
Historical Preservation Committee Report

Report Date: 5 December 2022 (for EC meeting of 10 December 2022)

Committee Appointed by: Executive Committee

Chair: Joe Dehn

Secretary: Kat McElroy

Other Members: Graham Brown, Patrick Nicholson, Reinita Susman

Executive Overview

The mission of the Historical Preservation Committee is to preserve, organize, and make available material relating to the history of the Libertarian Party in California.

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

https://lpedia.org/wiki/Libertarian_Party_of_California_Historical_Preservation_Committee

Meetings

The HPC has been meeting monthly, via Zoom, since April. We have held two meetings since our last report:

- ◆ 23 October 2022
- ◆ 20 November 2022

Minutes of these meetings are posted to our LPedia page (link above) when approved.

We are planning to hold our next meeting on 18 December.

Biographical Research Projects

The interview project is continuing, with one more interview having been conducted and another lined up. As noted in our previous report, we are maintaining both a list of general priority categories of people who would be useful to interview and a separate list of individual prospects – who may or may not also qualify under one of those categories. This information can be found in the "Interviews" section of the article about our committee.¹ If anybody has suggestions for specific people who would be good sources of historical information through an interview process, especially if they don't fall into one of the priority categories that we have already

¹ https://lpedia.org/wiki/Libertarian_Party_of_California_Historical_Preservation_Committee#Interviews

identified, please let us know – along with whatever information you may have about how to reach the person (e-mail and/or phone).

We ran into something of a snag when one person that we had made plans to interview declined to participate because he no longer wants to be associated with the LP, due to what he sees as a change in its direction. This was a disappointment because this is someone who had been involved with both the LP and the wider libertarian movement pretty much from the beginning, so we expected to be able to get a lot of interesting information from him. Note, however, that this doesn't mean we won't be able to include information in LPedia about him and the groups with which he was involved – we just aren't going to get his help so we will have to rely on other sources. Plus as a practical matter we have far more potential interviewees than we can currently handle, so if somebody turns us down for any reason we can continue this work with somebody else. And there is always the possibility that at some point in the future people who now feel they can't work with us will reconsider.

We have begun implementation of the survey project as another way to gather information from/about people. We are intentionally starting small, to test out the idea and see how people react before trying to apply the idea to larger groups.

Collecting Electronic County Newsletters

As best as we have been able to determine, there are only two county organizations still regularly distributing by e-mail something resembling a "newsletter", packaging together material on different topics on a periodic basis.. But there are many other counties that send individual announcements more or less frequently to an e-mail list. Since there is a lot of overlap between the content of these messages and what was traditionally distributed via newsletters (hardcopy and electronic), including information we want to preserve and make available about local meetings and other activities, we are looking at approaches for saving/organizing these messages for future reference.

Gathering Information from Newsletters

We have been making some progress in collecting and indexing various types of information from newsletters that have already been uploaded. This process is going more slowly than I had hoped, but it isn't as time-critical as some of our other work, since that information is still there and won't be going away – it's just not organized yet in the way we would like.

Election Results

Election results for the Libertarians who were on the ballot in the November election have been posted to the Election Results page. A few of the results are still preliminary – the table will be updated with final numbers once those are published.

https://lpedia.org/wiki/Libertarian_Party_of_California_Historical_Election_Results

It is interesting that most of these candidates had no LPedia article – about their campaign or anything else about their activism. In fact, there were only two who had an article: Jeff Hewitt and Lawrence Samuels. On the theory that there is no better time to start collecting historical information than the present (since memories/records can be expected to become harder to collect as time goes on), this has now been remedied – there is now a basic article for each of them, including at least one introductory sentence and in most cases also a photograph and a quote of the campaign statement published in The Beacon, along with the election results. Hopefully we can continue to do this for future elections going forward. We will also need to start working backward to do the same for other recent elections, while information about them is still more readily available than for ones many years in the past. Of course if any of the people involved with these campaigns would like to add/upload additional material to make these articles more interesting and informative, that would be nice.

Miscellaneous Documents

Some additional past versions of the state Bylaws and Convention Rules have been uploaded and are now listed at:

https://lpedia.org/wiki/Index_of_Libertarian_Party_of_California_Bylaws

A collection of past versions of the Operating Procedures Manual is now available at:

https://lpedia.org/wiki/Libertarian_Party_of_California_Operating_Procedures_Manual