

## Linn County Republican Central Committee Meeting- November 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

### The November LCRCC monthly meeting was held at Hazel Point Intermediate School

**Call to Order** 7 pm, members encouraged to take part in the potluck items prepared

**Invocation** Steve Scheib (CR13)

**Pledge** Janice Woerner (CR32) led the group in the national anthem, followed by the pledge.

**Chairman's Minute** Bernie Hayes (CR26) thanked all those that participated in the election. The data analysis/voter integrity team is in the process of reconciling Linn County voter data to ensure a fair election. 55K residents voted for Donald Trump in Linn Co. Our next mission is to engage those voters to help turn Linn red. Suggestions have been made to investigate the possibility of procuring our own facility for monthly meetings. The HD73 Special Committee that is reviewing the specifics regarding the HD73 special nominating convention met on 10/29. They reached out to Justin Wasson (HIA02) for a response regarding meeting with the special committee on 10/31. His response came on 11/14 and he declined to meet with the committee. The committee will meet again to review further action.

**Membership Report** Heidi Barnhart (ROB) 59 voting members, 23 voting associates, 4 associates, 3 guests. Motion from the chair to nominate Tim Holt (CR33) and Allan Billings (MR01) as associate members, passed. The committee meets next on 11/18 at 6:30 pm at the LCRCC office.

**Approve Minutes** the Chair entertained a motion to approve October meeting minutes; seconded, passed.

**Treasurer Report** Matt Limbert (MR05) reviewed the latest report. Not much has changed since last month. Even without raising any more money, we should have enough to cover all expected expenditures for next year.

**Faith Engagement** Barb Holub (ROB) is still working with local churches to promote voter registration. Now they are "switching gears" and encouraged the members to attend their next meeting Friday 11/15 at the LCRCC office 9 am. The next focus will entail voter education and candidate support.

**Data Analysis and Election Integrity** Anne Fairchild (CR28) gave a big thank you to all those who were poll watchers and workers. Their team is committed to fighting for election transparency. She also thanked Ashley Slater (MR10) for her tremendous efforts. She worked closely with the Auditor's office to mitigate issues. At the last meeting they had a poll worker debrief session. They will be sharing their findings soon. Anne encouraged members to sign up for the committee.

**Legislative** Randy Walker (CR03) thanked everyone for their help in the election. He reported that there were over 100 participants in the Trump Train caravan from Lindale to Westdale Mall. He encouraged members to participate in the upcoming hearings regarding a proposed new casino in Cedar Rapids. Details of a city-wide meeting are forthcoming. Iowans for Common Sense is a local organization opposing the casino. Bernie Hayes thanked the committee for their review of the Judges on the recent ballot.

**Public Relations** Linda Dvorak (CR27) thanked everyone for their support for all the events the committee participated in this year. Bernie mentioned how instrumental Linda has been in putting these events together. He also announced that she would be stepping down and that we would welcome anyone interested in helping fill that role.

**Voter Engagement** Trisha Maloney (CR01) stated that the group would be taking a recess until after the holidays. She noted that though the left controls our institutions, they do not have the consensus of the people. “Trump awoke the sleeping giant that is the grass roots!” They will continue to update the LCRCC on any upcoming opportunities to help turn Linn red.

**Fundraising** Dean Soenksen (CR13), Kathleen Banowetz (TPUT) thanked everyone for their participation in the fundraisers. Based on member feedback the committee opted for something less expensive and more family-oriented venue for the Reagan Breakfast. The event will be held Saturday, February 8 from 11 am-2:30 pm at Ushers Ferry Lodge, 5925 Seminole Valley Trail NE Cedar Rapids. There will be silent and live auctions, face painting, pinata, games, just to name a few things. The tentative menu includes pancakes, ham and bananas. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids over six at the door. There is a \$5 early bird discount. The committee is asking for donations from local businesses for the silent auction and for children’s games. The committee is challenging each house district to create their own basket for the auction. There is a \$100 limit. As of now there is no backup date for the event. However, the rental fee is refundable in the event of inclement weather. Motion from the committee for \$3600 to cover expenses for the event, passed.

### **Candidate Speakers**

Addie Lavis (Hinson Campaign) gave a big thanks to the members for all their support. Her team is excited to get to work. She mentioned that Brandy Zumbach Meisheid sent her regards and thanks as she was unable to attend.

Bernie Hayes read a letter from Cindy Golding (HD83) Rep. thanking the committee for all their hard work and dedication in this election.

Terry Chostner (TOTT) was very thankful for all the support. He noted that he received 44.4% of the vote and is feeling optimistic about a subsequent run for office.

Barclay Woerner (HD79) relayed that he enjoyed the experience and is going to continue working with the Voter Engagement Committee to build up the support in his district.

Gulick Campaign (SD40). Shared his thanks for all the support from the LCRCC. He noted that he enjoys campaigning and meeting new people. He mentioned that we need to “rob and duplicate” other county strategies as it pertains to turning their counties red. Scott County was one of mention.

Paul Siver, Campaign Manager for John Thompson (HD 80) asked everyone to give themselves a round of applause for their support for the campaign. They performed very well in the election, losing by only 808 votes. He was happy to report that they had 50 volunteers helping with the campaign. Paul emphasized how rare it is to have so many resources and it is a testimony to the drive represented by the Linn County GOP. John is intending to run again.

## **Announcements**

Bernie noted that our next meeting will be 12/12 at Hazel Point 7 pm.

Janice Woerner (CR32) expressed her thanks for the election results. She called on the LCRCC to fast and pray for the safety of Trump and the nation. "The battle is not over yet."

Emma Nemecek (MR08) announced that the Five Seasons Republican Women will be hosting a Christmas party featuring State Chair Jeff Kaufman. The event will be at Elmcrest Country Club 11:30 am on Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Justin Wasson noted that Charlie McClintock (SD42) also retained his seat.

Bernie Hayes thanked Barb Holub and Trish Maloney for organizing the potluck for the meeting tonight.

James Sampers (CR20) shared his experiences as the Chairperson for his voting location. He noted that there were a lot of voters who did not have driver's licenses or matching documentation when they arrived to vote. He is concerned about the registration process via the DOT. He is hoping to spread awareness in the hope that changes can be made before the next election.

Bernie Hayes took a moment to recognize, thank and honor the veterans present in the meeting, asking them to stand.

Grant Gardner (TGRA) shared a veteran themed Christmas poem.

Craig Seeley (CR19) noted that 35 million Evangelicals do not vote. He encouraged members to review Romans 13.

**Pass the Hat \$311.52**

**Motion to adjourn** seconded, passed 8:06 pm

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