

Libertarian Party of California

2015 Convention Minutes

May 31, 2015
Tropicana Las Vegas
3801 S Las Vegas Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Call To Order

Kevin Takenaga called the convention to order at 10:42 AM.

Secretary Pro Tem

In the absence of the Secretary Beau Cain, Kevin Takenaga called for nominations for a Secretary Pro Tem.

Motion: Gale Morgan nominated Kevin Duewel.

In the absence of any other nominations, Kevin Duewel was appointed Secretary Pro Tem.

Credential Committee Report

Susan Aquino presented the initial Credential Committee Report with the following delegate count: 74 delegates; accordingly, a simple majority was determined to be 38 delegates and a two-thirds majority was determined to be 50 delegates.

Motion: Jonathan Jaech moved to suspend the rules to consider moving Executive Committee elections to the top of the agenda.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules passed by voice count.

Motion: Jonathan Jaech moved to move Executive Committee elections to the top of the agenda.

Vote: Motion to move Executive Committee elections to the top of the agenda passed by voice count.

Elections

Chair

Kevin Takenaga called for nominations for Chair:

Motion: Boomer Shannon nominated Ted Brown.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for Chair.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to suspend the rules to consider electing Ted Brown by acclamation.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules passed by voice count.

Motion: Matt Barnes moved to amend to elect the Chair by voice count with NOTA.

Vote: Motion to elect Chair by voice count with NOTA passed by voice count.

Vote: Ted Brown was elected Chair by voice count.

Northern Vice Chair

Kevin Takenaga called for nominations for Northern Vice Chair.

Motion: Emily Tilford nominated Brian Thiemer.

Motion: Kevin Duewel nominated Gale Morgan.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for Northern Vice Chair.

Vote: Of 32 votes cast, 20 votes were cast for Brian Thiemer and 12 votes were cast for Gale Morgan, with 0 votes cast for NOTA. Brian Thiemer was elected Northern Vice Chair.

Southern Vice Chair

Kevin Takenaga called for nominations for Southern Vice Chair:

Motion: David Peters nominated Jonathan Jaech.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for Southern Vice Chair.

Motion: Dan Wiener moved to suspend the rules to consider electing the Southern Vice Chair by voice count against NOTA.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules passed by voice count.

Motion: Dan Wiener moved to elect the Southern Vice Chair by voice count against NOTA.

Vote: Motion to elect the Southern Vice by voice count against NOTA passed by voice count.

Vote: Jonathan Jaech was elected Southern Vice a Chair by voice count.

Motion: Boomer Shannon moved to recess for lunch until 1:30 PM.

Motion: Matt Barnes moved to amend to adjourn until 1:30 PM.

Vote: Motion to amend passed by voice count.

Vote: Motion to adjourn until 1:30 PM passed by voice count.

Kevin Takenaga called the convention to order at 1:30 PM.

Matt Barnes called for quorum count.

With 57 delegates in attendance, quorum was met.

Secretary

Kevin Takenaga called for nominations for Secretary:

Motion: Gail Lightfoot nominated Jose Castaneda.

Motion: Gale Morgan nominated Kevin Duewel.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for Secretary.

Vote: Of 68 votes cast, 43 were cast for Kevin Duewel and 24 were cast for Jose Castaneda, with 1 vote cast for NOTA. Kevin Duewel was elected Secretary.

Treasurer

Kevin Takenaga called for nominations for Treasurer:

Motion: Brian Darby nominated Emily Tilford.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for Treasurer.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to suspend the rules to consider electing the Treasurer by voice count against NOTA.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules carried without objection.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to elect the Treasurer by voice count against NOTA.

Vote: Motion carried by voice count.

Vote: Emily Tilford was elected Treasurer by voice count.

At-Large Members

Kevin Duewel resigned as At-Large Member of the Executive Committee.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to suspend the rules to consider combining the election of At-Large Members with two-year terms, At-Large Members with one-year terms, and alternates.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules passed by voice count.

Motion: Dan Wiener moved to close debate on the motion to combine the election of At-Large Members with two-year terms, At-Large Members with one-year terms, and alternates.

Vote: Motion to combine the election of At-Large Members with two-year terms, At-Large Members with one-year terms, and alternates failed by voice count.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to suspend the rules to consider not having tabulation by county, and instead to cast votes in line.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules passed by voice count.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to not have tabulation by county, and instead to cast votes in line.

