

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

The March LCRCC meeting was held at Calvary Community Church, 5245 Northland Ave. NE CR

**Call to Order** 7:00 pm

**Invocation** Pastor Jeremy Higgins. He then announced that they would be having a guest speaker at the church, Bill Federer on 3/23 to discuss Christian Patriotism.

**Pledge** Larry Ulrich (CR09)

**Chairman's Minute** Bernie Hayes (CR26) announced that Blaine Watkins (R) had won the special election for HD100. He mentioned that the Young Republicans were instrumental in their efforts regarding getting out the vote, spearheaded by Mary Weston (MR15). The LCRCC contributed funds to that effort. Bernie then shared his interaction with a class that they are teaching about civics at Linn Mar. They focused on voter engagement and the process of ballot procurement. Several civil servants were there including the auditor and deputy election officials. Brett Niles, the Linn County Democrat Chair also participated. Bernie then introduced Geralyn Jones (MR10) to speak about the results of the recent DEC meeting. The SCC had given the recommendation to expel Justin Wasson from the SCC. It then went to the DEC for approval. On 3/1 the DEC rejected the recommendation from the SCC and retained Justin as its representative in a 15-10 vote.

**Membership Report** Heidi Barnhart (ROB) 55 voting members, 21 voting associates, 6 associates, 12 guests. Motion from the Chair to vote in new associate member: Kristin Delfs (CR10), passed. Heidi also mentioned the signature drive for the potential Linn County Supervisor District 2 special election. She is currently seeking volunteers to help with the upcoming gun show at Hawkeye Downs to gather signatures. Reach out to her for details. Brett Mason (CR02) helped clarify some of the details of the process going forward. Should the board decide to appoint someone, we would have a short window to garner at least 4,100 signatures to force a special election. Heidi also reported the next meeting would be 3/31 at the LCRCC office beginning at 6:30 PM.

**Old Business** Approving January minutes. The Advisory Committee recommended that the minutes be approved as submitted. Motion from the Chair to approve the minutes as originally submitted; seconded, approved.

**New Business** Election for Executive Officers: Bernie spent a few moments revisiting some of the accomplishments over the last 2 years. In February the rules were voted on and established. Kevin Thumma (CR10) made a motion to modify the rules to eliminate ballot voting and vote by acclamation, since there was only one nomination per office. Seconded, approved. The Executive Officers elected by acclamation were: Bernie Hayes, Chair; Kevin Thumma, Co-Chair; Matthew Limbert (MR05), Treasurer; Matthew O'Neal (CR43), Secretary. A ballot with the names of those nominated for the LCRCC executive board during the February 2025, LCRCC meeting was given to each eligible voter that attended.

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

**Treasurer Report** Matt Limbert reviewed the current report. Profits and expenditure from the Reagan Breakfast are finalizing. We will end up with around an \$8,000 profit. He mentioned that we have also saved a lot of money not paying for our meeting locations. He also encouraged the body to use some of the surplus of funds to promote the potential upcoming special elections.

**Advisory** Kevin Thumma went over the schedule for the proposed new bylaws. The completed proposal will be finished by 3/21. A notice of a final version for acceptance will be made available at least 10 days in advance of the next meeting in April for a vote from the body for acceptance.

**Legislative** Randy Walker (CR03) reviewed some of the bills that are currently making their way through the legislative process. One of them is a proposed pay increase for the Governor and the legislators. Cindy Golding (HD83 Rep.) rose to address the bill and elaborate on its history. She noted that the legislators have not had a pay increase since 2007. She also stated that the bill will not pass the House in its current form and will likely be revisited in the future.

**Faith Engagement** Barb Holub (ROB) gave a brief overview of the committee and their goal to encourage more Christians to vote in every election. They have procured a 12-page tutorial booklet to help facilitate engagement and edification. Copies are available. She mentioned the current Biblical Citizenship class being facilitated by Joe Golding (TMON1) at Radiant Church on Thursday nights. She also alerted the body to an event at Calvary on 3/27, 6:30-8 pm; as they are hosting an informational meeting about the role of boards and commissions in the Linn County/Cedar Rapids government structure. She told the group they meet the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 9 AM at the LCRCC office.

