



MEETING SUMMARY August 22, 2018

Date and Time: Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 4pm Mountain time

Where: Online: Zoom

Committee Attendees: Caryn Ann Harlos, Joe Dehn, Ed Fochler, Andrew Kolstee, James Gholston (came in after the Deletions discussion)

Other Attendees: none

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm Mountain time.

Records of Past Meetings: The minutes of the 8 August meeting were approved with one change about the request to delete the “Nily Rozic” page.

Records Archive Update: Caryn Ann reported that she has continued work in the storage unit. She was contacted by a long-time member in Nevada who has material in a storage unit that he is closing. Since it will not be practical for her to visit him to see what he has, she will be discussing that with him electronically and perhaps Joe Buchman will be able to go if the material sounds interesting.

Site Statistics: Ed reported that the site continues to get somewhat over 100 visitors per day. Articles recently getting attention included the Socialist Caucus, the list of caucuses, Kim Ruff, Eric Mulder, and Mike Shipley.

Featured Article: Joe reported that he switched the featured article to Eric Mulder after the last meeting and would probably be switching it to one of the top articles in the queue before the next meeting.

Deletions: There is no new information about the “Nily Rozic” article and nobody seems to be making any serious argument that it should be kept. Given that and the fact that enough time for debate and voting on a request for deletion has elapsed, it seems appropriate for it now to be deleted.



Yahoo Lists: Joe reported that he has come up with a semi-automatic way to archive this material, involving use of the “iMacros” browser extension to save pages “as HTML” and then a Perl script to extract the message text from the resulting files. This isn't very fast and or reliable, requiring frequent manual intervention and also raising the issue of malware potentially being downloaded in the process, but it's a lot faster than doing the equivalent work completely manually and better than nothing. There was discussion of ways to isolate the process, e.g., using a virtual machine.

Elizabeth Nolan Copyright Waiver: Caryn Ann has begun drafting this with the intention of producing something that could be used for other people donating material as well.

Template Categories Not Updating Bug: It appears that this is a continuing issue so a trouble report will need to be filed.

MediaWiki URL Convention: Ed pointed out that the URLs we are using for articles in LPedia don't have the structure currently recommended by the software developers. We have the article name directly under the root, while other sites using MediaWiki have them under a subdirectory (e.g., articles in Wikipedia are under “wiki/”). He expressed concern that this could lead to maintenance issues in the future, and suggested we might want to do some kind of “soft switch” to that convention so that we don't find ourselves having to make a more abrupt switch at some time in the future. There was discussion of some of the technical considerations and also the general notion of running our site in as much an “out of the box” fashion as we can. It isn't clear exactly how we ended up with this apparently non-standard arrangement, and we don't know our hosting service's views on support of the two alternatives – things like why our current site was set up this way, what they prefer to support, and the extent to which they could help with implementing the sort of redirects that would be involved in implementing a “soft switch” might be important to our decision. Ed will be looking into this further.

Report to LNC: Caryn Ann said she hopes to have our report for the next LNC meeting ready for us to review by our next meeting. She indicated she is inclined to ask the LNC at some point to allow (but not require) our committee to have one or two additional members. She said we need more people working on things and



being able to add more people to the committee could be helpful in getting that to happen.

National Office Use of LPedia: Caryn Ann suggested that at some point it might make sense for the people in the national office to start making use of LPedia as the place to store information about their projects, most of which is not actually supposed to be confidential, rather than maintaining a separate “internal wiki”. There was discussion of advantages of this approach (including automatic archiving and avoiding the problem of information becoming inaccessible to people who need it because it is only on one person's computer), reasons why office personnel might prefer not to use LPedia for current information, and alternative ways to ensure that such work products are at least archived on LPedia after the fact. She said she plans to be using LPedia as the place to post various documents she will be creating as Secretary, and is also encouraging other committees to use it for things like their agendas and minutes.

National Mailings: There was a brief discussion of what we have in the way of historical hardcopy mailings (letters) that were sent out by the national office, e.g, does the office have PDFs of such letters. Caryn Ann indicated that national office personnel would probably not be able to give attention to this question until after the current election season is over.

Future Meetings: In accordance with the general plan previously discussed, the next meeting will be 5 September.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31pm.