

Linn County Republican Central Committee Meeting- July 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes

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

Call to Order 7 pm

Invocation Bernie Hayes (CR26)

Pledge Grant Gardner (TGRA)

Chairman's Minute LCRCC Chairman Bernie Hayes (CR26), gave an overview of the state convention. Reviewed some of the RPI constitutional amendments presented at the convention. Particularly the loss of at-large DEC representatives from large counties. The SCC is going to give firm guidance on how this will affect all counties and the timeline for when the changes will take effect.

Glenn Carl spoke for Humans in Control, a new national nonprofit (501C3) expanding into Iowa. He is from the Quad Cities. The focus of the organization is the impact of AI on human control. The general tenor of those he's spoken to is that they have found some usage for it but are alarmed at how quickly it is expanding into all aspects of our lives. He has informational flyers for those who are interested in the topic. He fielded questions from the members.

Zach Streitt Representing the Hinson campaign mentioned some of Ashley's accomplishments; including helping pass one of the biggest tax cuts in American history. She also helped pass the farm bill. Josh Turek, her opponent is backed by Chuck Schumer. The campaign will be door knocking on 7/11. Meet at 1241 Park Ave. NE (campaign office) 9am. Coffee/donuts will be provided. He does have signs available.

Barclay Woerner (CR32) running for HD79 noted that he is focused on education. There is continual deterioration in our system. He is also working to help new immigrants transport their children to school. Cancer care is also a priority (son went through it). Eliminating human trafficking in our area is a priority. They will be sending out invites for door knocking soon. See his wife Janice for details.

Paul Talley (CR46) candidate for Linn Co. Treasurer. Paul is concentrating on door knocking and procuring more signs. He has knocked on over 1800 doors so far. He is still going through voter data. He will be speaking at the Lincoln Dinner. He has volunteer sign-up sheets and flyers.

Paul Siver (TBNL) spoke for the Zach Lahn campaign. The campaign is going well. They have a strong ground game. The focus should be coming together as R's to defeat Rob Sand. They will be working through all 99 counties. He has yard signs. Reach out to Paul for more information.

Bernie announced he is looking to run for SD 39. The LCRCC will need to move forward with a nominating convention. Part of his motivation is giving the voters an option at the ballot box. He thanked everyone for their initial support.

Membership Report Jodi Bjerke (TMON2) reported that there were 56 voting members, 11 associate voting members, 1 associate and 6 guests.

Bernie accepted a motion to approve the June minutes. So moved, seconded and approved.

Bernie announced the formation of the Campaign Committee and Matthew O'Neal (CR43) as the interim chair. Matthew gave a brief overview of the committee and its tentative goals. Bernie asked for a motion from the floor to accept Matthew as permanent chair. Motion made, seconded, approved.

Treasurer Report Matthew Limbert (MR05) noted that there was not much change. Some expenses are starting to come in for the Lincoln dinner. He will be keeping track of the expenditures in a separate column on future reports, through the completion of the fundraiser.

Public Relations Barclay reviewed the activities at the fair. Special thanks to Linda Dvorak (CR27) who was at the booth every day. He was thankful for the large number of volunteers. He thanked Joe and Cindy Golding (TMON1) for allowing us to use their truck in the Freedom Fest parade. We had a good showing in the parade. Cindy has several parades coming up. Even if you are not in Cindy's district, they are looking for other candidate supporters to walk along with them. The committee is also working on a "Republican" shirt for the members. Reach out to Barclay if you would like to participate. Tom Gerhold (HD84) is requesting parade walkers for the Walker Pickle Parade, 7/25 at 5:30pm.

Trish Maloney (CR01) spoke about the Liberty Academy. They are currently reviewing the creation of the Declaration of Independence. Feel free to bring your dinner to eat as you watch the video. The class begins before each monthly meeting starting at 5:30pm. Classes will likely go through October.

Fundraising Terry Chostner (TOTT) mentioned that you can still get tickets tonight or online. He thanked everyone who had purchased them and for all the newcomers who will be attending. At least 10 confirmed speakers and a guest speaker are a part of the planned program. There is a volunteer signup sheet. The committee purchased an audio system. We will tap into the venues video and be able to provide our own audio. We will have this available for future events. In doing so we saved thousands of dollars. Deadline for ordering tickets online is 7/15. The goal is to sell 160 tickets. Currently we have sold 100. The venue can fit 300.

Legislative Bernie gave a review of some of latest SCOTUS decisions and some courses of action on how to fix some of the issues that have arisen from these decisions. The legislative committee encouraged the members to reach out to their legislators and push for these changes.

Randy Marzen (MR03) candidate for SD 37 noted that the campaign is going well. Getting some good media coverage. There is some concern about Sand's advertisements. We still need someone to run in HD73. He thanked everyone who has supported him so far. They still need more help. He has yard signs available. He is running against Molly Donahue.

Announcements

Joe Golding Reminded the members about the free movie "A Great Awakening" showing at Radiant Church 7/24 at 7pm. He has flyers for distribution.

Bernie mentioned the Lincoln Dinner in Des Moines on 7/10 to honor Gov. Reynolds is sold out. He also reminded the members of our own Lincoln Dinner this August 6th. He noted that the next LCRCC meeting will be held 8/13 at Christian Life Church.

Chris Kelly (TWAS) shared about an organization called Omega 4 America that tracks voter registration data. He also mentioned the book: "The Goal is to Win" by Brett Rogers. It is a guide for candidates to help them win elections. He encouraged members to be confident and humble in proposing our principles to those outside our organizations.

Emma Nemecek (MR08) President of the Five Seasons Republican Women gave dates on upcoming speakers. You can find the itinerary on their website: <https://fiveseasonsrw.org/>. She also mentioned the Asian Fest on 9/26 and that Rob Sand has booked 2 tables.

Grant Gardner has invested in "challenge coins" for anyone interested. See him for details.

Kevin Thumma (CR10) reminded the members that the 2008/9 Defense bills changed the rules to allow Veterans to cover their hearts or salute the flag at their discretion.

Joe Golding noted that Cindy is still at the Alburnett city council meeting, which is why she was not in attendance. This coming Saturday is the Mt. Vernon parade. Volunteers are welcome. Monday is a mailer stuffing party at her house. Several more parades are upcoming. He reiterated that The Mt. Vernon Sun is publishing her Golden Dome newsletter. She is expecting a lot of endorsements from registered democrat city council members from around her district. Reach out if you are interested in volunteering.

Pass the Hat \$260

Motion to adjourn seconded, passed 8:22 pm.

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