

Wyoming NORML Board meeting

2/2/16

Reference # 5

Pam Revell-Wright

Greg Schuetz

Scott Sidman

Bennett Sondeno

Carrie Satterwhite

Kevin Mahmalji

Amber Sparks

Marie Peterson

Madeline Ordes

Greg opened the meeting. Introduced Kevin Mahmalji and the 420 Wyoming Women for the Legalization of Marijuana and Hemp.

**Treasurer report** Bennett reported that the paper work has been filed to remove Chris Christian and place Bennett Sondeno as the registered agent for Wyoming NORML. The EIN # is good and we can open a bank account at US Bank as voted on in the previous meeting. Greg needs to supply some information for this account.

Greg asked for a the Board to reaffirm that it had been voted on previously to put Bennett Sondeno and Greg Schuetz on the bank account as signers. All members did confirm that this is what had been approved for the bank account.

**Public Relations** Public Relations topics discussed were interviews being asked for. Website changes are being done daily. The talking points meeting with Kevin can now be planned. Lander radio interview with Scott is already planned. County coordinators list has been received and we can get with them to schedule.

Scott discussed the POTluck dinner he went to on Sunday. It was a small group and many representatives were present.

Scott has sent the check to Bennett so the checking account can be opened.

Freemont, Albany, Sweetwater, Sheridan, Campbell are the counties that we need to work on. Weston has no one working that area, Newcastle.

Amber Sparks said there is one couple circulating by the name of Toni and Rex Lynn.

Scott had Jonathan Juarez from Wheatland and he would like to get involved, possibly as the secretary. Jonathan has volunteered to take the secretary job and is sending a resume to Scott and he will forward to the rest of the Board.

We need to do press releases to let everyone know that we are continuing on through 2017. I was contacted today by a gentleman from Laramie said on the Wyoming public radio they had reported that "signature drive has failed". We need to counter these stories with what we are doing.

**Committee members.** Greg said he is no longer going to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> committee member. It has been approved to add Madeline Ordes as the 3<sup>rd</sup> committee member with Pam Revell-Wright and Lee Roith. This puts the committee back to the original 100 sponsors.

Madeline said she is glad to take on the responsibility of being the 3<sup>rd</sup> committee member.

**Fund Raising.** Greg said that Wyoming NORML was left with a zero balance in the bank when we took over. Scott was invited to the Biker ball so he gathered some things up and held a raffle. Scott was able to bring in \$160.00 and close out 5 petitions.

We need to get the Tee shirt and hats selling again. We also need to set our membership fee and what things we are going to sell for money to our organizations.

Damage control, backlash, working together as a team is very important. Reporters are not under our control and we need to be careful about what they say.

### **Lobbying and Media information**

National NORML is on our side as our partner to help us with information.

Kevin Mahmalji spoke to the group regarding press releases. The press is not always a bad thing. Kevin had received an email of a person wanting information on Wyoming NORML wanting to know how to sign a petition. We certainly can at least guide the direction of talking points with the reporters and their headlines. The significance of the February deadline has drawn lots of attention and people want to know what is going on with the petition.

A press conference at the state capitol providing a little Q & A after it is decided what the messaging should be. Something simple for the basic message is what I recommend. Wyoming NORML needs to have some representatives

Lobbying at the State Capitol so we can support legislation that is going on is important. It is still on the table to do a town meeting as well as a training tool to help circulators with talking points. I would like to see a fund raiser tied to this meeting time with them. This would help energize the circulators in the collection process. My schedule fills up pretty fast but if I had a few weeks notice I can make it.

Greg thanked Kevin for being part of our meeting and for the help with suggestions on things we can do.

### **Other Business**

Greg talked about meeting Darek Farmer in Cheyenne. It was an educational trip on why people are getting involved with the Petition.

Scott is going to the petition signing at Riverton and then Chatters later on in the evening.

Amber talked about getting with the Tribal Council to get their approval on doing a petition drive there. Fremont County is not a friendly county at the moment due to reports that we are going for full legalization. The native lands are the only place in Wyoming that can grow Hemp legally.

Kevin said polling in Wyoming is strong for medical Cannabis at about 70% but, for recreational is low. That is important to know so that we can focus on the talking points in regards to medical marijuana. There are places where kids are taking their medical marijuana to school and the nurse treats it just like other medications prescribed by their physicians.

Amber talked about the Governors conference. Their level of education on this issue is not very good so I have offered to share information with the group to provide true information. We have to win them over with good education.

Greg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Scott, all approved motion carried.

