

Linn County Republican Central Committee Meeting- September 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The September LCRCC monthly meeting was held at Hazel Point Intermediate School

Call to Order 7 pm

Invocation Curt Hancock (MV01)

Pledge Lou Rogers (MR16)

Cindy Golding HD83 Rep. gave an update on the legality of the proposed CO2 pipeline. The legislature is still looking for ways to stop it from moving forward. She noted that it is against the State Constitution to use eminent domain for private use. That is the legal avenue they are pursuing to get this stopped.

Chairman's Minute Bernie Hayes (CR26) addressed the failure of getting Geralyn Jones (MR10) on the ballot for HD73. Justin Wasson (HIA02), the chair of that nominating committee and SCC member for the 2nd district, chose not to sign the revised nominating certificate as prepared after an RPI audit of the HD73 nominating convention. Thus, the deadline for submission was missed. This issue has been addressed to the State Party Chair, Jeff Kauffman and the SCC. They have referred it to the 2nd District Executive Committee. The DEC will designate a time and place to deliberate and investigate this issue and refer their resolution back to the SCC. LCRCC will be involved. The executive team has formed a committee to follow up on this issue and bring their recommendations to the body. In the meantime, our focus remains on the candidate races in our county. We have some great races that we can get behind and that is our plan!

Membership Report Heidi Barnhart (ROB) 61 voting members, 19 voting associates, 8 associates, 3 guests. Motion from the Chair to elect voting members: Joe Fries (CR38), associate members: Denise Babcock (MR10), Robert Babcock (MR10), passed. The next membership meeting will be Sunday, September 22 beginning at 5:30 pm at HipStirs in Marion.

Approve Minutes the Chair entertained a motion to approve August meeting minutes; so moved, seconded, passed.

Treasurer Report the Treasurer was not present. Bernie Hayes gave a review of the submitted report. The Chair entertained a motion to approve the report as submitted; so moved, passed.

Fundraising Kathleen Banowetz (TPUT) and Maureen Smalley (CR33) spoke about the upcoming Reagan Breakfast. Typically, the event is held in October. However, due to the current busyness of the election cycle, the tentative date for the event will be Saturday, February the 8th. Location and venue to be determined. They also have a limited number of LCRCC shirts for sale.

Faith Engagement Barb Holub (ROB) noted that the committee is making progress in reaching out to churches to engage potential voters and encourage voter registration. Overpass for Trump every Thursday 4-6pm on the Emmons St. Overpass. All are welcome to join.

Voter Data and Election Integrity Anne Fairchild (CR28) Finalized scheduling for Poll Watcher training. Sessions will begin Monday, Sept. 30, 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm Thursday, Oct. 3, 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm Monday, Oct. 7, 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm Tuesday, Oct. 22, 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm Thursday, Oct. 24, 6:30

p.m. and 7:30 pm. Noelridge Park Church 1147 Clifton St NE. If you would like to get involved or have any questions, please send inquiries to pollwatching@linncountygop.org. Ashley Slater (MR10) is spearheading all the coordination of the 2024 general election poll watcher training. She will respond with information. Next meeting is Monday, September 23, at Noodles (Collins Road); 5:30 pm order food; 6:30 pm meeting

Legislative Randy Walker (CR03) distributed signup sheets for the Bible Reading Marathon taking place on May's Island. See his wife Carol for details. Randy announced that we are having 2 constitutional amendments on the ballot this November. He encouraged members to go to Ballotpedia.com to review these amendments. Though both are important, he specifically addressed the measure regarding: the requirement of proof of citizenship when voting in Iowa elections. He detailed some of the language in the amendment and encouraged members to vote Yes. The other amendment on the ballot concerns the continuity of Iowa leadership. Cindy Golding spoke on this amendment. Essentially it would change the Iowa Constitution to clearly outline the order of succession by appointment of the Governor. She encouraged the members to vote Yes.

Public Relations Linda Dvorak (CR27) thanked those that helped with the gun show. She relayed that there was good engagement with attendees. She reminded the members of the upcoming Latino Fest at McGrath Amphitheater 9/14 and the Asian Fest at NewBo 9/21. Volunteers are needed for setup, teardown and voter engagement. See Linda or Emma Nemecek (MR08) for details.

Voter Engagement Trisha Maloney (CR01) reiterated that the focus is to find volunteers to build a base of potential activists who can be martialed at events or help support local candidate activities, such as door knocking, calling, etc. If you have signed up, you should be receiving an email weekly listing all the opportunities available to volunteer that week. There is still a lot of work to be done. Door knocking is one of the areas in which the campaigns need the most help. Co-Chair Barrett Hubbard (CR02) also mentioned that volunteers will be needed to help register voters at Kirkwood on 9/17 in support of their activities concerning Constitution Day. See Barrett for more information. Bernie noted that there is an Honor Flight coming in on 9/17. Be at the airport by 8 pm to receive the returning Veterans and support personnel. Free parking is available for participants.

Campaign Committee Bernie Hayes presented a breakdown of the candidates running for election in Linn County. The committee had an application process and interview session with each of the candidates that applied. They decided to use the \$5000 profit from the Lincoln Dinner as well as an extra \$5062 from the LCRCC account to assist the respective campaigns. Each campaign got a base amount (\$1428). After reviewing the geography and difficulty of each race, additional funds were allocated to select campaigns as follows: Terry Chostner, Auditor \$500, B.Z. Meisheid, Supervisor \$250, Cindy Golding, HD83 \$250, Barclay Woerner, \$500. Brett Mason (CR02) motioned that this funding plan be accepted as presented, seconded by Kevin Thumma (CR10), passed. Bernie mentioned that he and Brett Mason reviewed the 122 different ballots set for print for the general election.

