

Linn County Republican Central Committee Meeting- May 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The May LCRCC meeting was held at Noelridge Park Church 1147 Clifton St. NE

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Invocation Bernie Hayes (CR26) Shared a music video by Mercy Me; “Oh Death” reflecting the events of Easter. Bernie then closed with a prayer.

Pledge Group

Chairman’s Minute Bernie explained that we are looking for a new location other than Noelridge. Schools are not available currently. He then gave a report on the DEC officer election results. An entirely new executive committee was elected. Newly elected DEC Chair Geralyn Jones (MR10) gave a brief rundown of the election process. She met with the other newly elected officers last week to establish a leadership agenda. “Communication is key to maintaining County support”. Bernie gave an overview of the recent HD78 special election, highlighting the districts demographics. R’s are highly outnumbered. His campaign sent out 2400 mailers targeting high propensity voters, as well as phone banking, digital ads, texting and several other measures. Analyzing the post-election data sparked conversations as to the motivation of the voters in the district based on the demography. Proposed issues: “Trump won syndrome”. R’s are less motivated to vote due to Trump being in office, with the sentiment being “things will be ok”. Voters may be experiencing “data fatigue”. Too much digital political bombardment. There were also some questions as to whether all the mailers reached their intended recipients. Bernie ended by thanking everyone for their hard work and support, including the funding received from the LCRCC. He also noted that in the end, his campaign was debt free!

Membership Report Heidi Barnhart (ROB) 41 voting members, 25 voting associates, 3 associates, 6 guests. Heidi motioned to vote in Beth Peters (CR27) to associate member; seconded, passed.

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

Approve Budget Treasurer Matt Limbert (MR05) reviewed the budget that was sent out to the members in advance and was also discussed at the April meeting. He urged the body to stay active with respect to LCRCC fundraising. He also encouraged members to reach out with any additional questions. Motion from the floor to accept the budget as presented; seconded, passed.

Treasurer Report Matt Limbert highlighted some of the unusual items posted this month. Included in that list was the \$7K donation to the HD78 special election (approved last month) and expenses for the upcoming Lincoln dinner. He also noted that going forward there will be a column on the right of the report that tracks expenses/income in relation to the fundraiser. He will keep this up to date each month.

Subcommittee Chair Approval Bernie reviewed the list of proposed chairs for approval:

Audit- Ruth Soenksen

Communications- Brett Mason (CR02)

Membership- Heidi Barnhart

Office- Matthew O’Neal (CR43)

Data/Election Integrity- Anne Fairchild (CR28)

Legislative- Randy Walker (CR03)

Faith Engagement- Barbi Holub (ROB)

Voter Engagement- Trisha Maloney (CR01)

Advisory- Shawn Lueth (CR27)

Fundraising- Terry Chostner (TOTT)

Bernie also noted that there are several committees that still have no permanent chair including Public Relations, Caucus (Bernie Interim), Convention (County), Campaign. He encouraged the body to reach out if they would be willing to assist with these committees. Bernie moved to approve the proposed chairs; seconded, passed.

Audit Report Review Bernie explained some of the differences between the audit report and the DR2s. The main cause is since we do not have to claim small amounts under \$25, it can result in different amounts on the forms. He thanked Ruth and Dean Soenksen (CR13) and Mark Banowetz (TPUT) for their work on auditing the 2024 treasurer activity. Motion to approve audit report from the Chair; seconded, passed.

Legislative Randy Walker (CR03) reviewed some of the bills that are still awaiting the Governor's signature. SF175 which would include pregnancy and fetal development in schools and HF299 giving parents prior notice to school inoculations. GERALYN Jones also mentioned a bill that passed that her team has been working on. It would force school systems to have 3rd party investigations regarding student complaints about assault or abuse in lieu of "internal investigations". Rachel Cadena (MR04) also spoke on HF639, the bill targeting the use of eminent domain for private gain. Cindy Golding HD83 Rep. helped write the bill. Randy encouraged members to reach out to the Governor to get these bills signed. He also mentioned that the committee meets at the LCRCC office on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.

Fundraising Terry Chostner (TOTT) shared details about the upcoming Lincoln Dinner. The tentative date is August 1. 5:30-8:30 pm. Dinner will be served at 6 pm and wrap up around 8. Now that the Governor is set to resign, the team has decided to conduct a "First In The State" event. The plan is to have a round table type of discussion with the gubernatorial candidates. Sponsor tables are available for \$1400 (seats 8). That also allows the sponsor table attendees to a private session prior to the meal. Single tickets are also available for \$100 or \$200 per couple, see Terry for more information.

Guest Speakers Joe Golding (TMON1) spoke on behalf of Cindy and reviewed some of the highlights from this year's session. Success's include protections in the civil rights bill regarding gender and removing DEI in the Universities. He also noted that there are still a lot of battles and sadly a lot of them were between Republicans. One of her disappointments was not being able to address property tax. Cindy will continue to fight for her constituents and be an asset in the House.

Announcements

Emma Nemecek (MR08) announced that the FSRW will be having Linn Co. Supervisor Brandy Zumbach Meisheid as their guest speaker 5/20 11:30am. June 10th they will be hosting Tim Hagle, UI Professor. July 15th CR Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell will be their guest. She also mentioned the upcoming Hawkeye Downs gun show 5/30-6/1 as well as the Asian Fest 9/20. She also noted that Senator Rand Paul would be at Elmcrest Country Club 5/29, doors open at 5:30pm. It is reported that Senator Joni Ernst may also attend.

Bernie noted that the Noelridge Neighborhood Association is putting on a "clean up day". A dumpster will be placed at the church and people are encouraged to bring refuse items. He also mentioned a meeting on 5/27 at Cedar Rapids City Hall 4pm. The meeting will include an opportunity for the public to comment on the possibility of flying the pride flag with the US flag at Cedar Rapids office buildings.

Bernie announced a "Tent Meeting" (revival meeting) 6/4-6/8 1105 6th St. NW starting at 7pm each evening. Randy Walker elaborated on the meeting. It is hosted by The Sanctuary and King's Way Ministries. There will be prayer teams, worship, Dr. Michael Elmore (CR08) will be speaking as well as others. Janice Woerner (CR32) will help lead worship. The event is near Time Check Park.

Bernie also elaborated on the RPI event hosting Rand Paul. RPI did offer LCRCC a discount to sponsor a table if members would like to attend.

He also noted that Tim Barton with Wall Builders will be the guest of the Jones County Republican Women. 6/21 at Camp Courageous, Durgin Pavilion starting at 4:30pm. Tickets are \$30. Tyrus will be in Cedar Rapids at Vets Memorial 7/10 7:30pm.

Bob Cody (CR08) thanked everyone for coming out to the flag waving session on 4/30.

Barb Holub (ROB) mentioned that Jim Carlin 6/12 at Calvary Church announcing his run for US Senate.

Brett Mason commented that if members would like to have their announcements displayed on the website, that they should email them to webmaster@linncountygop.org. Please include contact information so that interested parties can reach out for more information.

Pass the Hat \$258

Motion to adjourn seconded, passed 8:31 pm

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