

Libertarian Party of Nevada
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
10:00 AM on Saturday, August 28th, 2021
Meeting held remotely via GoToMeeting video-conferencing.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Charles Melchin called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. A quorum of the Executive Committee was present.

2. Roll Call:

Executive Committee Members Present:	Charles Melchin (Chair) Jeffery Hurley (Vice-Chair) Chris Orton (N. Regional Rep.) Katie Banuelos (Secretary) Adam Haman (S. Regional Rep.) Bryan Elliott (Treasurer)
Executive Committee Members Absent:	Sam Toll (At Large Rep.)
Party Members & Public Present:	Brad Carpenter Travis McGlothlin

3. Public Comment: No comments.

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. 2021 Special Convention Minutes (08/07/2021)

Charles Melchin made a motion to approve the 2021 Special Convention minutes as written. Katie Banuelos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Reports:

a. Officer Reports:

i. Chair's Report

Charles Melchin reported that since the last executive committee meeting, the special convention had taken place, along with several county level events. He also remarked on the state-level mandates and COVID-19 related requirements that had been issued.

ii. Treasurer's Report (*written report attached on page 5*)

Bryan Elliott stated that there was nothing new to report since his last written report from August 2, 2021.

iii. Secretary's Report

Katie Banuelos reported that following the special convention the newly revised bylaws had been posted on the state party website and filed with the Secretary of State's Office along with an amended certificate of existence, per the party bylaws and NRS requirements.

b. Director Reports:

i. Events and Outreach:

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Sam Toll was not present.

ii. Communications:

Katie Banuelos reported several of the recent emails had elicited a positive response from the membership including donations to the party. She also explained that the Communications Director for LP National had reached out to request permission to republish some of the language from one of the emails.

iii. Tech:

Brad Carpenter reported that the construction of the new website was in progress. The outline had been established but the site was not yet ready to go live.

iv. Elections & Fundraising:

Brandon Davis was not present. Charles Melchin reported that he had attended the most recent meeting and the group was working to identify candidates and was in the early stages of planning a fundraising gala.

v. Judicial Committee Organizing:

Bryan Elliot reported that he had reviewed several templates for a judicial committee and had read through several postings on judicial committee proceedings. He believes it may end up being necessary to consult with an attorney in structuring a simple and impartial process. He explained that it might be difficult to identify an outside arbiter who understands the philosophy and values of the Libertarian party. Charles Melchin noted that the primary purpose of a judicial committee was to create a mechanism to prevent abuse by the executive committee. Katie Banuelos stated that it might not be practical to maintain a standing committee, but that it would be valuable to adopt a process for calling a committee if a situation were to arise.

c. Affiliate Reports:

i. Clark County:

Jeffery Hurley reported that he had reviewed the voter registration data from the Secretary of State's office and there was a steady increase in voter registrations of approximately 200 new registrants per month. If this rate continues, the party will be on track to meet the target number for the end of 2021. He reported that the number of dues paying members had increased from 138 to 143, and there were 68 active participants in the discord. Katie Banuelos requested that the membership data in future meetings be broken out by amount paid, in order to track whether lowering the dues did in fact increase membership enrollment. Jeffery Hurley also reported that the Clark county affiliate had participated in several local protest events, one of which had garnered a fair amount of press coverage - although the footage had been deceptively presented. He reviewed several of the planned upcoming events.

ii. Douglas County

No update on the status of the Douglas County affiliate.

iii. Washoe County *(written report attached on page 6)*

Chris Orton noted that he had provided a written report prior to the meeting in case he was unable to attend. He reported that there would be a county executive meeting in September, and that there were also several upcoming events including a

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crypto-currency discussion dinner. He explained that the bi-monthly *Circle Bastiat* discussion group email list had increased to 30 people, and that Spencer Oller had started a facebook group called *No More Lockdowns Nevada* which was growing rapidly. Katie Banuelos reported that several members of the Washoe LP had met with a group called the Washoe Patriots to discuss coalitioning against the COVID-19 restrictions. Chris noted that the party needed to determine how to participate in their protests and events while also maintaining independence.

6. Old Business:

a. Review of results from the special convention, if necessary:

Charles Melchin reported that of the seven bylaw amendment proposals, only two had passed. The successful amendments included lowering the dues to \$25 annually and changing the object of the party from a sole focus on elections to promoting liberty more broadly. Most votes had been unanimous or close to it. Jeffery Hurley noted that the website membership page needed to be updated to reflect the lowered dues.

b. Discuss management of state and county financials.

Jeffery Hurley explained that currently the state party was the primary source of fundraising and the county affiliates did not have an infrastructure for fundraising directly. Bryan Elliott noted that if the county affiliates held their own funds they might need to also process their own monthly filings. Jeffery Hurley explained that Clark county did not currently have their own bank account. The new Clark county executive committee had been presented with a check upon turnover and it had been deposited into the state party bank account. Chris Orton explained that Washoe county did have it's own bank account and funds, but that the amount of money was below the minimum filing requirements. Bryan Elliott will create a guide on filing requirements for future state and county level treasurers to refer to. Jeffery Hurley made a motion to amend the previously adopted policy regarding the disbursement of funds for committee directors such that the same process would apply to the county affiliates. Bryan Elliott seconded the motion, and with no objections the motion carried.

