

Present: Scott Pettigrew, Tim Smyth, Bob Coogan, Linda Comstock, Chris Gill, Elizabeth Gentner (6 of 7 – quorum is 5 of 7)

Also present: Dustin Nanna, David Macko, Janis Smyth, Tricia Sprankle, Joseph Hendrix, Jonathan Miller, Homer Taft, Harold Thomas and Bob Frey.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Pettigrew called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. The Secretary confirmed that a quorum was present.
- II. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Ms. Gentner noted that she is married to Mr. Frey, Central Committee Chair.
- III. **AGENDA:** Mr. Pettigrew asked for any changes/additions to the meeting Agenda. The following changes were requested:
 - A. Mr. Pettigrew requested that Lucas County inactivity be discussed as item VIII.B.3.
 - B. Mr. Smyth requested that a discussion of a Northeast Ohio validation center be included under item VIII.G – New Business.Mr. Gill moved that the revised agenda be accepted; Mr. Smyth seconded. The agenda, with changes, was approved with no objections.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the March 25, 2017 Executive Committee meeting had been sent out prior to this meeting. The minutes as presented were approved with no objections.
- V. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED BETWEEN MEETINGS:** The following items of business had been conducted since the prior meeting:
 - A. Approval of the Muskingum County fundraiser.
 - B. Re-authorization of the Kohlhaas contract.
 - C. Appointment of Dustin Hanna to the National Platform Committee.
- VI. **OFFICER REPORTS, ACTIVITY UPDATES & COMMENTS**
 - A. **Chair Report** – Mr. Pettigrew reported on his activities:
 - a. Mr. Pettigrew reported a conversation with a State legislator who is working on a bill to change the way that voting is done in Ohio (e.g., open primaries). They also spoke about ballot access and possible changes to Ohio law.
 - b. He reported that he gave the State of the Party address at the conference.
 - c. He recognized Ms. Gentner for her State Conference effort.
 - d. He reported that Mr. Kohlhaas had brought in over \$2,000 in pledges and donations.
 - B. **Vice Chair Report:**
 - a. Ms. Gentner reported that she has been very involved in work on the State Conference. She anticipates that the Conference will be close to break-even once and all reservations are collected and all bills are paid.
 - b. She reported that she sees progress in turning the face of the LPO outward.

- c. Mr. Pettigrew commented that the Secretary of State has ruled that entering the Congressional District on the petition form is not a requirement for validation.
- C. **Secretary Report** – Mr. Coogan had nothing to report.
- D. **Treasurer Report:**
1. Ms. Comstock emailed the Treasurer's report, which covers two months.
 - a. March income was \$3,108.71 and April income was \$740.05.
 - b. The total balance at 5/5/17 was \$6,406.17.
 2. Ms. Comstock reported that there was an outstanding check related to Democracy Engine for \$1,640. Ms. Gentner reported that there are bills related to the Conference that are outstanding.
 3. Mr. Smyth asked if Ms. Comstock is receiving proper expense documentation, and she reported that she is.
 4. Ms. Comstock mentioned the audit recommendation that an expense report form be made available for reimbursement requests. There was discussion around getting an electronic form/process in place, including prior approval, business reason and person making the request. Ms. Comstock will require a completed form prior to reimbursement.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Former Chair status report:
- a. Mr. Pettigrew reported that he had spoken with Mr. Bridges two weeks ago and requested that he make a payment of at least some amount on the debt repayment contract. Mr. Bridges said that he would like to, but he is still currently in financial difficulty.
 - b. Ms. Gentner asked how best to address the general LPO membership regarding misconceptions about the status of Mr. Bridges. Several methods of communicating the accurate situation were discussed, including making the ExComm meeting minutes more accessible.
 - c. Ms. Gentner made a motion that the LPO post the ExComm minutes on the website and that Mr. Nanna do a Facebook post that announces the Committee's intention to post the ExComm minutes for the purpose of transparency.
 - i. Mr. Smyth seconded the motion
 - ii. Mr. Smyth moved to amend the motion to add the word "approved" before ExComm minutes. Mr. Gill seconded, and the amendment was adopted with no objections.
 - iii. The motion was passed unanimously with no further discussion.
- B. Status of former Directors' keys:
- a. All outstanding keys have been returned.
- C. Other – no other Old Business with discussed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Mr. Nanna (Mr. Pettigrew sponsoring): Mr. Nanna discussed the needed focus on party unity, outward facing activities and building the party. He noted that he was very enthused by the Conference.

