

# Libertarian Party of North Carolina

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**08 December 2022**

**In Attendance:**

Joe Garcia, Chair  
Jonathan Hopper, Vice-Chair  
Ryan Brown, Secretary  
Kimberly Acer, At large  
Steven DiFiore, At large  
Sarah Brady, At large  
Travis Groo, At large  
Mike Ross, Treasurer  
Brian Irving, Executive Director

**Absent:**

**LPNC Guest members:**

Angela Humphries  
Chris Dooley  
Dee Watson  
Mac Browder  
Susan Hogarth

**LPNC Guest members:**

Daniel McGee, Proud Libertarian

***Call to Order:***

Joe Garcia called the meeting to order at 8:36 PM, EST.

***Chair Report:***

December 10th members of the LPNC are working with Spike Cohen's You Are The Power to help raise money for Pastor Moses. People have donated construction trailers and the fundraiser is to help move those. The LPNC is not making any donations and members are individually donating their time and money.

**Electronic Voting:**

- Joe Garcia moves, "**that Erik Raudsep be removed as LPNC Outreach Director due to his inactivity in the position.**" Seconded by Ryan Brown.

**Yes:** Sarah Brady, Steven DiFiore, Joe Garcia, Ryan Brown

**No:** Travis Groo, Kimberly Acer, Jonathan Hopper

**Abstain:**

**Vote Passed: 4-3-0**

***Previous Minutes:***

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted by unanimous vote.

***Treasurer Report:***

Primary Checking Balance - \$27,596.15. PayPal Balance - \$1,163.85. Federal Checking Balance - \$190.54. Spending Since Last Meeting: Chamber Flags - \$99.03 to Mac Browder. Brian Irving asks Mike Ross what the revenue stream of the LPNC was and Mike said it was around \$1,000/month. Mike plans to have a different report structure starting in the new year.

***Officer and Director Reports:***

***Executive Director Report:***

The Executive Director's full report will be attached at the end.

Brian Irving gives the floor to Dee Watson. Dee Watson gives a brief background on data analytics work that had been done recently by a volunteer and requests that the Executive Committee authorize the position of Data Analyst and approve three openings for that position.

Brian Irving moves to "Create these three positions as described in the job description." Seconded by Ryan Brown. Dee Watson answers questions from some members of the Executive Committee. Some history was shared about previous efforts to do this sort of data analysis. After discussion, a vote was held.

**Yes:** Jonathan Hopper, Ryan Brown, Travis Groo, Steven DiFiore, Sarah Brady, Kimberly Acer, Joe Garcia

**No:**

**Abstain:**

The motion passes 7-0-0.

Brian gives the floor to Mac Browder to discuss the 2A poster and pamphlet to be used for the Raleigh Gun Show and future gun shows. Mac presents the literature and gets small feedback suggestions from the Executive Committee. Mac will make sure the literature is updated with the changes before being printed.

Brian Irving moves "Approve the post and trifold as presented by Mac Browder, with the minor edits suggested." Seconded by Mike Ross.

**Yes:** Jonathan Hopper, Ryan Brown, Travis Groo, Steven DiFiore, Sarah Brady, Kimberly Acer, Joe Garcia

**No:**

**Abstain:**

The motion passes 7-0-0.

**LPNC Merch Store:**

Without objection, Ryan moves to go directly to hear from Mike Ross and Daniel McGee from Proud Libertarian on the LPNC merch store.

Mikes Ross moves, "Approve Daniel McGee, from Proud Libertarian, as the vendor for the new LPNC Store as proposed and presented to the Executive Committee." Seconded by Jonathan Hopper.

**Yes:** Jonathan Hopper, Ryan Brown, Travis Groo, Steven DiFiore, Sarah Brady, Kimberly Acer, Joe Garcia

**No:**

**Abstain:**

The motion passes 7-0-0.

**Committee Reports:**

**Secretary's report:** Ryan did not have a report but was requested to give a report. It was then requested that an attendance report be given. Ryan reports the following number of absences over the term and that many of them had been addressed previously.

