

Libertarian Party of North Carolina

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

5 February 2026

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:

Kim Acer

Absent:

Barbara Howe, Treasurer

Call to Order:

Ryan Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Chair Report:

Since our December meeting, we have managed to pay the filing fees for a lot of federal candidates thanks to the funding donated to us for that purpose. We have had 28 or 29 candidates file for Senate, US House, and North Carolina House and Senate. The website is built up around the candidates but needs to go live.

The minutes for the December meeting were adopted.

Electronic Voting:

- On January 14th, Mac Browder moved, 'to approve \$300 for Starlink for

convention.' The motion passed 5-0 with one abstention.

Treasury Report:

- Barbara filed both the state and the FEC reports at the end of January; Ryan can request the balance.

Old Business:

- Update on candidate report: Shannon Bray is running for US Senate, we have 9 US congressional candidates, and 21 candidates for North Carolina Senate and House, for a total of 31 candidates. The high water mark was in 2002; 145 libertarians were fielded for office - there were no filing fees at the time. Bob discussed removing filing fees as a barrier. Bryce proposed figuring out the total of all filing fees this cycle. In 2024 we ran 44 candidates. We expect to pick up more candidates over the summer. Ryan wants us to come up with a strategy for spending money during the March meeting so we can best support our candidates earlier in their campaigns. Bryce asked if anyone has requested funds so far, but no one has yet. We have paid filing fees for about 6 people. We have a little bit of money left in the federal account, but not a lot. We would need to fundraise specifically for federal candidates if we need more money for federal candidates.

New Business:

- Fundraising update, Kim Acer: Dan and Kim have been meeting on Tuesdays at noon. They are looking for more clarity on what direction to move in before expanding the team. Travis Groo has been helping as well and meets with the team every other Monday. David Blackwelder has expressed interest, and a handful of others as well.

The strategic plan was discussed, starting with affiliates - we currently have around 15 affiliates. Kim requested more clarity on the point person for the website and keeping it updated so that the mechanics are working to facilitate an accurate and clear understanding of our membership and how to get members more involved. As new members come in, it's important to understand which affiliates and staff members are dedicated to amplifying this information. Ryan relayed that Susan Hogarth is the volunteer coordinator and receives information on incoming members and that Brad Hessel will sometimes handle those emails as well when they come in through the State Fair. Ryan suggested that we can set up a filter in nationbuilder to see the most recent signups. Ryan plans to ask Susan for an update. We can make an email forwarder that sends the information to multiple people at once, and that can be used to make a team of people to work with volunteers.

Kim requested that the affiliate pages be updated and that the local affiliate board be

accurately listed with an updated staff page so that she has people to reliably work with in each affiliated region. Eric Parker is still the candidate coordinator, but he has temporarily stepped back. Social media, IT, and Communications seem to be in good shape. We are in need of better organization and communication in terms of outreach, political director, and affiliate coordination.

Bryce suggested we encourage and publicize the method for getting events added to the LPNC calendar and make an “events” email forwarder.

Kim presented five potential strategies that she and Dan have created for fundraising directions. The first is a pathway to 50 candidates for 50 years. The second strategy is to put more energy into running candidates where active affiliates exist. Third is expanding affiliates around candidates. Fourth is reaching out more on social media. The fifth potential area is to make the website a project. She plans to send an email to the executive committee outlining these strategies in detail.

- Election observers for the March primary, Bob Drach: The North Carolina State Board of Elections notified political party contacts that we have the ability to appoint political election observers, however the Libertarian and Green parties are limited to locations where they have a candidate and we do not have anyone in state primaries this cycle. We are able to appoint any registered voter and we have appointed Republicans and non-partisans to be observers in the past. But it would be good to have observers and learn the process. Bob suggested that Jon Connors would be a good candidate to serve as an observer, and that Rob could encourage others.
- Board of Education, Bob Drach: On March 10th, someone on the Board of Education in New Hanover county is planning to announce he is switching from the Republican to the Libertarian party. We plan to support him with people in the audience and potentially a press release to go with it.
- Election machine audit, Bryce Acer: The LPNC officially asked for an audit on election machines when Joe Garcia was chair in 2019 but we never received an update. The NCGOP in November of 2024 updated the guidelines on who is able to request an audit. The auditor sent out an email today, announcing the modernization of election data systems. We should request the data once more this spring, and go through the data over the summer. Bryce feels we should lean into how they failed to fulfill their obligation from 2019. Bryce offered to take point on that, and offered to reach out to some people who may be able to help.

The meeting was adjourned with no objection at 8:26 PM.