

## Linn County Republican Central Committee Meeting- January 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

### The January LCRCC monthly meeting was held at Boulder Peak School

#### **Call to Order** 7:09 pm

Moments before the meeting began the executive team was made aware that Justin Wasson had arrived at the meeting. Per the LCRCC approved motion in December 2024 where Justin was subsequently banned from all LCRCC activities, the Marion Police were called to ask him to leave. He refused. During the interaction with Justin and the authorities, it was pointed out that William Dahlsten (CR26) was photographing the engagement. Heidi Barnhart (ROB) made a motion to have William removed from the meeting. The basis of the motion was that it was her belief that his actions were motivated by the desire to create a scenario where the LCRCC could be publicly tarnished. The motion was seconded. Discussion took place. The final vote was 50-18 in favor of asking William to remove himself. He refused.

#### **Invocation** Randy Walker (CR03)

#### **Pledge** Mark Banowetz (TPUT)

**Chairman's Minute** Bernie Hayes (CR26) reviewed some of the events of the recent DEC meeting. SCC member Thomas Hansen was removed by a vote of the DEC on recommendation from the SCC. A special election will be held on 1/25 to select a replacement. The Chair asked that the body break up into house districts to coordinate on the creation of fundraising baskets for the upcoming Reagan fundraiser. We are to reconvene in 15 minutes to continue LCRCC business.

**Membership Report** Heidi Barnhart (ROB) 57 voting members, 28 voting associates, 4 associates, 3 guests.

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

**Treasurer Report** Matt Limbert (MR05) reviewed current budget report. Some Reagan Breakfast costs and revenues are starting to trickle in. He again encouraged the LCRCC to find a way to spend the Lundby/Thompson fund. We only earned 74¢ in interest last month. Please relay any ideas to the Executive Committee and we will aggregate them for presentation to the body.

**Fundraising** Dean Soenksen (CR13) and Terry Chostner (TOTT) reviewed details of the Reagan Fundraiser. There will be plenty of food, fun and excitement. There will be a silent auction. They encouraged members to car pool if able. Seating will be for 200 persons. There will also be guessing games. Early bird tickets are still available till 2/1. They are still working with local businesses who would like to participate in the event. They are also working on putting together a "Conservative Business Directory." A collection of local businesses who support the conservative cause. 2/1 is also the deadline for house districts to deliver their fundraising baskets and any silent auction items to the fundraising committee. Flyers for the Reagan Breakfast are available on the tables for LCRCC attendees to take/distribute.

**Faith Engagement** Barb Holub (ROB) invited members to the Marion Free Methodist Church to hear speak Peter Shaw on 1/23, 7pm. He is a Pastor who will be speaking about the necessity to engage church leaders nationwide on the issue of relating current events through biblical truth. There will also be

a question-and-answer session as well as an opportunity to present ideas. The faith engagement committee meets every other Friday at the LCRCC office. However, due to the event on Thursday 1/23, the Faith Engagement committee will not meet on 1/24. Contact Barb for details.

**Legislative** Randy Walker (CR03) shared the committee's findings regarding President Trump's cabinet choices. They gave their recommendations on whether they thought the picks were positive or questionable. They will now focus their review on the qualifications of our state and local officials. The committee meets the first Tuesday of every month. 6:30pm at the LCRCC office. Note that if school is cancelled for inclement weather, likely so will be their meeting. No update is available currently regarding the proposed Linn County casino.

### **Guest Speakers**

Cindy Golding (HD83 Rep.) spoke about the upcoming start of the legislative session on 1/13. The next day the Governor will give the state of the state speech. In years past the legislative body had an agenda going into the session on the first day, only to be redirected by the Governor via her priorities represented in the speech. She noted that there will be challenges to legislating, as there are several members who have their own agenda. She is hopeful as there are roughly 25 members who have banded together as the "Freedom Fighters" in the House to stand up for conservative principals. She also brought to the body's attention that there will be a special election for the replacement of Chris Cournoyer in the Iowa Senate (SD35), as she was named Lt. Governor. Cindy made a motion that the LCRCC donate \$500 to Katie Whittington's campaign. Katie is a strong conservative who will represent Scott County well. Seconded, approved. Regarding any updates on the proposed casino, it is in the hands of the Gaming Commission.

### **Announcements**

Bernie Hayes reminded the body that the election for new officers will be held at the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Barb Thumma (CR10) spoke for FSRW. She told the group there will be a meeting on 1/14 at Elmcrest. The speaker will be Jacob Hall from The Iowa Standard. Contact her for more details.

William Barrow (MR11) shared that Justin Wasson's daughter has a clean bill of health.

Bernie Hayes asked that the body keep in mind and pray for Bruce Lindholm's son. His house was destroyed in the California fires.

Anne Fairchild (CR28) spoke about upcoming elections; noting school board elections will be in November. She also mentioned that those who have been poll workers in the past should receive an email from the Auditor's office asking for assistance in the upcoming elections. Let her know if you have been a poll worker and not received that correspondence from the Auditor's office.

**Pass the Hat \$251**

**Motion to adjourn** seconded, passed 8:40pm.

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