

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA

Saturday, August 20, 2005 Executive Committee Meeting at the LAX Gateway Sheraton Hotel

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am. The following Executive Committee members were present:

Officers:

Aaron Starr, Chair
Lawrence Samuels, Northern Vice Chair
Mark Selzer, Southern Vice Chair (*arrived late*)
Willard Michlin, Treasurer
Daniel Wiener, Secretary

At-Large:

Ted Brown
M Carling
Bruce Cohen
Bruce Dovner (*arrived late*)
Allen Hacker
Paul Ireland
Richard Newell
W. Rick Nichol
Kevin Takenaga

Alternates:

Frank Manske
Erich Miller was not present

Executive Director:

David Ruprecht

Guests: Joe Cobb, Michael Seebeck, Mark Johnson, Dave Hollist, Juanita Ramirez, Jay Eckl, Sandra Kallander

2. Announcements: Bob Weber is recovering from a stroke. Michael Badnarik is running for Congress in Texas District 10. Bruce Cohen is running in the 48th District congressional special election on 11/4/05. Michael Seebeck wants to resolve a problem with Riverside county dues; Riverside has endorsed McClintock's eminent domain initiative for next year.

3. Agenda: Paul Ireland moved to advance item 9 to immediately after the lunch break; passed 7-6. Willard Michlin asked to add consideration of a Conflict Resolutions Committee for 5 minutes just before lunch; approved without objection.

4. The minutes for the May 7, 2005 Executive Committee meeting were approved with a minor correction regarding David Ruprecht.

5. Staff & Officers Reports

- a. Chair Aaron Starr – The Chair is still on Shanghai time; he described some experiences during his trip there. A consultant has been found to compile a list of elected officials. \$5,000 will be spent for a preliminary analysis, and \$18,000 will ultimately be spent. At issue is the accuracy level of the data. UMP dissolution is going to have a major impact on the state party.
- b. Executive Director David Ruprecht – Dave took a two week sabbatical in Wisconsin during which he shot a commercial at a ridiculously low rate. The commercial, which Mark Johnson wrote the copy for, was shown and applauded. Dave also got his health insurance covered for the year, thereby relieving the LPC of that cost. The new laptop computer has been invaluable, as has the new Dell computer in the office. A \$5,000 donation was raised in unrestricted funds, and two other unspecified commitments have been received, so the cost of the commercial is covered and there is money for running spots. We'll probably start with some Los Angeles cable channels, still to be determined. The Golf channel or the Daily Show are good possibilities. We'll try to brand ourselves as the small business party. A meeting with Ray Melissa

and Judge Gray was set up; Ray will do some Google search work with possible Adwords and a special landing page. A work-around was found for paying the national dues of Pledgers. Caging work continued, mostly by Monica Kadera, who deserves lots of thanks. Membership inquiries have been forwarded to Mark Selzer, while volunteer inquiries have been forwarded to Allen Hacker (categorized geographically). Brochures and voter registration and membership info is being sent out. Ali Martin is an intern who has been helping, as has John Santos. Potential donors are being called and meetings set up. There were many other miscellaneous accomplishments.

- c. Northern Vice Chair Lawrence Samuels – Jay Eckl is working as a volunteer coordinator for the Central Valley. Lawrence attended a Butte County BBQ. East Bay region has split into two counties as required. Monterey County has booths and tables at events. A Santa Cruz medical marijuana march was attended by libertarians.
- d. Southern Vice Chair Mark Selzer – Mark attended the L.A. County yearly meeting and elections, and raised \$100 more in monthly pledges to L.A. County. Two people in Orange County were persuaded to rejoin and give a donation. Ventura County is without a Chair. Kern county libertarians are putting up tables in front of supermarkets and registering voters. Mark spoke to six people in Riverside after spending many hours in traffic.
- e. Secretary Daniel Wiener reported on the results of recent email ballots:
 - I. The motion to appoint M Carling, Allen Hacker, Frank Manske, Ray Strong, and Dan Wiener as members of the 2006 Bylaws Committee was approved by a vote of 10-0-0-5 on 5/17/05.
 - II. The motion to establish a Volunteer Development Committee was approved by a vote of 12-0-0-3 on 5/23/05:
 - A. Volunteer Development – Responsible for the recruitment, nurturing and organizing of volunteers for party activities.
 - III. The motion to ratify the restyled Bylaws was approved by a vote of 10-0-0-5 on 6/13/05.
 - IV. The motion appointing Dr. Scott Lieberman as LNC 1st Alternate was approved by a vote of 12-0-1-2 on 7/2/05.
 - V. The election to fill the vacant position of LNC 2nd Alternate was completed on 7/7/05 with the following results: 8 votes for Richard Burke, 5 votes for Mark Selzer, and 2 votes not received prior to the close of balloting.
 - VI. The motion that "Elizabeth Brierly is to have editorial control over California Freedom" was defeated by a vote of 5-6-1-3 on 7/12/05.
 - VII. On 6/24/05 the Operations Committee approved by a vote of 4-0-1 the following resolution which had been proposed by Allen Hacker:

WHEREAS, the US Supreme Court has ruled (*Kelo v. New London, CT*, June 23 2005) against private property in American Cities, allowing that cities and other government agencies may exercise eminent domain against virtually any property for virtually any allegedly public-service purpose, even a purpose as nebulous as increasing government tax revenues; and,

Whereas, the Kelo decision allows corporations and politically-connected developers to collude with governments to seize property from unwilling owners instead of having to negotiate voluntary sales; and

Whereas, the Kelo decision greatly increases the incentives for local corruption; and

Whereas, the Kelo decision is effectively the death of private property in the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Libertarian Party of California condemns the US Supreme Court's decision in *Kelo v Ne London, CT*. to effectively destroy private property in American cities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Libertarian Party of California will hereinafter direct its efforts toward the removal of any legislator who sponsors or votes for enabling legislation and any member of a local government agency who votes for an eminent-domain "taking" for economic development

purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Libertarian Party of California urges Congress to quickly pass, and State Legislatures to quickly ratify, an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States overturning this deplorable decision.

VIII. On 8/4/05 the Operations Committee approved by a vote of 4-0-1 the expenditure of \$3,000 for production of a 30-second TV spot starring Dave Ruprecht.

- f. Treasurer Willard Michlin thanked Dave Ruprecht and Monica Kadera for making the Treasurer's position such an easy job. Five more names, for a total of thirty, of people interested in running for office, have been given to Ted Brown. Our current net assets are \$96,775, down from \$97,229.
- g. LNC Representative M Carling reported that the LNC reversed itself and set national dues to zero, effective January 1, 2006, and eliminated the UMP as of October 1, 2005, which means the national LP will be sending out renewal letters for three months asking for dues which are going away. Anyone who has ever signed the non-initiation-of-force pledge will be considered a dues-current national LP member. The LP News will be outsourced to comply with BCRA rules; the national LP is looking for someone to take over production of the LP News. It will continue to be sent to anyone who contributes \$25 (perhaps going up to \$50) per year. BCRA has made it essentially impossible to form a new political party the way Ross Perot did. The national party will no longer even accept checks from state parties which are not filing reports with the FEC. One good thing about eliminating UMP is that it reduces and simplifies BCRA problems. The national LP had set dues too low to cover the acquisition and servicing costs of members.

6. Old business: None.

7. New business:

- a. Nominations were opened for the replacement of a vacant At-Large Representative position on the Executive Committee caused by the resignation of Mark Whitney. Frank Manske and Mark Johnson were nominated, and each gave a brief speech. The election results were 9 votes for Mark and 6 for Frank.
- b. Willard Michlin proposed a Conflict Resolutions Committee to try to handle problems through mediation and to investigate the source of problems. A motion was made to establish a working committee called the Conflict Resolution Committee which would resolve personal conflicts between party members. An attempt to amend the motion to require confidentiality failed; the Committee may determine its own rules regarding confidentiality. Passed 10-2-3. Aaron Starr appointed Willard as chair of the committee.

The Executive Committee took a lunch break.

9. Foreign policy-related resolutions

Richard Newell moved the following resolution:

Whereas: The United States has accomplished its goal of eliminating any threat of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq;
Whereas: The United States has succeeded in deposing a brutal dictator;
Whereas: There is no purpose in continuing to spend money and suffer casualties in order to occupy Iraq;
Therefore Be It Resolved: The Libertarian Party of California demands that the President and Congress expeditiously withdraw our armed forces from Iraq.

Daniel Wiener moved to suspend the rules to place all resolutions on the table and use an IRV procedure to select one of them for a final vote. Defeated 4-6-5.