- B. CDC/Affiliate Business:
 - a. Putnam County CDC resignation was noted.
 - b. Wood County has been inactive, so should it be removed from the Website?
 - i. Mr. Taft reported that he has been in contact with Brandon Allen in Wood County.
 - ii. Mr. Pettigrew has spoken with Nathan Eberly, who has stepped back from LPO activity. Mr. Pettigrew will contact Nathan and Eric Eberly.
 - iii. This topic was tabled until the next meeting, at which time Mr. Pettigrew will report back to the Committee.
- C. Proposal for new Logo and branding:
 - a. Mr. Smyth displayed two submissions for an alternate logo and invited comments.
 - b. Ms. Gentner made a motion to accept the version of the logo with the State outline and Libertarian torch, to request a mono-chromatic version of the logo, and to retain materials with the old logo and use them until they are gone. Mr. Smyth seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- D. Use of conference room and other facilities by affiliates and CDGs:
 - a. Mr. Pettigrew had sent out (4/27/2017) a draft directive regarding the availability of the facilities and the procedures to follow to use them.
 - b. Mr. Pettigrew made a motion to accept the directive; Mr. Smyth seconded. The motion passed with no objection.
- E. LPO Picnic Planning / Committee appointment (September 16 proposed date):
 - a. Ms. Gentner, as the Event Coordinator, asked for a point-person to help facilitate the picnic arrangements.
 - b. Mr. Pettigrew offered to be point-person.
 - c. Ms. Comstock and Ms. Smyth volunteered to help, and Ms. Gentner suggested that the Committee include Mr. Knedler (should he accept).
 - d. There were no objections to the Committee members, and Ms. Gentner approved the Committee.
- F. Support for Lorain CDG Tax Defiance Efforts – Tim Smyth brought the issue to the attention of ExComm. He asked Mr. Taft to provide further details.
 - a. Loraine County Commissioners put a tax issue on the ballot, which was voted down by the voters.
 - b. The County Commissioners enacted the tax despite the defeat at the polls.
 - c. Petitions and lawsuits have been initiated to challenge the tax.
 - d. There is a “Repeal/Replace/Restore” effort in Loraine County and Mr. Taft is asking the LPO for \$500 in funds to support the effort.
 - e. Ms. Gentner asked that she be allowed to talk with Loraine County individuals regarding how to do fundraising (vs. a direct contribution from the LPO), and then consider a donation if her efforts come up short.
 - f. Mr. Taft emphasized the immediacy of the cash need, and asked if the funds could be loaned or advanced.
 - g. Mr. Pettigrew asked Ms. Comstock about the status of the remaining budgets for the Political Division (\$744) and the Field Development Division (\$3,400).
 - h. Ms. Gentner again offered to work with individuals in Loraine.

