

## Linn County Republican Central Committee Meeting- February 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The February LCRCC monthly meeting was held at Noelridge Park Church 1147 Clifton St. NE CR

**Call to Order** 7:00 pm

**Invocation** Barclay Woerner (CR32)

**Pledge** Glenn Modracek (CR51)

**Chairman's Minute** Bernie Hayes (CR26) clarified why we were meeting at the present location. He reiterated the events of the last meeting as well as his letter to the body detailing as much. Joe Golding (TMON1) was allowed to comment on his experience at the Iowa State Legislators Kickoff event. He relayed that there were comments from other county members that there have been people going to surrounding counties and complaining about LCRCC and the executive team. Joe moved to adopt this resolution: ***We thank Bernie Hayes for his leadership during these past two years, and we express our confidence in him as a solid Republican and as a great leader of the Linn County Republican Central Committee.*** The motion was seconded and approved. Bernie mentioned that the State Central Committee met on 2/8/25 and recommended that Justin Wasson be removed from the SCC. The final vote for removal will be determined by the District Executive Committee. Bernie also reported that the DEC replaced Tom Hansen with Ben Elliot from Dubuque County. Though Bernie was unable to attend the LCRCC fundraiser, he noted that he heard nothing but good things about the event.

**Membership Report** Heidi Barnhart (ROB) 56 voting members, 25 voting associates, 4 associates, 8 guests. Motion from the Chair to vote in new associate members: Susan Grovert (TMON2), Hannah Hooper (CR44), Bernard Schnaufer (MR08), Douglas Dix (HIA03), Frank Wilson (CR08). Passed.

**New Business** Bernie reviewed the proposed nomination and election rules under consideration. Motion from the chair to approve as submitted, seconded, approved.

**Nominations for Office** Michael Nissen (CR35) nominates Bernie Hayes for Chair. Seconded. Randy Walker (CR03) nominates Kevin Thumma (CR10) for Co-Chair. Seconded. Brett Mason (CR02) nominates Matthew O'Neal (CR43) for Secretary. Seconded. Matthew O'Neal nominates Matthew Limbert (MR05) for Treasurer. Seconded. Bernie asked if there were any further nominations. Upon hearing none, a motion was made, seconded, and approved for nominations to cease.

**Approve Minutes** the Chair entertained a motion to approve January meeting minutes; seconded, discussion. James Sampers (CR20) Noted that the next meeting location was not identified in the minutes, though it was mentioned by the chair. He also suggested that more details be included regarding the events that occurred at the previous meeting pertaining to Mr. Dahlsten (CR26). Mr. Sampers proposed two motions: First; amend the minutes to include the verbiage regarding the location of the next meeting. Seconded, failed. Second; to adopt the meeting minutes as proposed, pending an investigation into the details surrounding the previous meeting as it pertains to Mr. Dahlsten. Seconded, approved.

**Treasurer Report** Matt Limbert (MR05) reviewed the current report. Profits and expenditure for the 2/8 Reagan Breakfast fundraiser will show up in the next report. He again encouraged the LCRCC to find a

way to spend the Lundby/Thompson fund. Please relay any ideas to the Executive Committee and we will aggregate them for presentation to the body.

**Advisory** Kevin Thumma went over the schedule for the proposed bylaws. Suggested changes should be submitted by 2/15. A vote from the body for acceptance will likely take place in April.

**Fundraising** Kathleen Banowetz (TPUT) gave a big thanks to “Team Fun”: all those who helped coordinate all the details of the fundraiser. She also recognized those who helped set up, those who donated and attended. Terry Chostner (TOTT) reviewed the financials of the event. There was approximately \$7800 in profit and more coming in. Dean Soenksen (CR13) shared that there were 4113 jellybeans in the jar.

