



LIBERTARIAN

PARTY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Report

Libertarian National Committee August 19-20, 2017

Committee Members

Caryn Ann Harlos (Chair)

Dr. Joe Buchman

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Committee Overview	3
Meetings and Communications	3
Motions Considered	3
Status of Document Preservation	4
Storage Unit	4
Digitization	4
Details of LP News Digitization	4
Request for authority	4
Audio/Video/Electronic Data Materials	5
David Nolan Archive	5
Original Draft of Statement of Principles with Hospers' Notes.....	5
Status of LPedia	6
Background	6
Completed and Ongoing Projects	6
User Statistics	7
Volunteer Investment	7
Document Maintenance	7
Inventory and Management	7
Request for authority	7
Data Back-Ups	7
Budget Expenditures and Fundraising	8
Press Mentions	8

Committee Overview

The purpose of the Libertarian Party Historical Preservation Committee (hereinafter "Committee" or "LPHPC") as per the LNC-creation mandate is to oversee the preservation and publication of Libertarian Party historical documents and to manage the LPedia site. The Committee was created on January 23, 2017 and the members appointed on February 20, 2017.

The scope of this work will last well into several years and LPedia will need to be maintained for the time of its existence. It is the hope of the Committee members that the LNC would establish a permanent Historical Preservation Committee to complete and maintain this work.

Meetings and Communications

The Committee is committed to transparency and conducts open meetings every two weeks (or as close as practicable) via Go To Meeting. Committee discussion is also conducted via email with a read-only subscription option available to all Party members by sending a message to lphpc-request@lists.dehnbase.net with "subscribe" in the subject line. Regular news updates are also sent to potential volunteers and history enthusiasts. The minutes and other records from its proceedings are preserved on LPedia: http://lpedia.org/Historical_Preservation_Committee

Meetings conducted since the last report:

April 19, 2017

May 10, 2017

May 24, 2017

June 7, 2017

June 21, 2017

June 25, 2017

July 12, 2017

July 26, 2017

August 16, 2017 (scheduled)

Motions Considered

Move that the LPHPC authorize up to \$3,200 plus shipping for scanning the LP News at 300dpi.

Passed with no objections.

(Modifying prior motion, moved by James Gholston and seconded by Joe Dehn) *Move that the LPHPC authorize up to \$3,500 in scanning the LP News archive plus shipping and hard drive.*

Passed with no objections.

Move that Caryn Ann Harlos be authorized to purchase up to ten cases of bankers boxes from Amazon for up to \$350.00.

Passed with no objections.

Status of Document Preservation

Storage Unit

The Committee Chair and a volunteer (Sarah Ellsworth) have committed nearly every Saturday to sorting and organizing the records in the storage unit. This has been a monumental task. Some records were very neatly organized and others were basically thrown into the boxes as the equivalent of "junk drawers." Also due to age, some labels, rubber bands, and other materials had crumbled which are need to be re-done. The sorting process comprises making an initial pass through all the documents and sorting into broad accessible categories such as "LNC Minutes," "Conventions," "Training Guides," and the like. After this first phase is done (anticipated in about one month), the broad categories will be broken down and organized. The documents are being placed into fresh bankers' boxes or file cabinets which were donated to the Committee to supplement the several which were part of the original shipment.

Digitization

The Committee is prioritizing items for digitization by focusing first on items of most general Party membership interest which have been determined to comprise newsletters such as Liberty Pledge and LP News. All of the Liberty Pledges¹ have been scanned in high-resolution tiff files and posted on LPedia (http://lpedia.org/Liberty_Pledge). Additionally, all of the LP News have been organized, inventoried, and labeled and are presently being digitized.² Richard Winger kindly provided his notes on LP elections from the beginning of the Party which have been scanned and posted (http://lpedia.org/Richard_Winger_Vote_Total_Archive).

The next digitization priority to be sent for outside handling will be other newsletters and other items that are not feasible to scan with volunteers (over-sized newsprint, single copies that cannot be disassembled, or other special handling). Standard-sized documents are being farmed out to volunteers, a project that will accelerate when the initial sorting is completed. This is a project with many moving parts. A full box of Press Releases has been completed (http://lpedia.org/National_Press_Releases).

DETAILS OF LP NEWS DIGITIZATION

Multiple vendors were sought to solicit bids and some sample scans were obtained with unsatisfactory results. A suitable vendor in Texas was located with a competitive price and quality, but in the interim a cultural preservation consortium (Lyrasis) was located offering more specific archiving services.³ Lyrasis is a membership organization but upon hearing of our project, they agreed to do one project for us (with preferred rates) without membership, and we could consider whether the savings and quality, and our budget, warranted and allowed for a paid membership. This project is about 45 days out from anticipated completion at which point all of the LP News will be put onto LPedia. Some of the older issues are already uploaded (http://lpedia.org/LP_News).

REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY

Lyrasis has asked for permission to put down the Libertarian Party as one as one of its participants in the digital collaborative. The Lyrasis site and project can be viewed at lyrasis.org.

¹ All that were in our initial possession. That project resulted in a list of missing issues some of which have been collected and need to be scanned.

² Similar circumstances exist as with Liberty Pledge.

³ The Lyrasis vendor offered more formats (PDF, JPEG 2000, and TIFF) and at a higher resolution (400 DPI) as well as special handling to prevent bleed through. OCR was included in the services.

Move that the LNC grant permission to Lyrasis to list the Libertarian Party as a participant in its digital preservation collaborative.

AUDIO/VIDEO/ELECTRONIC DATA MATERIALS

There are voluminous audio/video/electronic data materials on multiple formats spanning the gamut of technology from 1970s forward including: 2 inch quadruplex broadcast reels, audio cassettes, audio reels, Betacam tapes, VHS tapes, U-matic cartridges, 5 ¼ inch discs, 3 ½ inch discs, and ZIP drive disks. A great deal of this can be digitized/converted by volunteers and arrangements are being made for the audio cassettes, Betacam tapes, audio reels, and 3 ½ inch discs. Quotes and potentials for preservation of the 1970s broadcast reels are being explored. It is hoped that if any can be successfully retrieved that this provide a possibility for a short clip of interest at the 2018 National Convention.

Acquisitions

As word of this project spreads, opportunities have arisen to supplement the institutional memory and acquire important early documents.

DAVID NOLAN ARCHIVE

David Nolan's widow agreed to deliver his archives to Committee member Dr. Buchman, and this took place last month. The pertinent records will be kept with the Party archives, and the Committee will attempt to find a University archive for the items that are orthogonal. Dr. Buchman will be personally scanning these items and providing a copy of the archive to Elizabeth Nolan.

ORIGINAL DRAFT OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES WITH HOSPERS' NOTES

An extraordinary convergence took place in a random EBay check for historical items and to gauge potential market value of any extra items in the Party's possession. At that time Committee Chair Harlos noted that the original copy of the "Preamble" (later re-named the Statement of Principles) with notes of John Hospers (and a coffee stain) was for sale. The document was unquestionably genuine as the Committee had an old poor-quality scan of this item in order to compare the handwritten notes. A Party member, Lellius Rose, purchased this item and wishes to donate it to the Party for display at Headquarters. It will require archival preservation and framing. A high-resolution scan has been taken for LPedia. In an effort to document the travels of this document, inquiry was made with the seller of how it came into her possession, and this is the response received:

"I'm more than happy to tell you about it. My mom, Shirley Gottlieb, ran the libertarian party office out of her home in the 1970's. My mom and dad had many meetings at their home and came to personally know Dr. John Hospers. I remember being in high school and coming home to a house full of people in the living room. My mom recruited me to go to downtown Los Angeles to help count votes when the party was trying to obtain ballot status. I didn't know that my parents even had it. I've been going thru the house after my dad's passing in March, (I lost my mom in 2005), and came across a picture frame containing a black and white photocopy of Ayn Rand. It seemed odd to me because it wasn't even a photo. More like a photocopy and I couldn't understand why they would have framed it. When I took it apart I found the document you now have!!"

Status of LPedia

Background

LPedia is a collaborative history wiki of the Libertarian Party started in February 2005 by Shane Cory as a replacement for the older archive.lp.org. The site had gotten into maintenance trouble in June 2013 when new account creation was disabled and had fallen into technical disrepair as the MediaWiki engine went through version upgrades which were not installed on LPedia primarily due to the fact that there simply was not enough staff time to keep the site updated and the account creation was leading to potential security risks as it was installed on the same server as the main LP.org website. For those same reasons volunteers were not given access to update. During the IT infrastructure cleanup, LPedia was moved to a fully hosted wiki-farm host; however, the database was bloated with over 20 gigabytes of spam and required serious cleaning in addition to the desperately needed updates to the Wikimedia software. Volunteer Bonnie Scott (Vermont) spent dozens of hours over the course of over a month doing this cleanup work which was successfully transferred to the new host. LPedia was re-opened for general account creation and restoration to its purpose as a crowd-sourced collaborative effort on March 31, 2017. A good response of new users and returning former users has resulted with article creation and editing proceeding which is a satisfactory results of several months of hard work.

Completed and Ongoing Projects

In order to keep LPedia functional and useful (as well as easier to maintain for successive custodians) a great deal of infrastructure work has been done with much more to come. Following is a bullet-list of project with explanatory notes as needed.

