

Minutes of ExCom Meeting
Monday, February 19, 2001
As Approved

Minutes

Date: Monday, February 19, 2001
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Place: DoubleTree Hotel,
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose CA 95110

In attendance:

Officers:	Aaron Starr	Chair
	Rodney Austin	Northern Vice Chair
	Mark Selzer	Southern Vice Chair
	Sandi Webb	Secretary
	Lori Adasiewicz	Treasurer
At-Large Reps:	Elizabeth Brierly	
	Ted Brown	
	Doug Scribner	
	Starchild	
	Dan Wiener	
Alternate At-Large Reps:	Al Carlan	ExCom Alternate #1
	Bruce Dovner	ExCom Alternate #2
Regional Reps:	Wayne Nygren	Region 1
	Brian Lee Cross	Region 30
	JR Graham	Region 37
	Mark Hinkle	Region 43
Alternates:	Jeff Sommer	Region 01
	Steve Cicero	Region 37
	Joe Dean	Region 43
Staff:	Juan Ros	Executive Director, LPC
Contractor	Thea McLean	

Visitors: Gloria Strong, R43; Ray Strong, R43; Keath Stanton, R43; RobRob, R37; Jonathan Zwickel, R20; José Castañeda, R65; Paul Studier, R30; Guy Wilson, R66; Aubri Webb, R56; John Ballard, Judicial Committee; Eric Lund

Absent: Bernard Zimring, R61.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Aaron Starr called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. Introduction of new committee members and officers.

3. Public Statements and announcements.

Juan Ros said that he was passing around a contact sheet.

4. Approval of Agenda – time was set for each item. Closed session was added to discuss an ongoing lawsuit. Add Item 9c. IRV Resolution. Add item 9d. Treasurer's functions.

Approved as amended.

5. Officers Reports

a) Chair - Aaron Starr

Aaron gave a brief welcome. He said that he felt that we needed to have better outreach to our members and regions. He said that the challenge is to do this with the current resources that we have.

He said that we are going to have to figure ways to intelligently cut expenses. We have to figure out ways to raise more money so we can expand our activities. Aaron said that he thinks we need something better than a State Newsletter. He said that a state newsletter has a limitation in that it takes weeks to prepare it and get it out. The timeliness is not good for our membership and it is difficult for our membership to respond. He said that he would like to explore the idea of gathering a large number of email addresses of the members so we can send out an HTML newsletter instead. He said that to do this we needed a survey of the members. Included in this survey would be the level of interest and activity of the members. He said that once this is set up we could keep in touch with our members for less money than we currently spend on the newsletter.

He said that his personal opinion about how to run an organization is that what gets measured is what gets done. Measurement is a way of setting goals, comparing the past to the present or one person to another. It is what inspires us to do our best.

He said that as this is an Executive Committee, its purpose is to execute. He said that he realizes that some members are representing their regions, but he was hoping that they could see this body as representing the party as a whole and to be able to execute our policy and move forward.

He said that fundraising was going to be more difficult this year because it is not an election year. He said that our expenses would also be higher this year. Last year we opened an office at midyear. This year we will have a full year for this expense. He said that he believes that each member of the ExCom should participate at some level in fundraising. He said that Juan Ros would start setting up one on one meetings with the major donors for each of the ExCom members. He said that as we get more comfortable with asking we should be able to start teaching others in the regions. He would like to bring in the regional chairs at some time. He said that he would set up a point system for keeping track of each member.

Aaron said that for this party to move forward he needed all of our help, he needed our wisdom, our hands, our minds, and our action. He said that everyone at the table has something to offer. He said that some of the committee have points of views that are completely different from his that he might disagree with but he definitely wants to hear from them. He said that he wants to get to the point where he understands the other points of view. He said that he may still disagree but he will always listen.

Starchild said that he hopes that our entire focus won't be on fundraising. He hoped that we also focus on volunteers. Aaron said that money is just a tool. It is needed for better communication.