Vote: Motion to cast votes in line, rather than by county tabulation, passed by voice count.

Motion: Ted Brown moved to suspend rules to consider sharing the three minutes for nomination speeches with candidate speeches.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules passed by voice count.

Motion: Ted Brown moved to share the three minutes for nomination speeches with candidate speeches.

Vote: Motion to share the three minutes for nomination speeches with candidate speeches carried by voice count.

Kevin Takenaga called for nominations for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee with two year terms:

- Motion:** Gale Morgan nominated Kelly Barnes.
- Motion:** Ted Brown nominated Mark Hinkle.
- Motion:** EJ Badillo nominated Brian Andresen.
- Motion:** Brianna Wright nominated Jarrett Tilford.
- Motion:** Mike Paster nominated Bill Lopez.
- Motion:** Jonathan Jaech nominated Boomer Shannon.
- Motion:** Ray Fostore nominated Ray Fostore.
- Motion:** Gail Lightfood nominated Jose Castaneda.
- Motion:** Cindy Gobrecht nominated Mike Sertic.
- Motion:** Emily Tilford nominated Jeff Hewitt.
- Motion:** Brian Thiemer nominated Gale Morgan.
- Motion:** Kelly Barnes nominated Eric Vaughnes.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee with two-year terms.

- Motion:** Kevin Duewel moved to suspend the rules to consider additional candidates for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee.
- Vote:** Motion to suspend the rules passed without objection.
- Motion:** Kevin Duewel moved to consider additional candidates for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee.
- Vote:** Motion to consider additional candidates for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee passed by voice count.
- Motion:** Kevin Duewel nominated Marc Lasky.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee with two-year terms.

- Vote:** Of 69 ballots cast for At-Large Member of the Executive Committee with two-year terms, 2 ballots were invalid, and:
- Boomer Shannon received 51 votes.
- Mark Hinkle received 34 votes.

Mike Sertic received 27 votes.

Jeff Hewitt received 26 votes.

Ray Fostore received 24 votes.

Jose Castaneda received 23 votes.

Gale Morgan received 22 votes.

Eric Vaughnes received 22 votes.

Jarrett Tilford received 21 votes.

Brian Andresen received 20 votes.

Marc Lasky received 18 votes.

Bill Lopez received 16 votes.

Kelly Barnes received 13 votes.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to suspend the rules to consider seating the top five candidates in ballots received as At-Large Members of the Executive Committee with two-year terms.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules passed without objection.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to seat the top five candidates in votes received to two-year terms as At-Large Members of the Executive Committee.

Vote: Motion carried by voice count.

Motion: EJ Badillo called for division.

Vote: Main motion passed by standing vote.

Boomer Shannon, Mark Hinkle, Mike Sertic, Jeff Hewitt, and Ray Fostore were elected to two-year terms as At-Large Member of the Executive Committee.

Kevin Takenaga called for nominations for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee with one-year terms:

Motion: Daniel Weiner nominated the remaining candidates from the previous ballot.

Motion: Boomer Shannon nominated Jason Wu.

Motion: Emily Tilford nominated William Hadju.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee with one-year terms.

Motion: Daniel Weiner moved to suspend the rules to consider limiting candidate statements to only those who had not already spoken.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules carried without objection.

Motion: Daniel Weiner moved to limit candidate statements to only those who had not already spoken.

Vote: Vote to limit limit candidate statements to only those who had not already spoken passes by voice count.

Vote: Of the 56 ballots cast for At-Large Member of the Executive Committee with one-year terms:

Eric Vaughnes received 25 votes.

Jason Wu received 22 votes.

Jarrett Tilford received 21 votes.

William Hadju received 20 votes.

Gale Morgan received 18 votes.

Jose Castaneda received 16 votes.

Eric Andresen received 16 votes.

Bill Lopez received 13 votes.

Marc Lasky received 12 votes.

Kelly Barnes received 8 votes.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to suspend the rules to consider seating the top three candidates in votes received as At-Large Members of the Executive Committee with one-year terms.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules passed without objection.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to seat the top three candidates in votes received to one-year terms as At-Large Members of the Executive Committee.

Vote: Motion carried by voice count.

Eric Vaughnes, Jason Wu, and Jarrett Tilford were elected to one-year terms as At-Large Member of the Executive Committee.

Kevin Takenaga called for nominations for Alternates to the Executive Committee:

Motion: Aaron Starr nominated the top four remaining candidates from the previous ballot.