- i. Mr. Smyth suggested that Loraine could include a goal of gathering 1,000 petition signatures as part of their effort.
 - j. Ms. Gentner made a motion to fund Loraine County with \$500, that they work with Ms. Gentner on fundraising, and that they commit to a goal of collecting 1,000 signatures. Ms. Comstock seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
 - k. It was agreed that a donations landing page be added to lpo.org as a landing page that Lorain County could use for fundraising.
- G. Northeast Ohio validation location: Mr. Smyth has arranged for the use of his company's office on weekends as a location in Northeast Ohio to do petition validating. The location is secure, Mr. or Ms. Smyth will be present during validation work times, and the petitions will be securely locked up. There were no objections to the plan; the Smyths will proceed. The Smyths are willing to do the copying, and the office space will be an in-kind donation.
- a. Mr. Nanna commented that we need a location for petitioners to mail petitions in Ohio (vs. sending them to National).
 - b. Mr. Thomas suggested setting up a secure PO Box for LPO use, which would cost approximately \$132 per year.
 - c. Mr. Taft suggested looking into "officing" companies such as Regus.
- H. Other New Business:
- a. Ms. Comstock mentioned the consideration of Quick Books accounting software for use by the Treasurer. Ms. Smyth, who is the Central Committee Treasurer, suggested tabling the Quick Books topic until she has gone over the LPO books in order to evaluate the Treasury process and accounting software needs.
 - b. Mr. Pettigrew mentioned the request for Mr. Taft to serve as a "super-regional" coordinator for Northern Ohio. He would help to identify regional coordinators for Field Development. The Committee has no objections. Mr. Taft will report to the Chair until a Field Development Director is appointed. In particular, Mr. Taft would cover the Northwest, North and North Coast regions.
 - c. Mr. Miller suggested the establishment of an activist group to target City Councils and local governments and to coordinate activities with CDGs. Ms. Sprankle said that she would support the CDGs regarding political activism. Mr. Miller commented that this move would show support of individuals. Mr. Frey commented that he sees activism coming under County organizations.

IX. DIVISION REPORTS

- A. Political Division – Ms. Sprankle reported:
- a. We have validated about 5,300 signatures. She estimates, based on total petitions received and validation rates, that we have approximately 13,756 valid signatures.
 - b. Paid petitioners are coming up short of expected numbers of signatures gathered.
 - c. The "sequestered" petitions issue has died down. None of the sequestered petitions have been validated.

- d. Mr. Thomas said that the Division is continuing the search for a qualified gubernatorial candidate and that we are targeting term limited State Representatives and Senators.
- e. Mr. Frey mentioned that there are petition pledges and the possibility of "paper candidates" for a slated of State level offices.
- B. IT Division – Mr. Pettigrew reported that Mr. Ganon will re-assume the position of Director.
 - a. Ms. Gentner requested that she be notified prior to putting any fundraising items on-line.
 - b. Mr. Pettigrew reminded the group that we are changing email systems. Mr. Pettigrew and Mr. Frey can help migrating/archiving emails from Libertas to National's system (which National is providing for free).
- C. Communications Division – Mr. Nanna reported:
 - a. He has been focused on items for the Conference.
 - b. He is will be sending out monthly updates.
 - c. Kelli Swearinger-Rodin will be helping out with Facebook communications.
- D. Field Development – No further comments.
- E. Finance Division – Ms. Gentner reported.
 - a. Ms. Gentner said that she wants outward facing and community focused fundraising.
 - b. She suggests working with National to solicit national-level donors with matching funds
 - c. Ms. Gentner also wants to re-engage the Gary Johnson organization with targeted asks of Ohio contacts from their campaign for donations or signatures.
 - d. She has lined up a person ready to make calls to middle-to-low level donors.
- F. Events – Ms. Gentner reported:
 - a. She will provide a final report regarding the LPO Conference.
 - b. On August 5, Larry Sharpe will be in Hamilton County. She will try to arrange a Columbus date for Mr. Sharpe.
 - c. The Picnic was discussed earlier in the meeting.
 - d. Pride events are scheduled throughout the state.
 - i. June 17/18 – Columbus
 - ii. June 24 – Cincinnati, Cleveland
 - iii. Dayton could potentially hold a Pride event.
 - e. Ms. Gentner handed out an Ohio Festivals list from the Ohio Festivals and Events Association, for use in planning for out-reach, petitioning and fundraising.

X. NEXT MEETINGS:

- A. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Saturday, June 10 at 10:00 AM at Tiller.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.