- Home page upgrades
 - A facelift was needed for the page while still maintaining a distinctive “wiki” look. The colours were refreshed and the logo was re-composited. The sidebar was improved with easier access to commonly used menus, and the overall text blurbs were tightened and clarified.
- Policies
 - A policies page was created to cover best practices and community guidelines. Contained therein were instructions on standard naming conventions to manage the internal files.
- Document Namespace
 - LPedia is not Wikipedia. Unlike Wikipedia, which is based on the model of an encyclopedia, LPedia is more like a library and collaborative center for historical research. LPedia includes encyclopedia-style articles, including articles based on or describing historical documents, but it also includes the historical documents themselves. To facilitate this structure a separate namespace was created to contain wikitext representations of such documents (in contrast to "file" formats like PDF, which are also supported). This namespace is contrasted by a purple background. Some documents are being made available in more than one format. Good examples are found of this in the entries for governing documents, for example see the 1985 National Party Bylaws (http://lpedia.org/Document:National_Bylaws_and_Convention_Rules_1985) in which the text is presented in wikitext with “other formats” referencing the scan of the original document.
- Secure log-in
 - HTTPS was added to secure user log-in information.
- Licensing
 - Licensing templates were created and further work is being planned to place this in the footer of each page on a per-page licensing scheme.

- Database maintenance
 - Over one million spam accounts were deleted along with any accompanying spam pages. Each account now is manually approved to keep this from recurring.
- Categories
 - The former categorization system suffered from over-specificity and unwieldiness. The Committee is in the process of a long re-categorization project.
- Templates and Extensions
 - Templates were refreshed and are being changed to comport with the new categorization plan.
 - Extensions will be kept to a minimum (less to break) but several key extensions were installed.

User Statistics

1,829 Articles / 1,162 Uploads / 19 Active Contributors

Volunteer Investment

At least 300-350 volunteer hours have already been expended accomplishing all related tasks not including committee meeting times.

Document Maintenance

Inventory and Management

As boxes are sorted, basic inventories are being created. The final inventory will identify what items are preserved on LPedia with a location coding system so that they can be easily retrieved from the physical archives. Standard naming conventions will also make them easily retrievable in the electronic archives. Duplicates are being noted and culling recommendations made.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY

Move to authorize the LPHPC to retain up to three copies of any issues of LP News with any remainder being disposed of at the LPHPC's discretion with any proceeds to be credited to the LPHPC budget.

- Possible uses for excess will be to contact any university repositories, LSLA, sell on eBay or similar, use for fundraising at NOLA, or giveaway at NOLA.

Move that the LPHPC can dispose of any software-related disks for legacy and unused software and any related instruction manuals.

Move that the LPHPC can dispose of any utility/rent/ or related bills dating 2001 or earlier.

A general inventory will be kept of disposed items.

Data Back-Ups

The LPHPC has instituted a regular back-up regimen. For a description, please see Exhibit A to this report.

Budget Expenditures and Fundraising

LNC funding for Committee projects came from two separate motions, the first for the records preservation portion (\$5,000) and the second for the records relocation (\$5,000) for a total of \$10,000.00 that potentially would have come from the general budget. However, fundraising efforts were undertaken to voluntarily fund all expenses. Fundraising exceeded minimum raising a total of \$10,955.00. Following are the current expenditures:

Total Expenses Booked: 4,722.64

Total In Kind (Amazon): 199.69

Total Including In-Kind; 4,922.33

Total Revenue: 10,955

View: First/Latest/Greatest		<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude largest gift		<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude smallest gift	
	Date	Amount	Type	Constituent	
First	1/17/2017	\$25.00	Cash	[REDACTED]	
Latest	7/26/2017	\$10.00	Cash	[REDACTED]	
Greatest	5/1/2017	\$1,500.00	Cash	Caryn Ann Harlos	
Average: \$91.29		Total gifts: 120		Mode: \$25.00	
Median: \$25.00		Total donors: 107			
Goal:	Total committed:	\$10,955.00	Over (under):	\$10,955.00	
	Overall goal:	\$0.00	Percent of goal:	0.00%	

Recurring Expenses

- MyWikis hosting and maintenance: \$350/year
 - This is a fully supported option. The host installs all upgrades and resolved trouble tickets.
- Amazon server: up to \$25/month
 - Some files are too large to upload directly to the wiki host (audios, videos, large graphics) and are hosted on a separate server. The Amazon server also hosts LPedia database backups.
- Dropbox: \$100/year
 - This is the portal for volunteers to upload and retrieve documents for assignments by the LPHPC. It also contains backups of other maintenance documentation and a redundant copy of the database backups.