Motion: Kevin Duewel nominated Marc Lasky and Kelly Barnes.

Motion: Boomer Shannon nominated David Bowers.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for Alternates to the Executive Committee.

Motion: Mike Pastor moved to suspend the rules to consider additional nominations for Alternates to the Executive Committee.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules carried without objection.

Motion: Mike Pastor moved to consider additional nominations for Alternates to the Executive Committee.

Vote: Motion to consider additional nominations for Alternates to the Executive Committee passed by voice count.

Motion: Mike Pastor nominated Bill Lopez.

Hearing no other nominations, Kevin Takenaga closed nominations for Alternates to the Executive Committee.

Vote: Of 54 ballots cast for Alternate to Executive Committee:

David Bowers received 24 votes.

Gale Morgan received 17 votes.

William Hadju received 16 votes.

Bill Lopez received 12 votes.

Kelly Barnes received 11 votes.

Jose Castaneda received 10 votes.

Eric Andresen received 8 votes.

Marc Lasky received 8 votes.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to suspend the rules to consider seating the top two in votes received as Alternates to the Executive Committee.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules passed without objection.

Motion: Aaron Star moved to seat the top two in votes received as Alternates to the Executive Committee.

Vote: Motion carried by voice count.

David Bowers and Gale Morgan were elected as Alternates to the Executive Committee.

Judicial Committee

Ted Brown resigned from the Judicial Committee.

Kevin Takenaga called for nominations to fill the vacancy on the Judicial Committee:

Motion: Emily Tilford nominated Brianna Wright.

Motion: Gale Morgan moved to suspend the rules to vote by voice count.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules carried without objection.

Vote: Motion to vote by voice count passed by voice count.

Vote: Brianna Wright was elected to Judicial Committee by acclamation.

Resolutions

Motion: Boomer Shannon moved to suspend the rules to discuss adopting the following resolution.

Vote: Motion to suspend the rules carried without objection.

Motion: Boomer Shannon moved to adopt the following resolution:

"Where as he has served this party with vigor and great personal expense for more than ten years, let it be resolved that the LPC does gratefully thank Kevin Takenaga for his dedication and service."

Vote: Motion passed by voice count.

Adjourn

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to adjourn at 4:58 PM.

Vote: Motion to adjourn carried by voice count.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kevin Duewel
Secretary
Libertarian Party of California

Appendix

Chair Report

Kevin Takenaga

Summary:

2007-2008: The UMP “transition” which abruptly terminated dues transfers from the National Party. Once the nearly 78% of former LPC members stopped renewing, cleaning up the database revealed ~800 members, which we’ve maintained since then, despite many former members fleeing to other states to escape California’s increasingly awful business climate. Despite this, new memberships have kept pace with former membership attrition!

2010: Everyone thought the Top-Two challenge thought would be put out of business. Top-Two Primary Elections prevented us from getting candidates on the General ballot, which meant we were both below the registration and the vote test thresholds to stay recognized as a party.

We focused on voter registration because we knew that was critical for maintaining ballot access. Voter registration is of utmost importance to LPC’s survival.

Today, **LPC’s voter registration is at its highest level of all time.** We’ve surpassed the Green Party in California and are nearing the 1% threshold of registered voters statewide.

2012: We opened up a physical office in Sacramento. We started advocating our positions in the Capitol. We helped placed interns and staffers in Legislators’ offices. Our presence has only increased our ability to affect public policy.

2013: We converted our membership database to a more capable system that can handle online transactions and ease accounting and reporting compliance. Brian Darby, our Treasurer is the unsung hero behind this huge system integration work and spent countless hours on this project.

2014: We worked with a coalition of party members and leaders of the Green, Peace and Freedom, AIP and others to present and advocate for reduction of the registration threshold for party recognition in half in order qualify for ballot status. This legislator was overwhelmingly supported by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor and significantly reduces the burden for maintaining ballot access in California.

Elected City Council Members	0	4
Voter Registration Gains	83,420 (0.53%) according to the February 2007 Odd-year Voter Registration Report	121,876 (0.69%) according to the February 2015 Odd-year Voter Registration Report

Since I have served as Chair, we gained 38,456 registered Libertarians in California (an increase of 46%)!

Northern Vice Chair Report

Gale Morgan

Summary:

Under Gale Morgan's term as Northern Vice Chair, three Northern county parties were activated: Yolo County, Nevada County, and El Dorado County.