- b) Northern Vice Chair - Rodney Austin - No report.
- c) Southern Vice Chair - Mark Selzer - No report.
- d) Secretary - Sandi Webb

Sandi pointed out that there was a letter in the agenda packet from her outlining some of the procedures for the committee. She said that there were copies of the email votes that were taken since the last ExCom. She said that the last email vote the ExCom took on Friday failed but was too late to get a copy into the report.

- e) Treasurer - Lori Adasiewicz - No report.

Executive Director - Juan Ros - No report.

6. Standing Committees

- a) Legislative Committee (no report)
- b) Membership Committee. (no report)
- c) Audit Committee - (no report)
- d) Convention Oversight Committee.

Jeff Sommer gave a report. He said that he and the committee would like to protest the manner in which he and other members of the committee were treated by Cullene Lang. He said that she withheld information from the committee. He said that she did not provide a convention schedule in a timely manner. He said that although the LP has had a good working relationship with the DoubleTree Hotel, there were problems this time. He said that he did not know whether or not it was Cullene's fault. He felt that if it was, she should be reprimanded. He said that according to the Standing

Resolutions, the Oversight Committee has the authority to go over contracts. He said it is not clear which contracts this refers to. He said that the committee asked to see Cullene's contract with the hotel and she refused. He said that the committee recommended that Cullene reimburse the LP \$6000. Committee member Elizabeth Brierly said that that would not be necessary. That the LP had received the credit card payments that the \$6000 was to offset and that this was no longer an issue. It was the committee's recommendation that Cullene Lang never be allowed to run an LPC convention. He said that the committee would still like to see the contract that Cullene had with the hotel and the details of the convention as a whole. He wanted to see if the LPC had benefited or not. He said that the committee wanted to continue looking at the details of this convention and report back to the next ExCom. Elizabeth said that the Standing Resolutions were not clear on what contract the committee could have access to. She further noted that the Standing Resolutions did not outline the duties of this committee. Sandi Webb suggested that the Oversight Committee write up a set of the duties for the committee and bring it back at the next ExCom. Mark Hinkle clarified the problem that Cullene had had with the hotel. He said that the Steve Alexander, who put on the 1998 convention in the same hotel, had had the same problem. Mark Selzer said that he was concerned that the ExCom gave Cullene Lang the contract to begin with. He said she did cooperate well with him with several speakers on the program. Dan Wiener voiced his disappointment in the lack of promotion for the convention.

Doug Scribner asked that any recommendations from the committee not include banning anyone. He said that the ExCom should be able to chose good people. Aaron Starr said that he was disappointed in the attendance but that those who did attend seemed to have a good time. He pointed out that the LPC benefited from this convention being contracted out. He said that the LPC did not have the risk or the loss that we had had in the past. He said that he did not want to see us rule out contracting out the convention in the future. Juan said that although the LP did not lose money, we lost control. He said that we took the risk of having the convention canceled at the last minute. He said that the basic question for the ExCom was what was the function of a convention. JR Graham said that it had been a good convention. He said that it could have been bigger. He suggested that the Oversight Committee have a subcommittee for promotion. Bruce Dovner said that he didn't think we needed to censure people. Aaron Starr asked that the committee return at the next ExCom with written recommendations.

e) Budget Committee.

Aaron Starr said that the last ExCom voted in a Draft 2001 Budget that needed to be ratified by this committee. Juan Ros proposed that the Convention Fundraising item be increased by \$5000. Aaron Starr asked what restrictions were on the money that was raised at the banquet. Mark Hinkle said that people were asked to indicate on their checks if there was to be any restrictions. Juan said that he had not had a chance to check yet. It was determined that the funds were not restricted unless specifically stated. Aaron suggested that all of the proposed changes to the budget be made and be voted on as one motion.

Ted Brown proposed adding a new line under Expenses - Campaign 2002 - Recruitment - \$500.

Mark Hinkle proposed adding a new line under Expenses - Legal - \$10,000.

Wayne Nygren asked about the line item for bonuses. It was pointed out that there were a few changes to the Draft Budget that were not reflected in the Dec. 16 minutes. Aaron Starr suggested that we table this item to the next ExCom meeting to allow time to get an updated budget from the new Treasurer.

f) Human Resources Committee.