Candidate Speakers

Terry Chostner (TOTT) gave an update on his campaign for Linn Co. Auditor. Asked for help walking in the Marion parade this upcoming Saturday. He has signs and palm cards for distribution. Has upcoming

fundraising and door knocking events. See him for details. Kathleen Banowetz (TPUT) is also working on an upcoming fundraiser.

Cindy Golding (HD83) thanked all the volunteers who walked in the 10 parades over this election season, not to mention the various other events. Door knocking is still a vital part of the campaign and volunteers are needed. She encouraged anyone interested in helping to sign up for her newsletter. She especially asked for members to attend the League of Women Voters event, which will be a debate with her opponent on 9/19 6:30 pm at the Mt Vernon High School Performing Arts Auditorium. Questions are “theoretically” taken from the audience.

Paul Siver who spoke for John Thompson (HD 80) gave a big thank you to the LCRCC for all their support. The campaign has to date, knocked on over 10,000 doors! He highlighted the issue of compelling first responders to receive the covid vaccine to maintain their employment. 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12 they will be door knocking from 9:30 am to 2:30pm.

Chris Gulick SD40 thanked everyone for their support and all of those who have volunteered thus far. He reiterated the need for execution at this point in the election. He has signs for distribution, as this has been a major request from voters. The campaign is now focusing on independent voters. The voter breakdown in his district is 15K Independents, 15K D’s, 12K Republicans.

Barclay Woerner (HD79) was thankful for all the current support. The campaign has been doing a lot of door knocking and finding voters (a lot of D’s) frustrated with the current state of the economy. Every Sunday 3-5pm they do door knocking. His birthday is 10/5 and will be having a fundraiser at Scores on 33rd 10-12pm. There will be a silent auction and Tom Gerhold will be speaking. Yard and Barn signs are also available for distribution.

Addie Lavis (Hinson Campaign) mentioned that they are ramping up their phone calling and door knocking in Linn County and partnering with local candidates. Hinson has an upcoming debate with her opponent Sarah Corkery on Iowa PBS 10/14 8pm in Des Moines. Hinson will be at the FSRW event 10/8. Hinson does have yard signs available. She also mentioned that the RNC has pulled out of Iowa and her campaign is doing their best to fill that gap. Bernie encouraged members to donate at least 2 hours of their time to any of the current campaigns.

Announcements

Bernie reminded the members that our next meeting will be at the same location on 10/10. He also mentioned that the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition will be having a fall banquet 9/21. The guest speaker will be Tom Hollman, former ICE director. The event starts at 5:30pm at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. Contact Bernie for details.

Emma Nemecek (MR08) mentioned Asian Fest 9/21 12-8pm. She also noted that the D’s will be having a big keynote speaker at the event. She also alerted members of the Iowa Liberty Festival 9/28 1-4:30pm at Calvary Church, former Gov. Mike Huckabee will be the guest speaker. She also reiterated the Five Season Republican Women’s (FSRW) forum on 10/8, where Hinson will be in attendance as well as Cindy Golding and Tom Gerhold.

Randy Walker reminded the members of the prayer gathering on May's Island downtown Cedar Rapids being held every Tuesday night 6:30-8pm till "Christ comes, or we win the election".

Chris Gulick also wanted to make mention of the League of Women's Voters forum on 9/24 at 6pm at the Hiawatha Library. Each candidate participating will have a few minutes to address issues.

Curt Hancock (MV01) relayed that Matt Crouch (State Director) of Heritage For Action will be in attendance at the 9-12 Patriot Group meeting at the Pizza Ranch in Monticello this Saturday 9/14. He will discuss "Project 2025" as well as a host of other pertinent topics on how individuals can get involved. He encouraged members to show up for Cindy Golding's debate in Mt. Vernon the following Thursday.

Julie Fuller (MR01) spoke on behalf on Constitutional Action Network. A national group dedicated to passing a legislative bill to allow for transactional gold and silver. She encouraged members to read the book Private Money by Kevin Friedman. They will be having informational forums on 10/18-19 in Bettendorf, Des Moines and Council Bluffs. Times and details TBD. Contact Julie for more information. Cindy Golding mentioned that they are trying to coordinate a forum near Cedar Rapids.

Justin Wasson (HIA02) announced an event for a walk to benefit St. Jude's Hospital, 9/21 at 9 am at Noelridge Park. See Justin for details.

John Coppess (MR12) gave a heartfelt thanks to the membership for all their support, prayers and messages.

Carol Walker (CR03) is helping with the Bible Reading Marathon in Cedar Rapids happening on 10/4-5. This will be the 9th annual event. She asked that members commit 30 min of their time. See Carol to sign up for the event.

Bernie reminded the members that there are rules regarding carrying "weapons in school buildings" on school property and that we should be diligent in adhering to those requirements. Special permission can be granted by the superintendent of the school to carry weapons. That permission is the onus of each member individually.

Anne Fairchild wanted to make members aware of the Iowa Liberty Fest 9/28 1-4pm at Calvary Baptist Church. Doors open at 12. Tickets need to be secured online.

Pass the Hat \$263

Motion to adjourn seconded, passed 8:30pm

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