Joe Garcia, 3

Jonathan Hopper, 6

Ryan Brown, 0

Mike Ross, 2

Travis Groo, 0

Steven DiFiore, 12

Sarah Brady Wagner, 7

Kimberly Acer, 2

Brian Irving, 0

**Convention Planning Committee Report:**

Ryan Brown presents the Convention Committee report with the help of Dee Watson. The LPNC has a contract from the Village Inn in Clemmons North Carolina. The committee is working on getting the web page up and figuring out details for pricing. The committee has also agreed to host a hybrid in person and online convention. The committee would like to continue with last year's pricing for the vendor tables.

Ryan Brown moves, "to allocate up to \$1,100 to make a deposit and secure the Village Inn in Clemmons, NC for the 2023 LPNC Convention on March 10-12, 2023." Second by Travis Groo. After discussion the motion passes 7-0-0..

**Yes:** Jonathan Hopper, Ryan Brown, Travis Groo, Steven DiFiore, Sarah Brady, Kimberly Acer, Joe Garcia

**No:**

**Abstain:**

The motion passes 7-0-0.

Ryan Brown moves, "to allocate up to \$1,500 total to pay for travel, hotel, along with a \$500 speaker fee, in order to secure Larry Sharpe as a speaker for the 2023 LPNC Convention." Second Steven DiFiore. After discussion, and clarification that to everyone's knowledge, Larry Sharpe is not running for any internal or external office, the motion passes.

**Yes:** Jonathan Hopper, Ryan Brown, Travis Groo, Steven DiFiore, Sarah Brady, Kimberly Acer, Joe Garcia

**No:**

**Abstain:**

The motion passes 7-0-0.

Ryan Brown moves, "to allow for a hybrid online/in person Convention for the 2023 LPNC Convention in accordance with Article XII. Convention & Platform, Section 1. Definitions, of the LPNC Bylaws." Second by Steven DiFiore. After discussion, the motion passed.

**Yes:** Ryan Brown, Travis Groo, Kimberly Acer

**No:**

**Abstain:** Jonathan Hopper, Steven DiFiore, Joe Garcia

The motion passes 3-0-3.

### **Convention Planning Committee Report:**

Brian Irving reports that the Bylaws Committee is posting draft proposals in Slack and Facebook. The Committee will accelerate their work in order to get the report done before February 8th.

### **Old Business:**

- Twitter blue subscription. - Ryan. We did not execute on this item since Twitter changed their subscription model and benefits. We will execute as soon as they add the features back in that we are looking for.

**New Business:**

Craven County affiliate. - Kimberly Acer

Craven County has been having issues with the county during Kimberly's time as Affiliate Lead. She had reached out to officers of the affiliate multiple times. During her communications, Tim Harris, Chair of Craven County, officially resigned. In November, Kimberly reached out to every officer of the committee. Only one member of the Executive Committee replied with any intent to continue as an officer. This member was Max Oglesby.

Kimberly Acer moves, "that the LPNC Executive Committee remove Melissa Willis, Treasurer, and Jessica Tuck, Secretary, as officers of the Craven County affiliate."  
Seconded by Ryan Brown.

**Yes:** Jonathan Hopper, Ryan Brown, Travis Groo, Steven DiFiore, Kimberly Acer, Joe Garcia

**No:**

**Abstain:**

The motion passes 6-0-0.

**Executive Director Resignation:**

At the end of the meeting, Brian Irving reads his letter of resignation. It will be attached in full at the end. Members of the Executive Committee thank Brian Irving for his service as the Executive Director.

Joes Garcia moves to, "accept the resignation of Brian Irving as Executive Director of the LPNC." Ryan Brown seconds.

**Yes:** Jonathan Hopper, Ryan Brown, Steven DiFiore, Kimberly Acer, Joe Garcia

**No:**

**Abstain:** Travis Groo

The motion passes 5-0-1.

Adjournment at 11:07 PM EST.

