

**Lewis & Clark Conference Meeting**  
**February 14, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Jug**  
**1001 E 7th St**  
**Wayne, NE 68787**

The Lewis & Clark Conference Administrator's Meeting was held on February 14, 2024, at the 4th Jug in Wayne at 1:00 p.m. The meeting agenda was posted to the conference website and sent to all school administrators a week before the meeting.

President Mr. Brad Hoelsing, Wausa, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., and a roll call was taken. The following schools were present: Allen, Bloomfield, Creighton, Emerson-Hubbard, Hartington-Newcastle, Homer, LCC, Osmond, Plainview, Ponca, Randolph, Wakefield, Walthill, Winnebago, Wausa, Winside and Wynot (all schools present).

Bloomfield moved to approve the November 29, 2023, agenda, and Hartington-Newcastle seconded the motion. A voice vote approved the meeting agenda.

Wausa motioned to approve the November 29, 2023, minutes. Emerson-Hubbard seconded the motion. A voice vote supported the minutes.

Winside motioned to approve the financial report submitted by the Treasurer, Mr. Mike Pattee, showing a balance of \$51,592.77, Bloomfield seconded the motion. A voice vote approved the treasurer's report. For comparison, Mr. Pattee gave a breakdown of conference receipts from the different conference activities (see the financial statement for details).

With no action items on the agenda, Mr. Hoelsing moved to conference reports.

Mr. Hoelsing reported that the Instrumental Music Contest went very well. He praised all the instructors for doing a great job of working with the students. He encouraged others to get involved and to attend the contest in the future.

Mr. Hayes reported the Conference Basketball Tournament went well. He congratulated Wynot for their sweep of the tournament for winning the boys and girls championship titles.

Mr. Hoelsing thanked Allen and Winnebago for working together to make the conference wrestling meet happen after being moved due to a snowstorm on the original date. Mr. Hoelsing also recognized Tom Krause, Plainview for doing a tremendous job of running the meet.

Mr. Johnson, Hartington announced that everything is ready to go for the upcoming Conference Speech Contest scheduled for March 4th at Osmond.

Mr. Hoelsing led a discussion regarding potential conference schools departing the conference. Mr. Farup, Wakefield shared that after hearing of three of the conference schools leaving our conference last fall, they felt they needed to look out for what was best for their school. They have been a member since 1977. However, with the uncertainty of the Lewis and Clark Conference, they decided to join the East Husker Conference. Mr. Farup presented a departure letter from the conference effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year(attached).

Mr. Calahan, of Ponca shared they had also received an invitation to the East Husker Conference and is also in discussions with the Mid-States Conference. Ponca became concerned about the instability of the Lewis and Clark Conference after the three original schools decided to leave and Wakefield followed. In retrospect Ponca is looking at leaving the conference by the end of this school year.

Mr. Hoelsing, Wausa continued the conversation that there is some discussion about the three Knox County Schools: Creighton, Bloomfield, and Wausa looking at the Niobrara Valley Conference. However, he wanted to meet with the remaining 12 schools in the conference to see how they may be able to continue as a conference. They have set a date of February 26th to meet in Wausa at 9:00 a.m. to go over the details.

Mr. Patte spoke about only going through the process of realignment once with Ponca and Wakefield leaving and then going through the process again next year after LCC, H-N, and Plainview leave the conference.

Mr. Christiansen, LCC spoke on behalf of LCC as one of the original three schools leaving the conference after the 2024-2025 school year that he agreed with Mr. Pattee. They would need to step back to let the remaining schools move forward with what they had to do to plan for the future of the Lewis and Clark Conference. LCC, if asked, would leave the Lewis and Clark conference at the end of the 2023-24 school year and be independent. Mr. Johnson, H-N also agreed he would want to avoid causing extra work for the remaining schools, and if asked, would leave the Lewis and Clark conference at the end of the 2023-24 school year and go independent. Mr. Schmidt, from Plainview, agreed with the other two schools and that Plainview would follow the same process.

Mr. Hoelsing reminded everyone the next meeting will be Wednesday, May 1st at the 4th Jug in Wayne at 1:00 p.m.

Winnebago motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 p.m. Winside seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie Hayes – Lewis and Clark Conference Secretary