Paul Ireland moved to amend by substituting the following resolution:

Whereas: The United States has accomplished its goal of eliminating any threat of weapons of mass

destruction in Iraq;

Whereas: The United States has succeeded in deposing a brutal dictator;

Whereas: The War in Iraq was sold to the American people by the administration based upon exaggerations, half-truths, and lies;

Whereas: The Libertarian Party Platform opposes foreign intervention, except in cases of imminent danger to the United States;

Whereas: The war in Iraq is not in the national security interests of the United States, and does nothing to fight terrorism, indeed increases the likelihood of terrorism;

Whereas: It is wrong to send American soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen to die or be wounded when it is not in the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas: There is no purpose in continuing to spend money and suffer casualties in order to occupy Iraq;

Therefore Be It Resolved: The Libertarian Party of California demands that the President and Congress expeditiously withdraw our armed forces from Iraq.

The motion to amend by substitution was approved 8-5-2.

Daniel Wiener moved to amend by substituting the following resolution:

A PRINCIPLED LIBERTARIAN STAND AGAINST TERRORISM

Whereas Libertarians are opposed to the initiation of force but consider the use of force for the purpose of self-defense and in retaliation against aggression to be totally justifiable; and

Whereas thousands of innocent civilians in the United States were murdered by foreign terrorists who clearly were guilty of initiating force during the 9/11 attack; and

Whereas the terrorist organization directly responsible for the 9/11 attack, as well as other terrorist organizations holding similar views, have demonstrated by word and deed that they pose a continuing and grave threat of further terrorist attacks; and

Whereas various nation-states have provided sanctuary and support to terrorist organizations and have actively resisted taking steps, or allowing others to take steps, to destroy those terrorist organizations and capture or kill their members; therefore, be it

Resolved that the Libertarian Party, in accordance with its Platform and Statement of Principles, strongly condemns all terrorist attacks and the organizations which perpetrate them; and, be it further

Resolved that the Libertarian Party endorses action, including the use of military force when appropriate, to root out and eliminate the terrorists and their organization which were responsible for the 9/11 attack as well as all other terrorists and terrorist organizations which threaten us with future attacks, wherever in the world those terrorists may be; and, be it further

Resolved that the rulers of nation-states which harbor terrorists or otherwise provide them with support, and impede efforts to capture or kill them, should be considered complicit in terrorist activities and subject to the same response as the terrorists themselves; and, be it further

Resolved that the Libertarian Party supports actions by the United States which abide by the above principles and condemns actions by the United States which violate the above principles.

Ted Brown moved to add the Wiener resolution on to the end of the previous resolution instead of substituting it; passed. Ted Brown moved to divide the question; passed. A motion to extend time failed.

M Carling claimed that it was illegal under the Bylaws for the Executive Committee to consider the resolutions. The Chair ruled that they were legal. M appealed the ruling of the Chair. The Chair's ruling was sustained 7-6-2.

The Ireland resolution as amended was defeated 7-3-5.
The Wiener resolution was defeated 2-5-8.

Following a 10 minute recess the Chair ruled that it was too late for Mark Selzer to ask for a recorded vote. Mark Selzer appealed the ruling of the Chair. The Chair's ruling was sustained 8-6-1.

7. New Business (continued)

c. Selection of Convention site

Aaron described the proposal for a convention on a cruise ship. A motion was made to hold the convention on board the Royal Caribbean's Monarch of the Seas cruise ship on February 24-27, 2006. Passed 10-3-2.

d. Approval of Convention contract

A motion was made to approve in principle the contract with Continuing Education, Inc. for discount cruise packages and other convention arrangements, giving the Chair authority to make minor changes such as adjusting the package cost to \$299 to cover speakers and other costs. Passed 11-3-1.

e. Restructuring required by UMP dissolution

M Carling explained that historical data shows new member acquisition costs are around \$60. Attrition in the first year is around 50% in most counties. Those counties with good follow-up for new members have about 60% to 70% renewal rates. In subsequent years the annual renewal rate is around 75% to 80%.

Daniel Wiener moved that dues will be set at \$50 per year, effective October 1, 2005, with a special introductory rate of \$25 for the first year. Passed 11-1-3.