Active Counties:

Alameda
Contra Costa
El Dorado
Marin
Monterey
Nevada
Placer
Sacramento
San Francisco
San Mateo
Santa Clara
Yolo

Counties in Process:

Solano
Sonoma
Stanislaus
Tulare

Counties	Eligible	% Registered	% Registered LP
Placer	260,737	76.92%	1.41%
Calaveras	35,392	75.92%	1.36%
Trinity	11,091	65.00%	1.33%
Sierra	2,494	88.93%	1.31%
Nevada	76,755	80.08%	1.20%
El Dorado	135,806	78.24%	1.17%
Siskiyou	35,262	69.81%	1.15%
Lake	49,108	67.13%	1.14%
Butte	169,113	70.19%	1.10%
Amador	26,576	76.86%	1.08%
Humboldt	104,687	72.21%	1.08%
Mariposa	15,322	67.73%	1.05%

Southern Vice Chair Report

Jonathan Jaech

San Luis Obispo: Gail Lightfoot accepted an appointment and Chair Pro Tem at convention in Las Vegas. I believe she would happily relinquish the role if there was another volunteer available, and take a supporting role. She reports difficulties finding volunteers interested in organizing a county party. If anyone knows of anyone who might be interested, please contact Gail. She is active on Facebook.

Santa Barbara: I've made some inquiries but have thus far been unable to find a volunteer for Chair Pro Tem. Please send me any leads you have. It would be very nice to get an organization started here.

Kern: Maximus Sallam is Chair Pro Tem, and reports greater availability to focus on organizing. Kern is probably the county most likely to organize for the first time, there are several people there. If you can provide any support or leads, please contact Max, he is active on Facebook.

Ventura: Active with Ken Niemann as Chair. I have not heard of any problems there and I apologize for lack of further information.

Los Angeles: Active with Jose Castenada as Chair and several regions with well-attended monthly meetings.

San Bernardino: Active with Ray Fostore as Chair, continuing a high level of activity and outreach. Looking good.

Orange: Active with Ryan Hinds as Chair. Definite increasing level of activity.

Riverside: Technically active with Gene Berkman as Chair. However, there has been no convention for well over a year. Gene has told me "straight up" that he does not intend to hold a convention and is looking to organize an activist group that is independent of the LPC. Accordingly, I'm recommending that the LPC Board declare the Riverside County affiliate inactive so that plans for reorganizing can get underway. There are many active members in Riverside County, and I expect that the County will rapidly reorganize once the old affiliate is inactivated. Although Gene and (I presume) Jane are moving on, Gene was cordial and expressed a willingness to work together on issues of shared concern. Gene is still a friend of liberty and will be continuing to operate Renaissance Bookstore. If you are curious about his reasons for leaving, contact him directly.

San Diego: Active with Michael Benoit as Chair. Michael reports a return of good feelings to chapter meetings. Please spread the word and support San Diego's rebuilding efforts. San Diego was once the most active affiliate in the state (or so I have heard) and the potential to restore that level of activity is still there.

Imperial: Inactive, I have no plans to direct resources here. It is simply too thinly populated and too far away from the population centers. However, if you know of anyone with a regular connection here that would be willing and suitable to serve as Chair Pro Tem, please let me know.

Secretary Report

Beau Cain

Summary:

During my six months as LPC's Secretary, I attempted to publish documents on LPC's website that are required in the Bylaws, but which had not been published. My thanks to LPC EC At-large member Kevin Duetel for providing editable copy of the minutes from the 2014 annual business meeting and ensuing EC meetings, and to Northern Vice-chair Gale Morgan for providing access to other publishable documents.

As well, I began reporting the results of LPC ExCom votes that were conducted online to LPC's county Party officers, also as required in LPC's Bylaws.

This also required considerable clean-up of the county Party officers contact information, for which I thank Northern Vice Chair Gale Morgan and Treasurer Brian Darby.

As well, I send e-mail messages to county Party officers, asking them to let me know when their next Party elections would be, so that I could publish them on the calendar of events on LPC's website, and so that I would know when to ask them for their updated officers' contact information.

Treasurer Report

Brian Darby

Summary:

	2014	2013	% Change
Operating Reserve	8.3 months	4.4 months	3.9 months
Cash	\$13,964	\$10,441	\$3,523
Members	824	868	-5%
Registered Voters	117,534	112,527	4.4%