

Linn County Republican Central Committee- June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The June LCRCC monthly meeting was held at Hiawatha Community Center

Call to order 7 pm

Invocation Bernie Hayes (CR26) -Watched a clip of the Tucker Carlson interview with Nayib Bukele expounding on how the El Salvadorian officials prayed to God for success in their fight against the evils in their country.

Pledge Grant Gardner (TGRA)

Announcements

Next Meeting will be held July 18th Same location.

Ben Ellison National Delegate (Dubuque) Looking for anyone interested in helping the Trump campaign in Wisconsin. Also looking for help in getting Jennifer Smith elected to the Iowa House (Dubuque).

Dave Bergren (Dubuque) selling specialized crafted coins. Part of the proceeds go back to the LCRCC.

Emma Nemecek (MR08) Spoke on behalf of Rachel Cadena (MR04) needing help offloading a shipment of donated goods from Mike Lindell to help victims of human trafficking.

Bernie Hayes talked about his conversation with the Cedar Rapids City Council members regarding the city's display of the 'pride flag'. The mayor was receptive and open to making future adjustments.

Grant Gardner mentioned he is selling hand crafted goods to raise funds for his trip to the RNC Convention.

Bernie Hayes notified the LCRCC that we have a new Google phone number: 319-775-5003

Anne Fairchild (CR28) promoted the open house for the Calvary Academy, an anti-woke school. 6/21, 11-1pm.

Guest Speakers

Brandy Zumbach gave an update on her campaign for Linn County Supervisor. Due to redistricting, she now has half of Marion and upwards of 20 thousand independent voters.

Cindy Golding (TMON1) gave an update on her campaign for House District 83. She's been in multiple parades and visited many city council meetings in her district. The mayor of Mt. Vernon was very receptive and even took flyers to pass to his colleagues at Cornell College. Encouraged everyone to attend the Linn Co. Fair.

John Thompson (CR09) gave an update on his campaign for House District 80. Has learned that the DNC has taken notice of his race and is helping his opponent. Looking for door knockers in Hiawatha. Has fundraising event hosted by Todd Lawson and Emma Nemecek 6/23 5pm 131 Tahoe Ct. SE Cedar Rapids.

Terry Chostner (TOTT) announced his candidacy for Linn County Auditor. Will need to hold a special nominating convention, date to be determined.

Addie Lavis gave an update on Ashley Hinson's campaign. Her opponent was endorsed by Planned Parenthood. Her annual BBQ bash is coming up August 3rd at Hawkeye Downs. Rep. Jim Jordan will be attendance. Ashley will also have an entry in the Freedom Fest Parade.

Justin Wasson (HIA02) gave an update on the first meeting of the state central committee. He encouraged potential candidates to get filed as soon as possible to enable the state party to call special nomination conventions. Next SCC meeting is in August.

Membership Committee Report Heidi Barnhart (ROB) 55 voting members, 27 voting associates, 6 associates, 8 guests. Motion from committee chair to approve: associate members Vallerie Hancock (MV01), Peter Shaw (CR06), approved.

Chair played a video highlighting (mocking) the democrats hypocritical stands on the issues of the day.

Approve Agenda motion from the Chair, approved.

Chairman's Minute Bernie spoke of the 'hopeful' changing tide in the culture in the favor of conservatism. Highlighted the multiple successful Trump events in traditionally 'blue' areas of the country. Also mentioned that of the 185 pieces of legislation that Gov. Reynolds signed; $\frac{3}{4}$ of the time, democrats voted with Republicans to support the legislation. He encouraged the LCRCC to support our candidates in every way possible to keep the momentum going.

Approve May Minutes Motion from the Chair, approved.

Treasurer Report Matt Limbert (MR05) gave a status of the LCRCC finances. We spent \$87 above the previous \$8000 authorized for caucus expenses. The caucus overall was profitable. Addressed the fact the Mary Lundby/Rosemary Thompson fund has not been used since he took over as Treasurer. Those funds have been used in the past to help fund a mock caucus and subsidizing Republican youth activities. Matt encouraged the LCRCC to find a use for that money as at this point, the money is only depreciating sitting in the bank. He also encouraged LCRCC members to review our DR2 forms located on the state ethics website for any questions regarding the finances. Motion from the Treasurer to approve the additional \$87 for caucus overage, approved.

Committee Reports

Audit Report Paul Talley (CR46) gave the audit report. LCRCC was up \$122.58 from the reconciled DR2 forms from 2023. He is currently working with our bank to organize our statements by year. An amended DR2 was filed and our status with the ethics board is clear. Treasurer Matt Limbert mentioned that he has abstained from the audit committee meetings to eliminate any conflict of interest and promote transparency. Motion to approve audit, seconded, passed. Paul announced he will be stepping down as audit chair and recommended Ruth Soenksen as his replacement. Vote to approve to be scheduled.

Fundraising Maureen Smalley (CR33) gave an update on the upcoming Lincoln Dinner. It will be held at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Tuesday August 20th 5:30pm. The dress code is red, white and blue. Admission is \$125 per person, \$200 per couple. They are also looking for any pictures or video from last years event to build a montage for this year's celebration. They expect a \$15,000 profit from the event. They propose using 90% of the profits to go to supporting qualified candidates running for a Linn County office. The remaining 10% would go to the LCRCC treasury. Information cards were distributed to promote the event. Tickets were available after the meeting. Motion from committee to approve a budget of \$15,000 as submitted with the suggested distribution of funds, seconded, discussion. Mike Dupree (CR04) offered an amendment to postpone the distribution of profits until a later date, noting that "each qualified candidate same dollar amount is subject to

amendment by this body in a future meeting” seconded, discussion. Amendment passed. Motion as amended approved.

Voter Engagement Trish Maloney (CR01) spoke on ‘build the base’ movement. Reviewed the process of building a volunteer base. “Our future is based on the work we do this summer”. Debate watch party 6/27 to be held at Parlor City in New Bo, 7pm. There will also be an ‘Overpass for Trump’ gathering in 2 locations prior to the debate: 430 to 6pm at the Wilson Ave SW bridge and the Emmons St. bridge in Hiawatha. Members are asked to bring Trump or American flags to wave.

Data/Election Integrity Anne Fairchild mentioned they will be having a poll watcher debrief session at their upcoming meeting at Noodles & Company 6/24. They will discuss strategies for the upcoming general election.

Public Relations Linda Dvorak (CR27) announced the LCRCC will have a float in the Freedom Festival Parade. The LCRCC will also have a table at the Linn Co. Fair. Members are encouraged to participate. Motion from committee to approve \$500 for miscellaneous expenses involving upcoming parades and public events. Costs includes: \$95 for Freedom Fest Parade, \$50 for September Latino Fest, \$50 for September Gun show fee, \$50 Asian Fest fee. We will also participate in the Ely July 4th parade (contact John Erceg), Walker parade and the Lisbon Sauerkraut Days. Justin Wasson offered an amendment to the motion for an extra \$250 for unforeseen expenses. Amendment seconded, passed. Motion as amended, passed.

The Chair reminded everyone that we are breaking up into house district groups after the meeting to encourage members to sign up for the “Build the Base” project underway.

Pass the Hat \$251

Motion to Adjourn 9:07pm

Respectfully submitted, Matthew O’Neal (CR43), LCRCC Secretary