Submitted, Ryan Brown, Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report – 12/8/2022**

### Balances:

Truist Primary - \$27,596.15

Truist Federal - \$190.54 (still)

PayPal - \$1,163.85

### Spending Since Last Meeting:

Chamber Flags - \$99.03 to Mac

### Outstanding Project Authorized Spending:

Tabling Materials - \$900.97 (\$1,000 authorized)

**Executive Director's Report**

To: LPNC Chair and Executive Committee

Subject: Executive Director Report

Dec. 8, 2022

There are only three items for this report:

1. Political & Public Policy. Dee Watson requests adding a P&P Data Analytics position to the division. The job description is here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ipBFriLUz-e-7eKdl7aLhFqRkmQhhZGcrBTaTfs2hQk/edit?usp=comment\\_email\\_document&ts=638fc03e&usp\\_dm=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ipBFriLUz-e-7eKdl7aLhFqRkmQhhZGcrBTaTfs2hQk/edit?usp=comment_email_document&ts=638fc03e&usp_dm=true)
2. Outreach. Mac Browder asks the Executive Committee to approve the materials for the Raleigh Gun Show Dec. 17-18, including the attached poster.
3. Administrative. I request some personal time at the end of the meeting to address the Exec Comm.

/s/

Brian Irving  
LPNC Executive Director

## **Convention Planning Committee report and motions to consider**

2023 website has been created. HOWEVER, it will be updated as we can and we will make it clear that the site is under construction until we have a final site set up.

Intend to contact Mike Ter Maat and Maj Toure to judge interest in coming to the 2023 LPNC Convention.

Thinking of continuing to charge \$100 table towards vendors and \$100 for a group table.

**Ryan Brown moves, "to allocate up to \$1,100 to make a deposit and secure the Village Inn in Clemmons, NC for the 2023 LPNC Convention on March 10-12, 2023."**

**Ryan Brown moves, "to allocate up to \$1,500 total to pay for travel, hotel, along with a \$500 speaker fee, in order to secure Larry Sharpe as a speaker for the 2023 LPNC Convention."**

**Ryan Brown moves, "to allow for a hybrid online/in person Convention for the 2023 LPNC Convention in accordance with Article XII. Convention & Platform, Section 1. Definitions, of the LPNC Bylaws."**



## **Executive Director Letter of Resignation.**

I have resigned as Executive Director.

When Chair Joe Garcia and Vice Chair Reid Deal (may he rest in peace) and I talked about the job as LPNC Executive Director, we had a specific concept in mind about how to implement the duties outlined in the party bylaws. The Executive Director would be more than simply the administrative assistant to the Chair and Executive Committee but would actively supervise and manage the volunteer staff, under the guidance of the Chair and Executive Committee.

At the time, I thought the LPNC was ready to move to this next level of organization and develop into a working, viable political party to take on the establishment. That's the primary reason I agreed to take the job.

Since I was appointed in June, however, I've spent an inordinate amount of time dealing with a small group of individuals in the party who question every decision, constantly find fault with everything I and the Executive Committee has been doing (even how we've been operating for the past three decades), and actively oppose the idea of having an executive director who supervisor staff (volunteers). I'm not thin-skinned; I can take criticism. And I am always open to suggestions about a better way to do things, and willing to change my mind.

But this small group of critics went beyond mere criticism, asking question, or pointing out errors; they claim they only want to "follow the rules," but that means follow the rules as they interpret them. These critics accused me of setting up a bureaucracy answerable only to me and designed to circumvent the Executive Committee's authority, questioned my honesty and integrity, called me a liar when I presented a different interpretation of the bylaws and rules, and even accused me of verbal assault at a public meeting. It does not seem seem to be anything I, the Exec Comm, and in particular Joe Garcia, are doing right, at least according to the critics. Some volunteers who are suppose to be members of the staff simply refuse to work on the team, insist on working independently and consider any suggestion I make or request or question I pose as somehow choke volunteerism to death or obstructing them.

It's been especially painful to be subject of personal attacks on my character from people I've known and respected for a very long time, and some not so long, who I have all considered friends – until now.

There does not seem to be an end to the constant drumbeat of criticism and attacks by this small group. I fear for the future of the LPNC if this hostile environment is allowed to fester. The LPNC has had intense, passionate discussion before. But this latest epidemic is the worst I've seen it in my 30 years working with the party, and has created a hostile work environment that I do not want to work in — an environment I can not and will not work in.

I have reluctantly, and sadly, concluded that the LPNC is still not ready to move to this next level of organization, and so I tender my resignation as Executive Director. As always, I stand ready to assist a new Executive Director, if one is appointed, or help the Chair and Executive Committee in any way I can in the transition.

I will end by apologizing to Joe Garcia for not being able to fulfill the promise I made to him when I took on this job. Joe, hang in there. And with a wish and hope that my prognosis for the future of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina does not come true.

Brian Irving