**Voter Engagement** Trisha Maloney (CR01) encouraged the LCRCC to get involved in some way to help get the signatures required to allow for an election for Supervisor District 2. Brett Mason elaborated on how the walking maps he created worked in conjunction with the created voter list. Reach out to Brett, Trisha, or Heidi for more information on how to help. A table will be set up at the exit.

**Fundraising** Terry Chostner (TOTT) shared a video of a compilation of photos from the Reagan Breakfast. He gave a big thanks to all who helped put on the event. He acknowledged that they would take the lessons learned from past events to make the future events even better. He also encouraged the body to reach out to the Fundraising Committee and provide them with critiques or ideas for events. Terry made a motion to approve a preliminary budget amount of \$9,720 for the upcoming Lincoln Dinner. The proposed date is 8/1/25. Seconded, approved.

### **Guest Speakers**

Cindy Golding shared some highlights from the organized chaos at the Iowa Capitol. Multiple protesters descended on the Capitol to protest the removal of gender identity from the Iowa Civil Rights Code (the first in the nation).

Steve Scheffler, Iowa GOP National Committeeman, gave praise to the LCRCC for its vast improvements in voter outreach, increased growth and successful fundraising. He also thanked Cindy Golding for her work in the Iowa House. He also acknowledged Mary Weston and the Young Republicans for their tireless efforts to support Iowa candidates. He mentioned the reelection of Jeff Kaufmann as the Chair of the Republican Party of Iowa and his commitment to retain Iowa's "first in the nation" status. Steve also

serves as the Vice Chair for this region as well as on the rules committee. He announced that the Faith and Freedom Coalition is having an event on 4/12 at the Horizon Events Center 2100 NW 100<sup>th</sup> St. Clive, Iowa. Doors open 3:30 pm. \$60/person or \$100/couple. US Rep. Nancy Mace (SC) will be the keynote speaker.

Brandy Zumbach Meisheid Linn County Supervisor expressed her great thanks for all the LCRCC's help in getting her elected and noting her appreciation for LCRCC's support of candidates. She also talked about the process around the Supervisor 2 election. March 26 is an important date, as that is when they will decide on whether to appoint another Supervisor or hold an election. She also talked about some of the highlights and intricacies of her duties as Supervisor.

### **Announcements**

Janice Woerner (CR32) spoke as the Chair for the Mom's Coalition, an affiliate of Turning Point Action USA. They are having a gardening event 4/5 10-12pm at the Marion Home School Assistance Program. It's designed for Mom's (not just for mom's) and a master gardener will give instruction on how to do seed planting. The intent is to connect mothers of a like mind.

Emma Nemecek (MR08) Chair of the Five Seasons Republican Women announced they will be taking a group to Des Moines for legislative day. They have one seat available. They are meeting 3/24 at 7 am Hames Homes parking lot. Their next event will be 4/9. The guest speaker will be Michelle Crawford, President of Iowa Federation of Republican Women. See Emma for details.

Dean Soenksen (CR13) encouraged members to attend the League of Women Voters meeting at Kirkwood Regional Center on Boyson Rd. Hiawatha, Saturday 3/15 10 am.

Mary Weston Chair of the Iowa Young Republicans (IYR) elaborated on their work regarding the HD100 campaign. She thanked the LCRCC for their donation and said it helped purchase 2,000 postcards that were sent out to prospective voters. She mentioned they will be assisting with the gathering of signatures for the Supervisor 2 special election. They are also promoting the election Brad Schimel for Supreme Court in Wisconsin. They have a Facebook link to help with phone calling. She also alerted the body that the organization Big Brothers Big Sisters was advertising free tickets to a "family friendly drag show".

**Pass the Hat \$302**

**Motion to adjourn** seconded, passed 8:42 pm

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