

LIBERTARIAN PARTY

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 1978

COPLEY PLAZA HOTEL, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Members present:

David Bergland, Chairman  
Mary Louise Hanson, Vice-Chairwoman  
Sylvia Sanders, Secretary  
Paul S. Allen, Treasurer  
Chris Hocker, National Director  
Edward E. Clark, Member-at-large  
Edward H. Crane, III, M-a-1  
Carol Cunningham, M-a-1  
John Hilberg, M-a-1  
Charles G. Koch, M-a-1  
Williamson Evers, Region 2 Representative

Bill Webster, Region 2  
John Mason, Region 3  
Rick White, Region 3  
Ben L. Olson, Region 4  
William J. Howell, Region 5  
Tom Laurent, Region 5  
Bernie Losching, Region 6  
Steve Mariotti, Region 6  
Dr. S. Dallas Cooley, Region 7  
James U. Blanchard, III, Region 8  
Jeffrey Smith, Region 9  
Nathan Curland, Region 10

Members absent:

Dick Randolph, M-a-1  
Murray N. Rothbard, M-a-1

Tonie Nathan, Region 1  
Michael Fieschko, Region 9  
(Eric Garris, M-a-1, has resigned)

1. **CALL TO ORDER, NEW MEMBER, AGENDA, MINUTES:** The regular meeting of the National Committee of the Libertarian Party held in Boston, Massachusetts on 4 September 1978 was called to order by Chairman Bergland at 10:20 a.m.

Bergland introduced the new representative from Region 5, Tom Laurent of Oklahoma.

The question of a vacancy for a member-at-large, due to the resignation of Eric Garris, was added to the agenda following the item on minutes. The agenda was accepted with this amendment.

Sanders moved that the minutes of the previous meeting, 14 May 1978, be adopted as reported; motion carried. It was noted that Howell and Curland had not received copies, and that new copies would be sent.

2. **RESIGNATION OF GARRIS:** Bergland noted the letter of resignation received by Nat Com members from Eric Garris, member-at-large, and asked the Committee how they wanted to proceed in filling the vacancy.

Mason moved to accept nominations from Nat Com members and conduct a mail ballot prior to the next meeting. Howell objected, saying he wanted a chance to meet candidates. Hilberg suggested getting as much membership feedback as possible. Mason's motion failed.

Howell moved to fill the vacancy of the at-large position at the next meeting, and to provide notice through LP News and the state chairs that candidates are being sought. His motion passed.

Those interested in the position who were present in Boston were invited to speak to the Committee at 12:30 p.m. (See item 8)

3. **LOSCHING QUESTION:** Bergland brought up the matter of Bernie Losching, Nat Com Region 6 Representative, running for office on the Republican ticket, and the

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question of what, if any, limitations should be placed on a Nat Com member in regard to activity with other political parties. Bergland noted that Article V, Section 4 of the LP Constitution states: "With the prior advice and consent of a majority of the State Chairs within a region, the National Committee may--by a two-thirds vote--declare that Region's National Committee seat vacant. The State Chairs in that Region shall then--by a majority vote--elect a new National Committee member for that vacated seat." Bergland also noted the resolution "On Coalitions and Alignments," adopted at the 14 May 1978 meeting, containing the statement: ". . . Libertarian Party officials and members should not also be members of rival, statist political parties (e.g., Democrat or Republican)." Bergland emphasized that the matter was one of policy, and of interest to both the Committee and the membership at large.

Cunningham moved to defer action, and to refer the matter to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee at the 1979 Convention.

Howell objected that this would not settle the present situation.

Koch asked what the vote of the state chairs had been. Bergland reported three in favor of removing Losching, two opposed, and one abstention. Koch argued that this was not the advice and consent of a majority of the state chairs. Bergland's interpretation was the "majority" meant "majority vote," and thus a majority did favor declaring the seat vacant.

On motion of Evers, debate was closed, and Cunningham's motion passed.

Clark moved adoption of the following resolution: "It is the sense of the body that Nat Com members should not be members or candidates of any political party other than the Libertarian Party."

Olson moved to amend by adding that the Nat Com requests Losching to resign from his position on the Committee, due to his Republican candidacy. Crane emphasized that the matter was not one of principle, but of strategy and tactics.

On motion of Evers, debate was closed. Olson's amendment passed, with Clark abstaining. Clark's motion as amended passed, with 16 in favor, 2 opposed and 4 abstentions.

Hilberg asked for clarification on the force of resolutions. Bergland replied that resolutions have no binding force on the Consitution or Bylaws or on the next Convention.

