
Historical Preservation Committee Report

Report Date: 12 March 2022 (for EC meeting of 19 March 2022)

Appointed by: LPC Chair

Chair: Joe Dehn

Other Members: (to be appointed)

Executive Overview

Information about HPC projects is recorded and made available to all LPC members and the general public via our article (page) on LPedia:

https://lpedia.org/wiki/Libertarian_Party_of_California_Historical_Preservation_Committee

We have not had any in-person or phone meetings since our last report.

This committee could use some more members.

Review of LPedia

For members of the Executive Committee who may not already be familiar with LPedia, here is a brief review of what it is and how it relates to this committee:

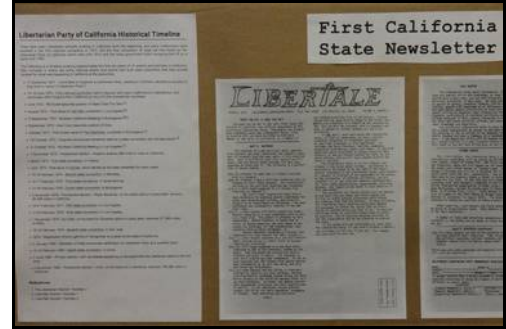
- LPedia is a web site for information about the Libertarian Party and its history.
- It runs using the same software as Wikipedia.
- It is managed by the national LP's Historical Preservation Committee.
- The LPC HPC and other activists across the country are contributing material.
- We're using it as the way to make our work available to all who are interested.



Seeking Local Newsletters

As I have previously reported, at this point we have been able to collect copies of California *state* newsletters for much of the past 50 years, and many of these have already been made available online (through LPedia). And as a result of various people donating their collections, we have scattered samples of newsletters that were published by region/county organizations in many parts of the state. However, the only area for which we have anywhere close to a full set of local newsletters is my own county, Santa Clara.

Newletters are interesting as historical artifacts in their own right, but they are also invaluable sources for reconstructing the history of the organizations which published them – there is much information in them that just is not available in any other form. In the case of Libertarian Party organizations, we can expect to find information about activists, committees, conventions, Libertarians running for public office, Libertarians serving in public office, issue-oriented projects, outreach projects, etc.

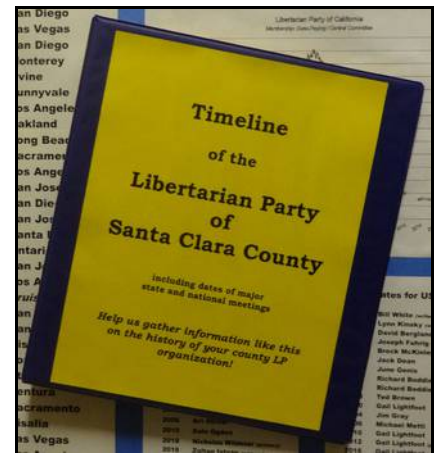


The most likely place that more complete sets of local newsletters could be found would be in the files of some long-time activist living in that particular area. So if anybody knows of somebody in their own county who might have kept all or most of the issues of whatever newsletter may have been published in the past (whether or not it is still being published), please put them in touch with me so I can make arrangements to get access to them – either originals or good-quality scans would serve for our purposes.

Santa Clara County Timeline

As noted above, Santa Clara County is one place for which we have a lot of information already gathered, both in the form of old newsletters and otherwise. So, as part of preparing for the celebration of the LP's 50th Birthday, I decided to try assembling a "timeline", which took the form of one page per year, listing things like who were the officers, where annual meetings were held, and who ran for public office. This timeline, in the form of 51 physical pieces of paper (1971-2021), was on display during the birthday party celebration that was held in Los Altos Hills on 11 December 2021.

Although most of the same information was already available on LPedia, it was scattered among various articles (officers, candidates, etc.), so it seemed like it might be useful to also make it available in a year-by-year arrangement, to give people a way to understand what was going on with the county organization at a particular time. You can see the result of that here:



http://lpedia.org/wiki/Libertarian_Party_of_Santa_Clara_County#Timeline

Something similar could be done for any county for which we are able to collect enough information. It is unlikely that we will be able to do this for every county (since some counties have only rarely been "active" at all), but there are several in addition to Santa Clara that have been active through all or most of the past 50 years (e.g., Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Sacramento, Orange, Alameda, Contra Costa), and it should be possible to do it for them. To promote this idea I repackaged the original printed version of the Santa Clara County timeline in the form of a binder, and had it on display at the convention last month.

Convention Display

The display at this year's state convention was similar to last year, with the following new material included:

- copies of the original LPC newsletter "LiberTale"
- a timeline of the first ten years based primarily on early newsletters
- the aforementioned Santa Clara County timeline binder



Convention-Related Updates

Many aspects of our 2022 state convention, including details about the elections for party offices, have been documented in the article specifically about this event, which can be found at:

https://lpedia.org/wiki/California_Convention_2022

Other LPedia articles were updated to reflect the new members of the Executive Committee and other committees, the fact that we no longer have a separate state platform, and so on.

As usual, I also took pictures and recorded videos of the business sessions, and of the post-convention Executive Committee meeting.