

## Linn County Republican Central Committee Meeting- April 9th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The LCRCC meeting was held at Christian Life Church 2808 Schaeffer Dr. SW Cedar Rapids

**Call to Order** 7:01 pm

**Invocation** Kevin Thumma (CR10)

**Pledge** Curt Hancock (MV01) gave a brief overview of how the pledge was instituted and how it is supposed to be recited by federal code. He then led the pledge.

**Chairman's Minute** Bernie Hayes (CR26) mentioned that there are bulletin boards located at the entrance. He encouraged members to post their announcements as well as any fliers for fellow members to view after they have been announced. Bernie highlighted the fact that due to the number of gubernatorial candidates, this year's state convention delegates may have the opportunity to select the candidate for the general election. He also encouraged members to do their own "homework" regarding the gubernatorial campaigns and the issues associated with each. Bernie reminded the members of the upcoming district convention and that LCRCC members are under the umbrella of our code of decorum prescribed in the by-laws. He also announced that RPI would be providing lunch for delegates, alternates and junior delegates at the district convention, but not at the state convention.

**Joe Mitchell** Congressional Candidate for district 2. Joe highlighted the importance of Linn Co. and that our meeting was his sixth stop tonight. He noted that he has received the endorsement of Rep. Jim Jordan (OH). He reiterated his support for President Trump and encouraged everyone to vote in the midterms and to bring family and friends.

**Randy Marzen** (MR03) candidate for SD 37. Randy took a moment to speak in honor of those fighting in the conflict with Iran. He reminded the members he too is a fighter and will fight for this seat. He encouraged members to reach out with any questions.

**Paul Talley** (CR46) candidate for Linn Co. Treasurer. Paul noted that he is now retired and can campaign full time. Reach out to Paul if you would like to assist with his campaign. A special nominating committee will be called to get Paul on the ballot.

**Rex Meyer** (CR38) candidate for Linn Co. D2 Supervisor. Rex announced that they had received enough signatures to be on the ballot. Rex mentioned that he grew up on a farm in Iowa. He then graduated from ISU and worked as a civil engineer for 40 years. He noted that his opponent worked for the Bernie Sanders campaign. Rex made clear that he will use his knowledge of civil service to enhance the citizens' way of life by prioritizing county funding that best serves the community.

**Addie Lavis** (CR20) Dept. Campaign Manager for Hinson. She noted that the Hinson campaign had collected more signatures than any other candidate in this cycle.

**Mary Lindstrom** (CR16) Chair of the Eastern Iowa Young Republicans. She mentioned that they are the largest chapter in Iowa. They are seeking donations to help support members in their volunteer activities. Contributions help fund training for members to engage in door knocking, phone banking, social media engagement and educational materials.

**Bernie** noted that there are still open races in Linn Co. Including HD-80, SD-39 and HD-78. He contrasted that to Johnson County. As blue as Johnson is, it still has a candidate in every Supervisor race.

**Cindy Golding** HD83 Rep. Cindy mentioned that her colleagues in the House encouraged the LCRCC to support a candidate for HD80. She updated the members on current legislation going forward. A bill did pass that prevents citizens from petitioning local zoning changes. She currently has a bill requiring Data Centers to report their electric and water usage. It is stalled in the Senate. There is also a bill requiring proof of citizenship when applying/renewing your driver's license. It is headed back to the House. There are currently 3 bills addressing property tax reform. She is against them all. She noted they would be bad for rural Iowans. She has proposed legislation, though it has not been assigned to a committee.

**Grant Gardner** (TGRA) spoke on behalf of Brad Sherman, candidate for Governor. He believes Brad's long history in business is a key attribute to being a successful Governor. He also spoke on behalf of Jim Carlin running for Senate. Jim was an Iowa House and Senate Representative and supports President Trump.

**Ben Piper** Field Operator for the Adam Steen gubernatorial campaign, spoke about his inspiration to get involved due to Charlie Kirk. He noted Adam was a MLB player and worked in the Reynolds administration.

**Membership Report** Heidi Barnhart (ROB) 68 voting members, 17 voting associates, 1 associate, 6 guests. One new associate member to be voted in, Joseph Drish (TMON1). Seconded, passed.

**Approve Minutes** Bernie moved to accept March meeting minutes; discussion. Matt O'Neal offered to amend the minutes to include the names of businesses that supported the Reagan Breakfast. Passed.

**Bernie** requested a motion to approve giving Christian Life Church (CLC) a donation of \$150 per month for use of their facilities, starting with this month. So moved, seconded, discussion. The motion was amended to reduce the amount to \$100. It was established that no LCRCC member was a board member or beneficiary of CLC. CLC had no prior knowledge that this motion would be presented to LCRCC. Passed.

**Treasurer Report** Matt Limbert (MR05) gave an overview of the current budget and encouraged members to reach out to him with any questions or concerns.

**Audit Report** Bernie gave an overview of the status of our filing as it relates to the DR2. He reminded the committee that the two amounts don't always perfectly match due to periodic small donations. Currently the DR2 and our accounting are almost perfectly in sync. Ruth Soenksen, Audit Chair, thanked the committee: Dean Soenksen, Merri Lueth, Mark Banowetz, and Bernie Hayes for their work. Bernie requested a motion to accept the report. So moved, seconded, passed.

**Trish Maloney** (CR01) gave an overview of the Patriot Academy. They will be holding these 1 hr. sessions prior to the LCRCC meetings at the same location starting 4/9. These sessions will go on for another 5 months. They will begin at 5:30 pm. Feel free to bring food.

**Election Integrity** Anne Mellor (CR28) introduced Jodi Bjerke (TMON2) who is now helping the committee. Anne announced that they would be hosting poll watcher training at CLC. Dates include: 5/3 at 4pm, 5/4 and 5/7 at 6pm. Please reach out to her if interested. Poll workers are also needed. She has flyers for anyone interested. It is a paid position. She noted that their committee also conducts vetting of potential Republican poll workers county wide.

**Legislative** Randy Walker (CR03) gave an overview of some of the bills of interest passing through the State House as well as the Federal Congress. He also noted that Jim Carlin would be at Sanctuary Church on 4/19.

**Faith Engagement** Bernie announced that there will be no meeting in April. Next meeting at CLC.

**Announcements** Bernie went on to remind the committee that there is a DEC meeting on 4/18 in Oelwein. The IFFC spring kickoff will be on 5/1 in Clive. Calvary Academy will be having their second annual silent auction on 5/2. See Anne Mellor for details.

**Tammy Pink** (CR06) Announced that the Iowa Federation of Republican Women (IFRW) will be having their state convention at the Double Tree 4/17-18. The Iowa Lt. Gov., CR Mayor, and Supervisor Brandy Z. Meisheid will be in attendance. \$40 for members, \$50 for non. See her or Emma Nemecek (MR08) for details. Emma and Barb Thumma (CR10) also mentioned that the IFRW will host a candidate forum 5/12 at the Elmcrest County Club 11:30 am. Joe Mitchell and Charlie McClintock will be in attendance.

**Curt Hancock** announced that Jim Carlin and Brad Sherman will be at Calvary Church 4/15 6:30pm.

**Pass the Hat** \$342

**Motion to adjourn** seconded, passed 8:39 pm

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