Press Mentions

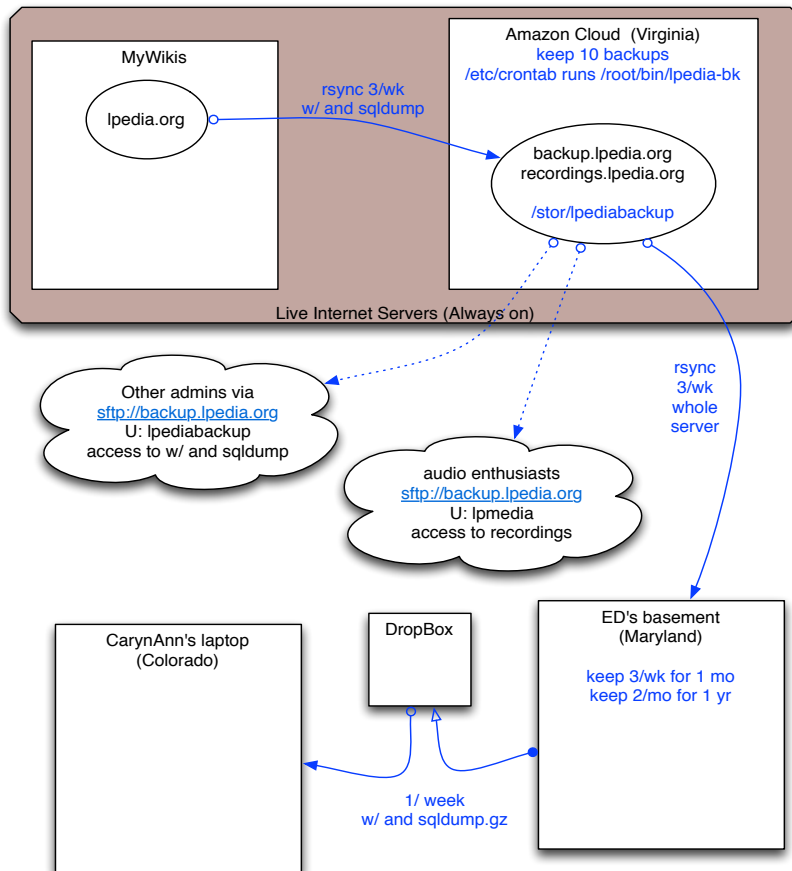
The LPHPC was mentioned in the *Washington Times* and Committee Chair Harlos was interviewed and appeared in the *Colorado Independent* and on *Colorado Matters (Colorado Public Radio)*.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, *Caryn Ann Harlos*, Committee Chair

It has truly been an honour and a pleasure to work on this project.

EXHIBIT 1 TO LPHPC REPORT AUGUST 19-20, 2017

As of August 2017, this is the backup strategy for lpedia.org.



lpedia.org is run on mediawiki. MyWiki's provides support and implements a competent and professional wiki service for lpedia.org, but we do not have full control over that server and they are a small company. Backups and the ability to restore from scratch if MyWikis disappears completely compels the design of a robust backup methodology.

To mitigate the size of the data managed by mediawiki, larger files (audio or video recordings) are hosted on a separate server, recordings.lpedia.org. In order to preserve the entirety of the site, both must be backed up.

For cost effectiveness, backup.lpedia.org and recordings.lpedia.org are both hosted on the same server. backup.lpedia.org is a fresh Amazon Web Services image of a mediawiki server created by bitnami. The apache service is then additionally configured to host the separate recordings site if the machine is accessed by that name through a VirtualHost entry in `/opt/bitnami/apache2/conf/httpd.conf`. Configuration notes and restore recipes are stored along with the backups, some under `/root/docs/`

Backup of lpedia.org to backup.lpedia.org occurs 3 times per week, MWF. This is initiated on backup.lpedia.org by `/etc/crontab`, calling `/root/bin/lpedia-bk.bash`. This script in turns specifies backup policy and calls `/root/bin/backup.bash`, a sophisticated rsync-based backup utility to write date-stamped backups and maintain a limited number of distinct backups.

Backup of backup.lpedia.org (and recordings.lpedia.org) occurs 3 times per week, MWF. This is done with full admin ssh access to backup.lpedia.org by a private server in ED Fochler's basement. Backups can also be gathered through sftp access to the backup space as `lpediabackup` and to the recordings space as `lpedia`. This would afford enough of a backup that one could restore the entire lpedia.org site from scratch. This backup is weekly sync'd over dropbox with CarynAnn.

`/root/docs/restoreLP.txt` has the following recipe for a restore of lpedia.org to a fresh mediawiki install such as backup.lpedia.org:

```
cd /root/lpBackups/ &&
zcat lpedia-sql.gz.mostrecent | mysql bitnami_mediawiki -p ;
# enter the DB password here, for bitnami it is the bitnami pwd
cd /root/lpBackups/lpedia-bk.mostrecent &&
rsync -PHOhavix w/images/ /opt/bitnami/apps/mediawiki/htdocs/
images/ ;
# Things like the default $wgLogo image must be set in
LocalSettings.php
```