Clark requested Howell to draft a proposed amendment to the Bylaws to discuss at the next meeting; Howell accepted.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: Paul Allen fielded questions on the Treasurer's Report, which had been mailed to the Committee prior to the meeting. On question from Olson, he identified the CBS film valued at \$450 under assets as the 3-minute Dan Rather segment on MacBride. White questioned the campaign contributions (\$2000 to Ed Clark and \$500 to Gary Greenberg). Hocker responded that these contributions were made with the advice and consent of the Chair, and were done on an ad hoc basis, based on the need at the time. Loans of \$1000 to Indiana and Texas were also discussed. Sanders brought up earlier resolutions limiting the chair to

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\$500 maximum expenditure (Resolution C3) and the National Director to \$1000 maximum expenditure (Resolution H6) without notification to the Nat Com. Hanson and Koch pointed out that budgeted items have already been approved by the Committee. Olson requested clarification on how spending decisions were to be made.

Howell moved the following resolution (incorporates a friendly amendment by Blanchard): "The National Director, with the approval of the National Chair, is authorized to disburse, without Nat Com approval, up to \$1000 on any project not budgeted by the Nat Com. A specific reporting of any such disbursement shall be made at the Nat Com meeting following such disbursement. Resolutions C3 and H6 (old numbers 13 and 24) are rescinded." His resolution passed.

Koch questioned the pledges still outstanding from the 1977 Convention; Hocker estimated that two thirds of the \$5620 would be collected.

Hocker reported that two more large fundraisers were planned for 1978, one a mailing to the corrected FEE list and another membership drive, with the help of Rich Suter.

Ray Cunningham reported on the Success in '78 project, which resulted in \$2000 in pledges and \$2000 matching funds monthly, and \$16,000 one-time contributions, plus matching funds. Another major effort is planned for March.

Crane suggested that all mailings and ads have a place for people to make monthly pledges, and mentioned Blanchard's inexpensive self-mailers.

Hocker spoke favorably of results on individual-project fundraising, such as that for the magazine ads, and asked for suggestions for future projects.

Allen raised the subject of corporate contributions, and Clark requested the National Director to solicit Political Action Committees of corporations for contributions.

Sanders moved that the Committee offer a vote of thanks to Bob Meier for his enormous contribution to the Party in forgiving past salary due; general assent.

Hanson requested comparative financial statements (budget vs. actual expenditures) for the next meeting.

Allen's motion to adopt the Treasurer's Report passed.

5. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF: Bergland reported that National Headquarters staff consists of Chris Hocker, National Director, hired last October at \$1500 per month for a year; Cynthia Ingham, Administrative Assistant, hired last November at \$1000 per month; and Jay Hilgartner, YLA Director, hired full-time last January at \$750 per month. On question of Sanders, Hocker clarified that his salary for periods he has spent in California has not been paid by the national LP. Hocker recommended ten per cent pay raises for both Ingham and Hilgartner for their next year.

Hanson's motion that Ingham be offered a ten per cent raise as of November passed.

Howell's motion (with friendly amendment by Cooley) that Hocker be rehired for another year with a fifteen per cent raise (a salary of \$1725 per month) beginning in October passed.

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Crane recommended, and Webster moved, that a Salary Review Committee be formed to prepare recommendations for future salary decisions. Bergland offered a friendly amendment that this committee consist of the Treasurer as permanent chair and two other members of the Nat Com, appointed by the Treasurer. The motion passed.

6. TAX/ELECTION DAY: Olson moved to suspend the rules to consider a proposal from Mal Iles of Iowa on "Tax/Election Day." His motion passed.

Iles explained the concept of Tax/Election Day: that all elections--local, state and federal--be held on the same day taxes are due. This links taxation and representation, and could be expected to influence voting in a libertarian direction.

Olson proposed a resolution that:"the Nat Com endorses the concept of combining Tax Day and Election Day, and encourages state parties and candidates to work for this proposal." The resolution passed.

7. NATIONAL DIRECTOR ABSENCES: White aired the matter of Hocker's absence from the National Headquarters to work for the Clark campaign in California. Hocker agreed that the situation was far from ideal, but that the importance of getting on the ballot in California outweighed other considerations; such action should not be necessary in the future.
8. CANDIDATES FOR NAT COM POSITION: Jim Clarkson, Dale Hemming and Steve Sparling spoke to the Committee regarding their interest in and ability for serving on the Nat Com.
9. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PROJECTS: Hocker reported on:
- a) NEW POLITICAL TIMES: 120,000 have been printed, with very good response. Several states reprint them with local information plugged in.
  - b) OUTLOOK: Some are available, but NPT has largely replaced this.
  - c) ENVIRONMENT MATERIALS: Bob Smith has completed both a fact sheet and a booklet on the libertarian approach to environmental problems; both are being read by the Publications Committee. Advance copies are available on request.
  - d) YLA SUPPLEMENT: contains material in addition to YLA Handbook, particularly on starting a campus newspaper.
  - e) LOCAL PROBLEMS: LIBERTARIAN SOLUTIONS: completed by Bill Burt; rough copies are available; an artist will be hired to design a cover before the first major printing.
  - f) MAGAZINE ADS: will reach at least 1½, possibly 3, million readers. Campaigns using the ads are in Iowa; New Hampshire; Orange County, California; Arizona; Madison, Wisconsin; and Cleveland, Ohio. Matching funds have been raised through a direct mail appeal.
  - g) 800 NUMBER: For the first two months the toll-free information number (800-424-2734) had little activity, but now we are into the magazine ad stage, and calls are picking up.