Closed Session to discuss personnel and legal matter.

The budget item was taken off the table. Juan Ros handed out copies of the amended draft budget.

Starchild said that he didn't think that telemarketing was a good use of our money.

Motion: Starchild moved to remove Phone Fundraising from the budget. Jeff Sommer seconded the motion.

Aaron Starr said that this would be treated as a separate item.

Aaron Starr proposed a line item for a Questionnaire to be mailed to all LPC members. This item would be from restricted funds collected for this purpose. \$21,000. This would also be handled as a separate item.

Aaron asked if there was any objection to adding the items that had been proposed prior to the closed session. There was no objection.

Support and Revenue:

Convention Fundraising 10,000

Expense:

Campaign 2002

Recruitment 500

Legal 10,000

Juan said that he had raised \$5400 for software that was needed for the office. Add new line Major Donor - Restricted Funds - Software - \$5400. Add line in Expense - Software - \$5400. There was no objection to adding this.

Aaron Starr returned to the items that were to be handled separately.

Starchild spoke to his motion. He didn't think it was very effective for the amount of money that it cost. He was concerned that the person doing the fundraising calls wasn't a libertarian and couldn't answer political questions. He was concerned that this may be the only contact some of our members had with the LP. Aaron pointed out that the fundraising call Starchild had received was done by a company that had been fired. Aaron said that the company that was now used was owned by a libertarian. Starchild was still concerned that a lot of people don't like to be cold called to be asked for money. He said that he would rather see us put on good events and ask for their time as well as money.

Al Carlan said that the numbers did show that it was profitable to do phone fundraising. Dan Wiener said that everyone would like to raise money without spending any, that way all of the funds that were raised would go to the ultimate purpose. He said that in reality that wasn't the way it works. He said that it isn't fun to ask people for money but we cannot function if we don't. He said that the numbers don't show the long term effects of fundraising. He said that sometimes a fundraising letter or call will bring in new donors.

Someone suggested that the next time we are going to have phone fundraising in San Francisco, Starchild get volunteers to do it. He said that even if the donors in San Francisco were only half as generous, the net result would be the same. He said that if this worked it could be expanded to other regions. Aaron said that the company that was currently being used is in Culver City. He said that they have offered to allow us to staff their computerized phones with our own people and charge us a lot less than the normal rate. He said that this was something we could try. JR Graham said that it was necessary to make the phone fundraising better. He said that we need to have libertarians making the calls. He said that we should ask them the questionnaire questions before asking them for money. Juan pointed out that anyone who didn't want to get phone fundraising calls or mail, could have their file flagged.

Vote on motion to eliminate the phone fundraising line item. Failed

The second item was discussed. Major donor restricted fund - \$21,000. Expense - Questionnaire - \$21,000.

Dan Wiener said that one of the things that was learned from Operation Breakthrough was that it was possible to ask people for contributions after asking them if they would be candidates. Those who couldn't run for office often would donate. He said that when calling for information we could ask if they would donate. It could pay for itself.

Wayne Nygren asked if there was some way to get the local regions involved in the questionnaire. Aaron said that he would like them to. He proposed to have a reward for the region that did the best. JR said that San Diego region was already doing phone calls.

Motion to extend time by 5 min. Failed.

Vote on motion to add the questionnaire item. Starchild abstained. Passed.

Aaron said that the budget as proposed so far was out of balance. He asked if there was any objection to raising Major Donor by \$5000. Approved.

	<u>Amount</u>
Support and Revenue:	
Membership Dues	2500
UMP Membership	108,000
Pledges	57,000
Mail Fundraising	52,500
General Donations	0
Convention	
Operations	0
Fundraising	10,000
Phone Fundraising	20,000
Major Donors	30,000
Restricted funds - Questionnaire	21,000
Restricted funds - software	5400
Misc. Support	2000
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Total Support and Revenue	<u>308,400</u>

Cost of Funds

Membership Dues to National	2500
Membership Dues to Regions	64,800
Pledges	

Nomination	# Votes
Mark Hinkle	11*
Lori Adasiewicz	11*
Sandi Webb	12*
Ted Brown	13*
Jeff Sommer	4
Starchild	2

