
LPWC Minutes August 9th, 2023

Wednesday, 8.9.2023

Officers

Mark Marasch, *Chair*
Jen Mueller, *Treasurer*
Phil Denton, *Secretary*

Members Present

Melissa Helton

Guests Present

None

Meeting Called to Order at 7:10 pm

Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes

Jen makes motion to accept July 12th minutes and August 9th agenda, Phil seconds. Motion carries.

Officer Announcements

Chair

- Issue One: Seems that every single conservative-leaning organization out there was pushing for this to pass. All seemed to be OK with the fact that this would destroy any concept of citizen initiatives in the future. I don't know why they suddenly decided that they trust the legislature, except that they want to stop the "reproductive rights" bill in November, which has interesting ramifications for trans issues, especially where parental control is considered. (Will cover what happened.)
 - HB51 the Second Amendment Protection Act is still in house committee. We might think that gun rights are an easy win in this state, but that's far from the truth! The House Bill 51
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Committee Activity report from the second hearing in committee on the 7th of March 22 proponents showed up to advocate for SAPA, but between the 4th and 5th hearings (14th of March and the 23rd of May), more than 130 opponents (and only one proponent) showed up or wrote to shoot down a constitutional approach to gun rights via the 10th Amendment. Still think that pursuing gun rights is “virtue signaling?” I sure don’t! This is a big uphill battle and we need to get involved. NO committee activity since May, so this may be dead.

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb51/committee> Link to the legislation and progress is here: <https://ohiohouse.gov/legislation/135/hb51>. The committee’s page:

<https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/government-oversight> I think we are better off pushing things at the local level, but I’m looking for any indication of committee actions and have signed up to track this.

- MOST IMPORTANT: We need to work on local issues and get locals elected to government positions. Joshua Toms is the only member we have running for election right now. He’s good on the issues, has some good ideas for what should be done to change Lebanon’s City Council, and please get involved to support his efforts ASAP. Volunteer and show up! Petition efforts have already gotten him onto the ballot. Coming events are on our website calendar and in this blog post: <https://warren.lpo.org/toms-campaign-events/>
- LPO is going full-bore on ballot access, again. This is a recipe for wearing out volunteers by pursuing futility and hurting our grassroots movements. We need to build the grassroots and gain some level of critical mass in the state *before* we pursue this. When we have that, gaining ballot access will be a lot easier.

Treasurer

- Our current balance is \$668.02.
- Reminder - we are now taking donations online via Anedot and we currently have three donors supporting our affiliate on a monthly basis. If you believe in what we’re doing, please consider making a recurring donation! Every little bit helps.

Secretary

- I did update all the minutes online and they’re current through June, which is the last ones we approved until tonight.

Other Announcements

- Update on Toms for Lebanon campaign. Opportunities to support his campaign by being present, holding signs, and talking to people in the crowd:
 - August 18th Third Friday on Mulberry Street in Lebanon
 - September 15th Third Friday on Mulberry Street in Lebanon
 - October 13th and 14th Oktoberfest in Lebanon
 - October 20th Third Friday on Mulberry Street in Lebanon
- Come get your stickers! If you can donate a couple bucks to help cover the costs, all proceeds go to the affiliate thanks to a generous donation of the stickers a few months back!

Committee Report:

Marketing Committee

- Facebook focus is paying off. Reach in the last month was 1438 people, up 750% from the previous ~month period. 264 page visits, up 1400%. 11 new page likes, up 267%. This was from 38 posts. That sounds like a lot, but I can sit and schedule several days at a time so it's not too bad.
- Lots of visibility from Issue 1 - especially the Ohio Libertarians group. Right now our page has 73% male and 27% female followers. Any ideas why or ways we can engage Libertarian ladies?
- Derek Strelow from LPO helping with some comment moderation. Neighbors (Montgomery/Hamilton counties, Ken Moellman in Kentucky) also helping/interacting.
- Need to start answering simpler questions about LP and the platform - anyone good at writing? (Good job on the Issue 1 article, Mark!)
- Anyone interested in the marketing committee?
- We have stickers!
- Need to update website - please send pictures!
- Coffee next Friday the 18th!

Gun Rights Committee

- Mark's LP time has been committed to Joshua's campaign.
- Will pick this up again soon, with templates and an approach to make a difference in Warren County on this issue.

Election Committee

- Jon Mohler moved out of state. Please let me know if you'd like to get involved in helping to get libertarians elected to office!

Old Business

- Previous proposal for relocation of business meetings was tabled.

New Business

- None



Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm

- Phil moved to adjourn, Jen seconded. Motion carries.