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PARTY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY October 7, 2020

- Date and Time:** Wednesday, 7 October 2020 at 4:00pm Mountain time
- Where:** Online: Zoom
- Committee Attendees:** Caryn Ann Harlos, Joe Dehn, Ed Fochler, James Gholston, Andrew Kolstee
- Other Attendees:** Andrew Jewell

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm Mountain time.

Records of Past Meetings: The minutes of the 16 September meeting were approved.

Miscellaneous LPedia: Caryn Ann reported that she created a video to help new people understand the process of creating an article, because many new people have found the existing written material intended for new people not enough to help them take that first step. Andrew reported that he switched some more state party articles to make use of the standard navigation template. Caryn Ann said she is continuing to work on categories.

Site Statistics: Ed reported that the statistics are still being distorted by activity from China, which accounts for about 40% of the raw total. Considering just U.S. traffic, activity seems to be up about 60% from the usual level, presumably because of the election. There was discussion of what might be the motivation for this continued traffic from China, which does not appear to be coming from search results or links from other sites. Ed suggested it could be some sort of "click farming", but the volume doesn't seem large enough if the intention was to help some cause beyond the LP, and we don't know if any other LP-related sites are experiencing similar types of traffic.

Site Technical: There was brief discussion of whether a recently announced Wikipedia format change might, because we use the same software, mean changes for LPedia, either an improvement or causing some kind of problem; the conclusion was that any effect on us was likely to be minor. Joe asked if there was some kind of "hook" in Mediawiki that would allow something to be displayed the first time



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somebody visits the site, no matter what page; he said this could be valuable in providing help about becoming a contributor, since most people aren't arriving via the home page and many people don't seem to notice things listed in the menu on the left, the two places where such help is currently offered. If that is not possible, he suggested an alternative would be a banner of some kind that would appear on each page only for users who are not logged in; that would ensure that it was visible to any actual new users while frequent users could avoid having it clutter up their experience by creating an account.

Featured Article: Caryn Ann suggested an article about a particular LNC meeting, mentioning that it does include a photo.

Rating System: Andrew said he added descriptions for the quality ratings (A, B, etc.) and that he plans to add an assessment template, without assessment values, for every article that doesn't already have one, to enable automatic generation of a list of articles that have not yet been assessed.

Fundraising: Caryn Ann reported that the two e-mail announcements asking for volunteers seemed to generate some LPedia activity and also resulted in contributions totalling about \$750.

State Collections: There was discussion of which additional states we should consider to have active historical projects, that we might want to include in our standard agenda. Caryn Ann noted possible renewed interest from Minnesota. Joe noted that one of the applications for committee membership mentioned Utah having an HPC. Caryn Ann noted that another application mentioned activity in Massachusetts.

Committee Membership: There was discussion of how to handle the 20 applications that Caryn Ann reported having received. Caryn Ann suggested inviting them to start doing work on LPedia and seeing who does something. Joe suggested that each current member of the committee review the applications and attempt to identify which look interesting enough to warrant further consideration. There was brief discussion of whether discussion of these applications should be done in executive session. Joe suggested we wait on deciding that until we see how many we actually want to discuss. He volunteered to collect lists from each committee member of which applications look interesting and combine them so we can see



how many that is likely to be. He also volunteered to contact the people who mentioned in their application that they could provide a resume but who apparently had not yet provided one.

Videotapes: Caryn Ann reported that Tara is considering fundraising to pay college students as interns to review/catalog the converted videos and upload them. Caryn Ann said she has no problem with this as the fundraising would be separate from our budget. Joe said he has no problem with it as long as all the original converted recordings are still available for our use; if somebody else is posting selected ones or creating edited material from them, that can only help generate awareness of the material, but we need to retain the ability to edit or catalog them differently for our purposes. Joe noted that he has many old VHS tapes relating to LP events; Caryn Ann suggested that the current conversion project may be the best chance to preserve them before they are no longer playable.

Hidden Advertisement: Caryn Ann reported that a link to a weight-loss site had been discovered hidden in the 1990 Platform article, and had been removed. James noted this tampering had occurred in 2011, when there was no control over who was getting accounts and nobody monitoring updates.

Google Group: Caryn Ann reported that the national office wants all committees to use Google Groups for their discussions. This will make the process of subscribing and access to archives uniform across all the committees. She said all the other committees are now doing this, including ones that had used Yahoo groups in the past. Joe asked if it will be possible to download the content of the group, or will we be setting up the same kind of problem that we had with Yahoo groups; Caryn Ann said that the National Secretary and the Executive Director would be able to do that. James moved to switch to using a Google Group; the motion passed without objection. Caryn Ann will invite the subscribers of the current list to join.

Google Meetings: Caryn Ann said a switch from Zoom for our meetings will depend on whether/when the LNC decides to use Google Meetings for their meetings.

Future Meetings: The next meeting is scheduled for 21 October 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19pm Mountain time.