Pledges of \$10/month or more will cover dues. We need to create some membership forms. M Carling is working with the office staff on getting bids for handling renewal notices and caging operations. California Freedom will continue to be distributed with the LP News until the divergence in the subscriber base makes it no longer financially worthwhile.

f. It was moved to approve the draft California Freedom Mission Statement. Allen Hacker moved to amend by adding the words "Libertarian analysis of" in front of the "political positions enjoying" bullet point; approved. Paul Ireland moved to amend the description of California Freedom as a "magazine" to a "newsletter". Bruce Cohen moved to amend the amendment by changing "newsletter" to "publication", which was passed unanimously. The amendment then passed unanimously. Mark Selzer moved to lay the motion on the table; failed 7-8. A motion to extend debate failed 6-9. The Mission Statement, as amended, passed:

EDITORIAL MISSION STATEMENT

California Freedom is the official publication of the Libertarian Party of California. Its purpose is to promote and enhance the political success of the party. To accomplish this it provides an informative and entertaining blend of political news, analysis, features and advertising for its members. Its content focuses on:

- California events - rather than national.
- Externally oriented politics - not internal debate.
- Our successes - rather than our disappointments.
- Libertarian analysis of political positions enjoying support from the mainstream of California voters.
- Practical guidance on winning elections and changing public policy.

ADVERTISING POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS

- Advertisements in *California Freedom* shall promote a positive editorial environment, enhance the image of the publication and increase its value for Libertarian Party of California members. These guidelines are intended to guarantee a high-quality publication benefiting both our readers and our advertisers.
- Advertisements are accepted at the sole discretion of the publisher and may be rejected for any reason. These reasons may include: content, appropriateness, or appearance. Funds received for advertising not published shall be promptly refunded.

- Advertisements must not be in conflict with the goals and purposes of the Libertarian Party of California, politically or philosophically.
- Advertisements must not be fraudulent, or make exaggerated or unrealistic claims for investment services, financial services, legal services, or any other product or service.
- Advertisements must be professionally designed in a digital, press-ready format, e.g., PDF or TIF files. Typewritten, handwritten or dot matrix printed ads won't be accepted. Design services are available for an additional fee.
- All advertising shall be clearly distinguishable from editorial matter.
- Advertisements must not contain photographs, visual images, or text that may be offensive to Libertarian Party of California members; or that detract from the primary message and function of *California Freedom*.
- All advertising is accepted on a run-of-press basis unless special arrangements have been made.
- *California Freedom* is not liable for any failure to print, publish or circulate any or all portion of any issue if such failure is due to natural disaster, strikes, accident or any other circumstance. In all such events, *California Freedom* shall limit its liability to the printing of an advertisement in a subsequent issue, or to refunding the cost of the advertisement.

g. November ballot measures:

Consideration of Proposition 73 was moved to the end.

A motion to take a position in support of Proposition 74 passed 11-1-3.

A motion to take a position in support of Proposition 75 passed 14-1-0.

A motion to take a position in support of Proposition 76 passed 15-0-0.

A motion to take a position in support of Proposition 77 passed 12-0-3.

A motion to take a position in opposition to Proposition 78 passed 15-0-0.

A motion to take a position in opposition to Proposition 79 passed 15-0-0.

A motion to take a position in opposition to Proposition 80 passed 15-0-0.

A motion to take a position in support of Proposition 73 failed 1-12-2.

A motion to take a position in opposition to Proposition 73 failed 5-6-4.

Accordingly, the Libertarian Party of California takes no position on Proposition 73.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. Candidate Recruitment (Ted Brown) – Dec. 30th is the first day for candidates to take out papers to run for office in the June primary. Ted has been going through his old notes going back to 1988. Dale Ogden will run for state insurance commissioner. Kevin Takenaga is working on getting Ted the current list of members and registered Libertarians. We should have a good number of candidates. It would be good to get some celebrity-type candidates for state office. Ted will start mass telephoning in two or three weeks. Bruce Cohen has 35 confirmed signatures so far for the special congressional election, but he will have to pay some portion of the filing fee.
- b. Campus Coordinator (vacant)
- c. Candidate Support (Paul Ireland) – Paul was unable to reach Todd McKenna, who failed to get on the ballot for a special congressional election due to the short time period.
- d. Coalition Building (Erich Miller) – not present.
- e. Media Relations (Richard Newell) – There have been about fourteen Libertarian Perspectives so far. There were some back-room problems distributing the columns and press releases via email.

