secretary

1. Mr. Irving sent an op-ed out on the Kelo vs. New London U.S. Supreme Court decision to 131 newspapers. A long version of the op ed was printed in Up & Coming Weekly (Fayetteville) July 6 and a short version was printed in the Fayetteville Observer's Sunday Forum July 10.
2. He received one media query from The Dispatch (Davidson County) regarding Mike Smith's candidacy for Walburgh city council (nonpartisan).

I. Membership Secretary

1. Membership is down 150 for national dues-paying members. State defined membership is actually up. Mr. Norman said he believes this drop is not due to "address changes" (the explanation given by national) but because people are disenchanted with nat'l party and so are not renewing membership

J. Political Director

1. Mr. Powell said he is concentrating not on recruiting candidates but on getting Libertarian activities to enhance their name idea recognition in the communities, improving their campaign skills and getting involved in the community.
2. One of the methods he has proposed to do this is to join Toastmasters and if there is no Toastmasters in a community, to form a group. He's also looking for other ideas from anyone.

K. Webmaster

NO REPORT (but the test site for the re-designed web is up).

IV. Committee Reports

In the interests of time, the committee unanimously agreed to skip committee reports, except for the following notations:

E. Legislative Agenda

The Legislative Agenda Committee meeting was rescheduled to July 24 at Mr. Smith's home.

Mr. Smith is sending out a list of enrolled bills to the committee for their review and suggestions regarding possible action.

V. Old Business

A. Electronic Voting

The following motions were considered by electronic voting since the last meeting:

1. On July 15, 2005, the minutes of the June 4th EC meeting were approved by consensus.
2. A motion by Beverly Wilcox on 06/19/05: I move that we extend the Executive Director's contract, as is, on a month to month basis for a maximum of two months, 10-0-0

B. Inclusion in political debates

NO REPORT

C. Discussion of Bylaws, Platform, Statement of Principles Committees

TABLED

D. Report on replacement of National Regional Alternate

1. Trevor Sutherland was elected.

E. Lifetime Membership plaque to Michael Badnarik

1. Tabled, pending report from Ms. Wilcox

F. Discussion of LNC response to LPNC resolutions and possible follow-up actions (including withdrawal from UMP).

1. Mr. Irving said that it was his expectation that the LNC or our National Chair should make some direct response to this body or the state chair. The rest of the EC essentially agreed with this desire. Mr. Hill said he would discuss our concerns with Mr. Dixon.

VI. New Business

A. Discussion of process - state party members

1. Mr. Irving moved that the Libertarian Party of North Carolina adopt this policy:

In accordance with the LPNC bylaws Article III, Section 1c, membership dues are set at \$25 per year. The dues will entitle the payee to a LPNC membership card and a subscription to the Tarheel Libertarian. The LPNC membership secretary will administer this program.

2. After extensive discussion, including the impact on our UMP agreement, the motion passed 11-2 with Mr. Wrights abstaining.

B. Discussion of legal challenge to NC's ballot access law

1. Mr. Haugh provided background on a possible lawsuit. He recommends using a portion of the ballot access funds for this purpose. Preliminary estimates for costs range from 15,000 to three figures. He noted that we may need to "move fast," depending on outcome of current Oklahoma Libertarian Party's case before the U.S. Supreme Court.
2. The Executive Committee directed Mr. Haugh to prepare an action plan, arguments and a budget for this action.

C. H88 (Electoral Fairness Act) lobbying day

1. Mr. Haugh urged members to lobby legislators, particularly members of the finance committee, to insure that H88 is one of the bills they consider once they're passed the budget approval logjam. He suggested visiting the legislators individually or in groups.

D. Discussion of resolution of non-support of LP Iraq Exit Strategy

1. Mr. Irving said he had intended to introduce a motion, but would not do so at this point because he did not think it would serve any purpose, considering the LP's lack of response to our previous resolutions. He said he was generally disgusted by the LP strategy because it did not conform to the LP platform. In general the EC shared this disgust.
2. Mr. Wrights noted that the solution to this problem, and other recent actions of the LNC, would be to reinstate the APRC (Advertising and Publications Review Committee?). He urged individual Libertarians to urge the National Chair to reform the committee and essentially dare the LNC to abolish it again. Mr. Hill said he would add this matter to the topics he will discuss with the National Chair and strongly suggest he do this.

VII. Closed Session to discuss Executive Director Contract

- A. Mr. Smith said he wanted to discuss the contract in open session. It was moved and seconded to suspend the agenda and discuss the Executive Director Contract in open session. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Mr. Smith's basic question was about the process, what exactly were we doing, writing a general contract or bid proposal or negotiating a contract? Mr. Wrights explained that we were essentially writing a contract to present to Mr. Haugh. This was a new way of doing this because previously such a negotiation had been between the State Chair and Mr. Haugh, with the Executive Committee only approving the final version.
 - 1. Mr. Jacobson said that we had not "put it out for bids."
 - 2. Mr. Irving said he thought we were writing a contract to put out for bids.
 - 3. Mr. Vuchnich volunteered to a draft contract policy and procedures (uploaded PDF file to the LPNC group July 17). Mr. Hill proposed, and the committee agreed, that we accept this offer and discuss it further on the Yahoo group set up for the ED contract discussion.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.
- B. The next meeting will be Aug. 20 in Charlotte at a location to be determined by Mr. Powell.