**Legislative** Randy Walker (CR03) mentioned that their committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at the LCRCC office at 6:30 pm, if anyone would like to participate. He thanked Cindy Golding HD83 Rep. for her “Under the Golden Dome” newsletter. The latest version gave a helpful breakdown of how a bill is created in the legislature. He then went on to review some of the bills that are currently making their way through the process. Geralyn Jones (MR10) also commented on HSB43 regarding school curriculum as well as a few other bills. Rachel Cadena (MR04) also noted that there is a bill at the federal level that is gaining momentum to codify keeping only 9 Supreme Court Justices.

**Data Analysis/Voter Integrity** Anne Fairchild (CR28) mentioned that their next meeting will be 2/24 at Goldfinch Tap: 740 10th St Marion, IA 52302 at 6:30 pm.

**Faith Engagement** Barb Holub (ROB) reminded members that the Faith Engagement committee meets tomorrow and every other Friday at the LCRCC office, 9 am (every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday). She gave a brief overview of the committee and their goal to encourage more Christians to vote in every election.

James Sampers suggested forming a committee to find a permanent meeting place with better parking/seating and perhaps include the availability for the LCRCC meetings to be livestreamed for members unable to attend. The Chair noted that this should be taken up by the Advisory Team at their next meeting.

### **Guest Speakers**

Addie Lavis spoke on behalf of the Hinson campaign. She relayed Ashley’s thanks for the warm reception at the LCRCC fundraiser. She noted it was a great event! Ashley is working at “breakneck speed” along with other congressional Republicans to enact President Trump’s policies. Ashley was present at the signing of the bill to protect women in sports.

Chelle Adkins SCC member District 2 informed the LCRCC that Jeff Kaufmann was reelected as the State Chair of the party. One of his main goals is keeping Iowa’s “first in the nation” status. Linda Upmeyer was also reelected as Co-Chair. Chelle was selected to be assistant director of Treasury. The SCC is currently reviewing all county committee bylaws for continuity with Iowa code and our state party constitution.

Joe Golding (TMON1) spoke on behalf of Cindy Golding. He mentioned that there is a review underway of the vaccine schedule for children. A group called Informed Choice of Iowa is helping with this. He also spoke briefly about the process of how a bill becomes a law. He noted several developments taking place in the house regarding bills Cindy has sponsored. They include issues concerning property tax, eminent

domain, school funding flexibility, and transactional gold. All of her bills have been assigned to a committee, which means they are one step closer to passage. March 7<sup>th</sup> is the date cut off by which all bills must be approved by a committee to survive further consideration for a floor vote. Joe encouraged members to reach out to her with any questions. She will respond.

Mary Weston (MR15) Chair of the Iowa Young Republicans (IYR) informed the LCRCC that Iowa House District Representative Martin Graber (HD100) passed away. The IYR is making efforts to keep Mr. Graber's seat in the red column and welcomes any help. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to join in their March 8 Day of Action, prior to the March 11 Special Election. As well as those willing to do phone banking, door knocking, donations, etc.

### **Announcements**

Emma Nemecek (MR08) Chair of the Five Seasons Republican Women announced their Luncheon 2/18 11:30 am at Elmcrest Country Club in Cedar Rapids. Jacob Hall from the Iowa Standard will be guest speaking. He will be giving an update on Iowa Legislation. The cost for lunch is \$20.

Anne Fairchild notified the LCRCC that Calvary Christian Academy is having an open house/informational session Thursday 2/20 6-7:30 pm. This is an opportunity for the anyone who interested in providing their child with an education based on a Biblical worldview. They are taking applications for the 2025-26 school year. 5245 Northland Ave. NE Cedar Rapids.

Bernie Hayes asked that the members keep in mind and pray for the family of Sally Novetzke, who died 1/29/25. She was a well-known Cedar Rapids Republican who served as U.S. ambassador to the Mediterranean Island of Malta in the early 1990s, she was 93. He also noted that the next meeting will be at Noelridge Park Church as of now, however they are looking for other possible locations. Bernie reminded the body that the election for new officers will be held at the March 13th meeting.

**Pass the Hat \$318**

**Motion to adjourn** seconded, passed 8:43pm.

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