- (1) Aaron Starr
- (2) Lori Adasiewicz
- (3) Mark Hinkle
- (4) Sandi Webb
- (5) Ted Brown
- viii) Style Committee
 - (1) Dan Wiener
 - (2) Ted Brown
- ix) Convention Committee (New committee)
 - (1) Starchild
 - (2) Doug Scribner
 - (3) John Ballard
 - (4) JR Graham
 - (5) Mark Selzer
 - (6) Steve Alexander
 - (7) Al Carlan
 - (8) Wayne Nygren – liaison
- x) Ad hoc Legal Committee
 - (1) Mark Hinkle - Chair
 - (2) Lori Adasiewicz
 - (3) Ted Brown

b) Treasurer's functions in house.

Aaron Starr said that the LP has gotten to such a size that we need to have financial data provided on a more timely regular basis than every meeting. He said that Juan Ros was having trouble telling at any given time where he stood in regards to the budget. Aaron said that we currently contract out the receipts and disbursements. The financial statements are handled by the Treasurer. What Aaron would like to do is have all of this brought into the office and done by staff.

It was asked for clarification on how it was now done. Aaron explained how it is done. He said what he wanted was the checks to be written at the office and the Treasurer sign and release the checks. The Treasurer was to get all of the supporting documents. Starchild asked what the cost difference would be. Aaron said that it would cost less because we would not also be paying the person currently doing the caging. The staff member would do all of it. Aaron asked if the person that was recently hired for the office could do the job. Juan said that she could.

Brian Cross spoke in favor of the motion. He said that the Treasurer's job had gotten too much for one volunteer. Aaron said that it was almost too much when he was Treasurer. Dan Wiener, who also has served as Treasurer, said that he supported this proposal. He said that this is our biggest problem, controlling our funds. Mark Hinkle said that National was done this in house. He said that as Chair, if he wanted to know what the current status of the account was, he had to call the bank. John Ballard voiced concern over having someone other than the Treasurer sign checks. Aaron suggested that we leave the details to the new Treasurer. Juan said that there were times in the past when he needed a check immediately and the treasurer had to FedEx one to him. Sandi said that we just elected Lori to the job and she should be allowed to do it.

Motion: It is the sense of the Executive Committee that the check writing function be brought into the LPC office at the discretion of the LPC Treasurer. 12 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstentions (Rodney Austin, Doug Scribner, Starchild.) Seconded **Passed.**

c) IRV Resolution

Motion: Approve the following resolution. Seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

A Resolution of the California State Libertarian Party
To Promote Instant Run - Off Voting (IRV)

Whereas, the present plurality (or First Past the Post) method of holding elections in the United States highly favors a two-party system through the "wasted vote" argument, and

Whereas, Instant Run-off Voting or IRV, is a more truly democratic method of voting when there are three or more candidates since voters then have the ability to rank their choice in order of preference, and under IRV no candidate is elected unless he or she gets a majority of the vote, and

Whereas, under IRV the "wasted vote" argument to longer works against third parties since voters can cast their first choice for a third party and if that candidates is eliminated their vote will go the next candidate on their ballot, and

Whereas, candidates with similar positions on the issues will share, rather than split votes which means no more "spoilers", and

Whereas, the use of Instant Run-off Voting would make special run-off elections unnecessary and thereby save taxpayers time and money and make campaigns less expensive for candidates, and

Whereas, for the reasons mentioned above, we believe that IRV will dramatically increase the number of Libertarians elected to public office; Therefore be it Resolved

The Libertarian Party of California hereby supports the use of Instant Run-Off Voting for all single seat elections for public office and urges legislators at all levels of state, local and national government to use IRV everywhere it is presently legally possible to use it and to pass new legislation permitting IRV to be used in all public elections.

d) Select location for 2002 State Convention. - Juan Ros

Tabled to next meeting.

10. Evaluation of Standing Resolutions. No revisions were proposed.

11. Next Meeting - March 17, 2001 - Renaissance Los Angeles Airport Hotel, 9620 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045, 310-337-2800

12. Adjourned - 5:51 PM