7. New Business:

a. Set a target for new email newsletter subscriptions by the end of 2021:

The original target set for email newsletter subscriptions had been erroneously set based on the total number of email addresses on file rather than the number of subscribers, and was therefore inflated. Katie Banuelos explained that since the party had begun to send more regular emails, small numbers of people had been unsubscribing. Jeffery Hurley made a motion to set the new target at 3500 subscribers by the end of the year. Katie Banuelos seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion carried.

b. Discuss considerations of selling t-shirts and other merchandise:

Charles Melchin explained that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the shirts had been sent up to Washoe county and that $\frac{2}{3}$ remained in Clark for distribution. Jeffery Hurley explained that people could pay for the shirts using paypal. Charles Melchin suggested updating the paypal account email to

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donate@lpnevada.org. The rest of the committee approved the idea and Jeffery Hurley agreed to update the Paypal account accordingly. Bryan Elliott advised that the merchandise be treated as a “free gift with donation” rather than an actual store. The executive committee discussed setting up an online donation/store page and different platforms for doing so. Katie Banuelos suggested tasking Travis McGlothlin, Brad Carpenter, and Brandon Mills with setting up the online platform, as they had experience in the area. The committee agreed to assign them the task and to use paypal in the interim for receiving donations for the shirts. Bryan Elliott provided a brief overview on the different processing methods and cash repositories the party used to receive donations. The committee also agreed to set the price of the shirts at \$25 each.

8. Future Meeting Schedule and Calendar Updates:

The executive committee agreed to schedule the next executive committee meeting for Saturday, October 9, 2021 at 10:00AM. Katie Banuelos will send out a reminder email with the meeting agenda in advance of the meeting.

9. Adjournment:

Jeffery Hurley made a motion to adjourn. Adam Haman seconded the motion, and with no objections the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM.

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8/2/21 Treasurer's Report to LPNV Executive Committee

Cash Position and Flows:

Total Cash on hand is currently \$6,806.73. This is down materially since the last report as we decided to pay NationBuilder annually rather than monthly to get a discount. We also agreed to pay Brandon Mills to produce promotional material for the party at a cost of \$550. We expect to be able to sell said material at a modest gain over time.

July donations (rounded) were \$365 as several monthly donors cancelled.

July expenses jumped, driven by \$80 in bank and Paypal fees. The bank fee was due to our using a debit card to pay for NB – I was unaware this would happen, but we are a “business” for banking purposes so when we use our debit card they charge us. We should not use the debit for any big expense in the future. I retain a checkbook with a large number of checks. Another option for future expenses like this is for an officer to pay personally (thus no direct fees) then be reimbursed from the LPNV checking account via ACH.

Looking forward, at current run rates we would see monthly donations of ~\$356, fees of ~\$25, and expenses of \$15 (podcast hosting), leaving monthly net cash flow of just over \$300.

Open Issues:

FEC filing process (due monthly under penalty of potential fines to the party and/or personal liability for the treasurer): I have to use an FEC software app for this and there is a glitch somewhere. I plan on working with their help desk after this is done. Absent a fix I will have to enter all transactions by hand, which appears to be a 6-8 hour process.

A major long-term risk is shaping up in my view. As I am sure you each know, Paypal recently announcing a partnership with the ADL to “fight domestic terrorism”. Should we eventually become successful, we would be at risk of losing access to the mainstream financial sector with no warning. Alternatives to Paypal (Stripe, Square, etc.) are an equal potential threat in my view. Recent news accounts indicate that several well-funded alternative credit card processing apps for dissidents may soon be announced. I will try to keep on top of this. Also BTC is an obvious work around but I suspect most of our older donors (including me) have no crypto experience (other than being shocked at its performance!). At some point we might consider forming a committee of crypto-savvy members to report on how we might be able to accept donations in BTC.

Fees remain close to 10% of our credit card receipts: Right after becoming Treasurer I talked to several of Paypal's competitors and it quickly became clear that the only way we can materially lower the fee percentage is to bring in more donations each month so the fixed monthly fee they all charge gets spread over a larger donor base. I then moved on to the FEC filing process, which has been a huge time suck. After I fix that I might be able to find a processor with a lower monthly fee – this savings will be offset by a higher percent fee on each transaction, but we might be able to lower our costs a bit. Bottom line: we are currently so small that there is nothing we can do to materially change our fee costs for monthly donations.

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Libertarian Party of Washoe County Affiliate Report 8/28/2021

We have a tentative ExCom meeting planned for September. At that meeting I will be sharing/going through the affiliate building information shared with us by Angela McArdle. I read through it a few times and feel it would be best to get the entire county affiliate excom involved.

I am trying to set up the End the Wars Event here in Reno. I still do not have a solid location or time for it and am looking for more help in finalizing that.

We are still working on stickers for books given away to refer the reader to the LP of WC and/or the LPN. I have over 200 copies of Economics in One Lesson as well as approximately 50 copies of Are We Good Enough for Liberty? to give away at events. I am also planning on adding them to neighborhood free libraries in the Reno/Sparks area.

We still meet every other week to discuss economics and politics. Our group has increased in size to more than 30 people (although not everyone attends every meeting). We will be having a dinner and discussion about Cryptocurrencies on 9/2. We even have a member of the Republican party who joined us recently who feels ostracized and/or disaffected by the local Republican party. The party has recently seen an increase in involvement and as leadership we are working to see that translate into potential delegates and/or at least dedicated party membership.

We are creating coalitions where we can as the present mask mandates have created an opportunity for us to join like-minded folks in the area like the disaffected Republican mentioned earlier. As well, Secretary Katie Banuelos has reached out to the Washoe Patriots (a non-affiliated-yet-still-heavily-Republican group) to oppose the governor's mask mandates in public. Spencer Oller has started a group on social media (No More Masks Nevada) who opposes the governor's mandates and encourages civil and responsible disobedience to tyranny.

Most of these efforts have not been mine, but members of the county affiliate who saw a chance to take action toward the ends we espouse as a party. We hope to encourage and inspire everyone to look for these opportunities and take action when the time is right for them.

D Chris Orton
Libertarian Party of Washoe County Chair
Libertarian Party of Nevada Northern Regional Representative