- f. Member Communications (Bruce Cohen) – Bruce used Constant Contact to support Richard Riders' mayoral campaign in San Diego and to obtain some large cash infusions for Richard. Brent Roske got excited about possible scripts for building our membership database. Bruce is working with Elizabeth to try to improve California Freedom. Orange County had a very friendly, unifying meeting.
- g. Member Recruitment (M Carling) – Under our new structure a new member should be worth \$75 to a county, so it may be possible to convince counties to kick in some amount of money (such as \$20) to participate in an acquisition effort.
- h. Member Retention (Rick Nichol) – Rick needs to work with M Carling on the membership crisis.
- i. Political Education (Lawrence Samuels) – Frank Manske is willing to work on helping our candidates articulate libertarian views to the public, so Frank has been appointed the new committee chair.
- j. Public Access Television (Mark Selzer) – Operation eBay Freedom has been selling tapes of TV shows. Education and Home Schooling is selling the best.
- k. Legal (vacant)
- l. Volunteer Development (Allen Hacker) – Allen is close to having software ready to handle volunteers.
- m. Voter Registration (Bruce Dovner) – Bruce worked on the voter registration web site. Work is continuing on the project to mail out voter registration cards in California Freedom along with a front page article. In Bruce's opinion, getting 50 Libertarian registrants would be considered successful.
- n. Website & Infrastructure (Kevin Takenaga) – The website and back-office infrastructure is now working, and the focus has turned to the database. We also need on-line membership forms.
- o. Marketing & Branding (Mark Johnson) – Mark will work on the membership drive and marketing of the cruise convention. Donors will be given a menu of options for disseminating Dave Ruprecht's LP commercial. We need to come to a consensus on branding. Mark will interview people by phone during the next month. We also need to market our activities to the rest of the LP.

Paul Ireland moved to suspend the rules to consider Allen Hacker's peace resolution for the remainder of the meeting. Passed 8-4.

The following resolution passed 8-2-5. Voting Yes were Lawrence Samuels, Mark Selzer, Ted Brown, Bruce Dovner, Allen Hacker, Paul Ireland, Richard Newell, Rick Nichol. Voting No were Daniel Wiener and Bruce Cohen. Abstaining were Aaron Starr, Willard Michlin, M Carling, Kevin Takenaga, and Mark Johnson.

A Resolution by the Libertarian Party of California Executive Committee Affirming the National Libertarian Party Principles and Platform Concerning Foreign Intervention and the Invasion of Iraq

Whereas, the National Libertarian Party Platform's Preamble states in part, "As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others";

Whereas, the National Libertarian Party Platform's Statement of Principles states in part, "...we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others....";

Whereas, the National Libertarian Party Platform at Part IV.D.2. (Foreign Affairs / International Relations / Foreign Intervention), states in part, "The United States should not inject itself into the internal matters of other nations, unless they have declared war upon or attacked the United States, or the U.S. is already in a constitutionally declared war with them," and, "End the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid, guarantees, and diplomatic meddling";

Whereas the admittedly (by the President and Vice-president) pre-emptive ("before the fact") invasion of the sovereign nation of Iraq by the United States was accomplished in blatant disregard for American constitutional requirements and international law under treaties to which the United States is a signatory, and upon an apparently false basis of manipulated information and manufactured allegations;

Whereas the continuing military occupation of Iraq is precipitating a deplorable loss of civilian and American lives, is exacerbating American deficit spending, and appears to be aggravating the terrorist threat worldwide;

Now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Libertarian Party of California Executive Committee hereby affirms the National Libertarian Party's Preamble, Statement of Principles and Platform, in particular for this case those portions cited herein; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Libertarian Party of California Executive Committee finds, upon no tangible proof having been shown of Iraqi participation in the World Trade Center, etc. (9/11) attack, that the invasion of Iraq appears unwarranted; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Libertarian Party of California Executive Committee finds that the continuing occupation of Iraq is inimical to the interests of the citizens of the United States as well as to the interests of the citizens of Iraq; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the United States government's declared purpose of "bringing democracy to Iraq" is an offensive imposition of the values of some of our citizens over a foreign sovereign people; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Libertarian Party of California Executive Committee formally petitions that the National Libertarian Party remain constant and adamant in demanding that the United States government cease and desist in the most safely expedient manner possible from all foreign economic and military interventions, Iraq in particular, and correct its international policies so that it may at last begin to facilitate world peace through the naturally benevolent function of the Free Market.

10. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2005 in Northern California at a location to be announced.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.