
Historical Preservation Committee Report

Report Date: 24 September 2021 (for EC meeting of 25 September 2021)

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

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

This committee could use some more members.

Material From Dan Wiener

A few months ago Dan Wiener contacted the national HPC to let us know he was getting set to clean out his attic, and asked whether we might be interested in the LP-related material he had been storing there. Dan is a very long-time member, having been involved from 1972 as a newsletter editor, and later serving in many other roles including candidate, campaign treasurer, State Chair, State Secretary, and LNC representative.

I discussed with him his schedule for sorting through the material (he was cleaning out and sorting through everything in his attic, not just LP material), and once he had made some progress on that obtained from him an estimate of the amount and nature of the material relevant to us. The material we wanted ended up filling ten boxes – and so, on 27 August, Mary and I drove down to his home in Simi Valley to pick them up.

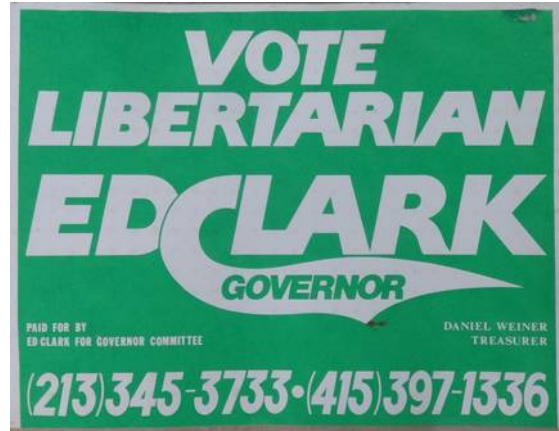
I have started to go through this material, first repacking it into clean boxes and then making a very rough catalog. There is lot of material from the 1970s, but also quite a bit from later decades. There are files relating to both state and national conventions, and many issues of



Dan Wiener, Sandi Webb, and Mary Gingell, with historical material that had been stored in his attic, 27 August 2021.

many different kinds of newsletters. There is a significant amount of material relating to Ed Clark's campaigns for Governor and for President (Dan was campaign treasurer for the former), and some relating to other early presidential campaigns. In addition to material that Dan himself saved over the years, it seems to include quite a bit of material that had been collected by Bruce Lagasse, another early activist – most likely turned over to Dan by Bruce when he was no longer able to continue storing it himself.

As I continue to go through this material, I expect it to be very helpful in filling in some of the gaps in our history!



Clark for Governor yard sign

Earliest State Newsletters

I had always assumed that "CaLiber" was our first state newsletter. One of the things I learned from the material provided by Dan Wiener is that this is not the case! The first newsletter, edited by Dan himself, was called "LiberTale"; the first issue of that was dated August 1972. There was another called simply "The Libertarian" published in the fall of that year. There were only a couple of issues of each, and then CaLiber (also edited at first by Dan) took over. But those few issues are very valuable in what they can tell us about the very earliest steps in the formation of the LPC.

I have scanned those issues and you can now read them for yourself on LPedia:

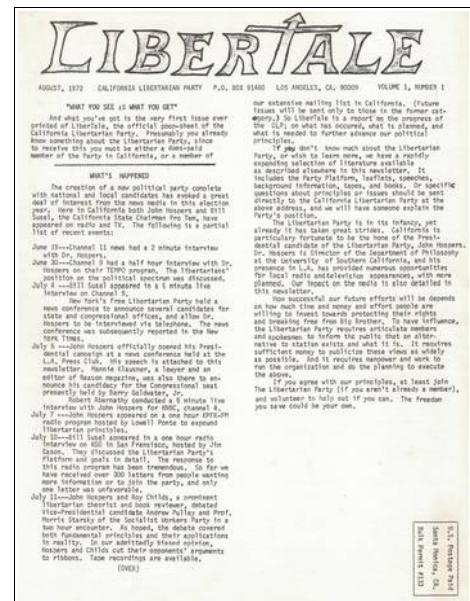
<https://lpedia.org/wiki/LiberTale>

[https://lpedia.org/wiki/The_Libertarian_\(newsletter\)](https://lpedia.org/wiki/The_Libertarian_(newsletter))

LP 50th Birthday Party

The LP's 50th year has been and continues to be celebrated in many different ways, but the LP's actual "50th birthday" is coming up on 11 December. The national HPC is encouraging Libertarians across the country to celebrate on that day – which conveniently happens to be a Saturday – by organizing birthday parties in their own areas. The HPC will be providing a Zoom link so that participants celebrating in the various locations can share what they are doing.

The goals of this project are:



- ◆ Increase awareness of the LP's history.
- ◆ Promote preservation of historical material and personal recollections.
- ◆ Encourage formation of state/local history committees/projects.
- ◆ Encourage participation in LPedia.
- ◆ Bring activists together for fun/celebration/camaraderie.

The activists in each area can choose their own format, making whatever arrangements and attendance policies they think will work best for them, but some possibilities include:

- ◆ informal party at someone's home
- ◆ presentation by a speaker or panel
- ◆ assembling in some public place
- ◆ luncheon at a restaurant
- ◆ special session during some other event
- ◆ wherever it is - sharing a birthday cake!

Possible activities could include one or more of:

- ◆ listening to and documenting stories from long-time members
- ◆ creating a timeline of local LP activities
- ◆ gathering local historical material (official records, photos, newsletters, campaign materials)
- ◆ speaker/panel on a historical subject
- ◆ honoring past activists (party officers, candidates, etc.)
- ◆ eating birthday cake!

I encourage activists across California to participate, and hope to see at least one such gathering organized in each of the Los Angeles, SF Bay, San Diego, Sacramento, and Central Valley areas (though for the first two of those, multiple locations might actually work better). This is something that could certainly be done by any of our county organizations, but if a particular county organization doesn't want to formally adopt it as a project any group of interested activists in that area could do it independently.

For updated information on this as it becomes available, see:

https://lpedia.org/wiki/50th_Birthday_Party
