

Libertarian Party of North Carolina

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

6 November 2025

In Attendance:

Ryan Brown, Chair
Bob Drach, Vice Chair
Kate Shawhan, Secretary
Bryce Acer, At large
Mac Browder, At large
Angela Humphries, At large
Nick Taylor, At large

LPNC Guest members:

Rob Yates, Communications Director

Absent:

Barbara Howe, Treasurer

Call to Order:

Ryan Brown called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Chair Report:

Libertarians were running in eight elections this year, three in October and five in November. Tate Mayo was re-elected as Mayor of Tarboro. Nick Taylor was only 50 votes short of a win, while Jimmy Tart in Johnson county was only 9 votes away from a win. Overall this was expected; we were hoping for three wins but expected one.

The state fair was also a success this year, and we were fully staffed. In addition to a good volunteer base, we were helped by collaborating with the Forward Party. Forward Party volunteers were always accompanied by an LPNC volunteer and represented both parties well. They were able to collect a good number of signatures for the ballot drive this year and the collaboration seems to have been mutually beneficial. We ended up with 250 people signing up for the newsletter.

Minutes for the October meeting were adopted.

Electronic Voting:

- On October 25th 2025, Mac Browder moved to allocate \$2,300 for speakers for the 2026 LPNC state convention. 4 of the 7 members of the executive committee voted, of those 4, 3 voted in the affirmative. The motion passed 3-0-1. The vote count was an oddity. While Bryce Acer accepted the results, he voiced some reservation due to the ongoing discussion about the speakers and that if the speakers can be revisited he doesn't object. At a later point in the meeting, Angela Humphries voiced similar reservations. The consensus was that the vote for funding was in order, and that the motion was worded in a way that allows revising the list of people invited to speak.

Treasury Report:

- The current balance is \$41,728.19
- Upcoming expenses beyond our routine twitter and zoom expenses are a \$2,461.00 deposit for the Lake Lure state convention deposit and a handful of state fair expenses totaling a few hundred dollars.
- Susan Hogarth proposed paying for time spent at the fair booth, and fundraised \$500 for it. Bob Drach moved to ratify this, seconded by Bryce and Mac. The spending was ratified with no objections.
- Two sets of Hurricanes tickets for convention prizes were also approved and will be an additional expense.

Old Business:

- Ryan updated the committee on the recent elections. Richard Clapp, Darren Myers, and Steve Ignac had their elections in October. Tate Mayo, Jimmy Tart, Nick Taylor, Rob Yates, and Benjamin Rawlins all had their elections in November. Jimmy Tart was running for town of Princeton commissioners and managed 22.18% of the vote; if he had gotten 9 more votes he would have won. Nick Taylor had 23.26% of the vote. Tate Mayo ran unopposed for re-election.
- Dan Johnson fundraising - The executive committee agreed to move forward with Dan's full fundraising proposal once our ducks are in a row, at the level of commitment that the volunteer team deems fit up to the full 6 month proposal. While a motion was not passed, the executive committee agreed to move forward with Dan and work to secure volunteers to work with him towards that end. Kim Acer has expressed that she would be comfortable taking the lead on that project starting in January if we use the rest of the year to build a good team and tighten our strategic goals and priorities.

Bob brought up that the national party has a program for grassroots volunteering. Some of the elements of that program include compensation for volunteers who are putting in significant work, and in his experience that financial incentive can be very beneficial. He brainstormed incentives such as offering a small amount of money if a certain benchmark is achieved. Ryan mentioned that this is similar to fundraising to compensate Matthew Kordon for his work at the state fair. Bob suggested that the executive committee go through the volunteer training as well to help bolster the volunteer team.

New Business:

- Layout of volunteers - Ryan went over the volunteer list and updated a few positions. In terms of filling positions, Ryan's priority is on affiliate expansion, as well as finding an executive director and volunteers to take charge of fundraising. Bryce mentioned that some small compensation for volunteers who put in a lot of time would be welcome, such as gift cards or gas cards to express appreciation for the time and effort put into keeping the party running. Membership needs to be a priority as well; while it has been stable, it would be beneficial to focus on expanding.
- Strategic plan update - The last time this was updated was 2023. It was meant to be a four to five year plan. Bryce asked if the goals are still the same and asked how we are tracking those goals. Ryan plans to extract the key points and take metrics so he can put together a spreadsheet.
- iHeartRadio spend report update - Rob can give a full report in January. We spent \$5,000 for the iHeartRadio ad. 52 people reached out through the advertised website. Rob is uncertain about the increase in web traffic during that time period and uncertain how many came through the ads vs. other sources. At least one new active volunteer was recruited through the ad campaign. Rob recommends using this kind of radio ad money allocation for candidate ads because it was a good return on investment for Bob Drach and Mike Ross in 2024, but believes that at our current scale of operations it's not worth using radio ads to recruit members and volunteers.
- Convention planning update - Rob updated the executive committee on convention planning. The current proposal for speakers includes Cara Schulz, Christine Villaverde, and Martha Beuno. Cara Schulz has successfully run two campaigns for the national party and would do a training session, then host a candidate's round table. Rob would like to bring in Christine Villaverde to speak because he believes she would be a valuable asset to the party based on her campaign experience. Martha Beuno is the current suggested keynote speaker based on her name recognition. Susan Hogarth is looking into whether Justin Amash is available, Matthew Kordon is looking into Jo Jorgensen.

“Are You Smarter Than a Politician?” Is willing to come out, but that would be an additional funding request. Dan Smotz is willing to do the videography as long as he doesn't have a scheduling conflict. The value of a videographer is that it's 50th anniversary and it would be good to document it. Bob may know a videographer if Dan Smotz is unavailable or too expensive.

There are some concerns about Christine being a Republican rather than a Libertarian and alternatives were discussed. Ryan noted that this is the most expensive convention in 5 years. We have enough money to “fail” in this convention, but we should be cognizant that the convention planning committee is asking for a lot of money. Angela requested that we have a cohesive plan and time to go over requests instead of experimenting for the 50th anniversary; Rob pointed out that some of these requests are time sensitive. Rob has agreed to propose a budget for the rest of estimated convention expenses in the coming week.

- Google Drive migration - Timothy Conrad, head of IT, is able to sync google drive at any time, so moving to NextCloud is possible but we do need to set a date. The previous executive committee had approved a migration from GoogleDrive to NextCloud for several reasons including privacy concerns - it is open source and would allow the LPNC to fully control the document storage.

The first aspect is moving from Google Drive to NextCloud; this has been set up and is being regularly synced already.

The second aspect of this project is to put together a committee to make recommendations for organizing the structure of the documents on our drive.

The third aspect is governance of documents - there will be some documents that are sensitive and should have limited access, but there will be others that volunteers can and should have access to.

Bryce suggested that the committee can recommend whether to organize first and then move, or move first and then organize, and voiced a preference for the latter. Ryan explained that institutional inertia has been the main barrier to making the migration happen, and that we need to set a date. Bryce suggested that the committee should include the IT team, Bryce, Ryan, and anyone interested who has a stake in how it's organized. The committee should have a mandate to organize, and a mandate to set a date.

Mac Browder moved to create a Google to NextCloud Committee consisting of Ryan, Kate Shawhan, Bryce, and the IT team with the mandate of deciding when to move to NextCloud and how to organize documents once migrated. The motion passed with no objections.

- Mac moved to enter executive session, Bryce seconded. There were no objections. The executive committee exited executive session at 9:41.

The meeting was adjourned with no objection at 9:41.