
Historical Preservation Committee Report

Report Date: 2 November 2019 (for EC meeting of 9 November 2019)

Appointed by: LPC Chair

Chair: Joe Dehn

Other Members: Gail Lightfoot, Jon Prosser, Kevin Shaw

Executive Overview

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

https://lpedia.org/Libertarian_Party_of_California_Historical_Preservation_Committee

In addition, committee members communicate via e-mail. We have not had any in-person or phone meetings since our last report.

This committee still has one vacancy.

Files From Old Office Computer

During the last Executive Committee meeting, there was mention of a computer from the Sacramento office with a failing disk with a lot of files having been worked on by Steve Haug (with all the files being copied to a new disk), but it was not clear where this computer was now located. After a bit of investigation, it was determined that it was in storage along with other old equipment, somewhere in the south.

However, it turned out that it was not necessary to get access to the actual computer to recover these files, because as a result of him doing that work on the disk a copy of the files was still on one of Steve's computers. I went over and made another copy of them, so I have them now as well. I have done a preliminary scan through them. There are literally tens of thousands of files, but many of them are duplicates or otherwise of no special interest. There do seem to be some things that could well be useful to filling in some of the gaps in our history from the relevant period (the years when we had an actual office in Sacramento), but it's going to be a while before I get a chance to fully explore this collection.

Bergland Memorial

I attended the memorial event for David Bergland held in Newport Beach on 14 September. This gave me a chance to get back in touch with a number of old-time activists that I don't often see, and specifically to discuss what they know about who might have various kinds of records. I also recorded the remarks made by the various attendees. Although Bergland is best known for his roles as a presidential candidate and national Chair, he and Sharon were also among the most prominent activists in southern California for many years, and he was our candidate for US Senate in 1980 (as well as a candidate for State Senate and for Attorney General before that), and

some of the people making these remarks were themselves prominent LPC activists, so these recollections are definitely of interest as part of the history of the LPC.

Tabloid State Newsletters Finally Being Scanned

I previously reported that I had sent a collection of tabloid-format state newsletters (ones for which we only had printed copies) to Colorado, to be included as part of a large scanning order being placed with a commercial scanning service by the national HPC. The process of putting together that order took much longer than I anticipated, but I have been informed that they are all now in the hands of the scanning service. So it shouldn't be too much longer before we get back PDFs of all those issues and will be able to post them to fill in many of the remaining gaps in our online library.

Another Scanning Device

Up until now I have been limited in doing scanning myself to what could be done with a flatbed scanner that handles only up to letter-size pages. I have now purchased a non-contact (basically a digital camera on a stand) scanner than can supposedly handle up to A3. That's big enough to handle most tabloids, but I also anticipate it being useful for other kinds of literature/documents that are larger than letter-size.

Transfer of Material from Jeff Smith

Jeff Smith, a long-time activist who lives in San Jose, had previously given me his collection of LPC newsletters – it was copies from this collection that I used to create many of the scanned versions that are currently posted. He also had other files, which at the time I thought would be safer remaining in his hands, basically because they were stored very neatly in a nice sturdy metal desk. However he doesn't know how long he will still be living in San Jose, so I decided to take possession of those documents also (which means they are now instead in random boxes in my living room). While much of this material is not California-specific (in particular, he had a lot of newsletters from other states), it does include a significant amount of material relating to the LPC, the LP of Santa Clara County, and various campaigns.