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Cunningham moved to revise the budget to continue the 800 toll-free number and answering service with funding from national until the next meeting, unless Chris decides to discontinue due to lack of response. (The service costs over \$300 per month.) Mason offered a friendly amendment to try to fund the service through specific contributions. The motion passed. Hocker agreed to prepare a detailed report on the 800 number for the next meeting.

10. NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Crane reported that the functions of this subcommittee are to encourage state parties to produce regular newsletters; to discuss the uses of newsletters for internal information, propaganda and membership expansion; and to make articles available. Milton Muller and Steve Sparling were suggested for membership on the subcommittee. Crane will have definite proposals for the next meeting.
11. 50 IN 80 COMMITTEE: Crane reported that preliminary research shows that we should have a minimum of 40, a good chance of 45, and a slim possibility of 50 states on the ballot in 1980. Volunteer legal help and friendly legislators are needed to help change the laws in the following states: "difficult": Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Missouri and Michigan; "next to impossible": Oklahoma, Montana, Georgia, Arkansas, West Virginia and Maryland. In Kansas, Wisconsin and Delaware, and possibly in California and Oklahoma, ballot status should be sought in 1979. Ten or twelve states will have ballot status before 1980. Bergland encouraged the use of rock concerts to get registrations and fund the drive. Crane distributed a letter and questionnaire recently sent out to state chairs.
12. ACTIVIST WORKSHOPS: Hocker presented a proposal for a "traveling show" of activist workshops around the country during 1979, subsidized by national and run by himself and local talent. The workshops would be combined with written materials on campaigning skills. He was given encouragement to work out details for presentation at the next meeting.
13. REGIONAL REPORTS:
  - Region 1: (Hocker) Montana--not active. Idaho--running three candidates to maintain ballot status; Fulmer may do very well; Nat Hentoff at convention; \$4700 from tax check-off. Washington--happy and unified; five candidates, major effort Willey; Thoreau Foundation (Richard Kenney) started. Oregon--ballot status in Jackson County, 3 candidates; Baures might win; wrote gas tax ballot argument. Alaska--Three of the four Libertarian candidates for state legislature from Fairbanks probably will win, including Randall; this will be the first test of Libertarian officials not accepting a tax-funded salary.
  - Region 2: (Webster and Bergland) California--Clark, Bergland, others are on the ballot; Proposition 13's effects are still being felt--it requires a 2/3 vote to raise taxes; full-time activist for the state party. Hawaii--Rossell and two other candidates on ballot. Guam--not active.
  - Region 3: (White and Mason) Nevada--ten to twelve serious candidates; anti-tax projects; intermittent newsletter. Wyoming--newsletter. Utah--Chapman stepping down as chair; no candidates, though could be on ballot; anti-tax projects. New Mexico--four candidates; Walsh very serious campaign. Colorado--possibly twelve candidates. Arizona--30 to 40 candidates, very strong in three counties; very successful in getting feature publicity.
  - Region 4: (Olson) North Dakota--not active. South Dakota--tried for ballot and missed by only 300 signatures; will be active in anti-tax and other projects.

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Nebraska--positive; Bob Steiner has moved there; a libertarian is running for state legislature in a non-partisan race. Kansas--(Koch) Will have new chair, newsletter, local activity; sales tax issue. Missouri--a mailing list of 400, but no newsletter; 1 candidate, Haenni; supper club. Iowa--three, probably four candidates, state fair and parade activity; tax action coalition, affiliated with NTU. Minnesota--many candidates, including two for U. S. Senate, Governor, Lt. Governor, legislature; morale could be better.

Region 5: (Howell) Oklahoma--(Laurent) 1 candidate, increasing activity. Texas--four strong county parties; ballot drive unsuccessful, but close; working on projects like referendum, candidate questionnaire. Arkansas--not active.

Region 6: (Mariotti presented a written report) Illinois--ballot status (33,000 signatures collected) with 10 candidates; tax limitation. Wisconsin--Candidates Fields and Losching; YLA strong, conference Oct. 28-29 in Madison. Indiana--did not make ballot statewide, but Fischer for Congress and two council candidates did; convention featured Gann, Hocker, Emerling. Ohio--Lehman strong candidate in Cleveland; supper club; good newsletter. Michigan--did not make ballot, but laws are being challenged; morale low due to debt and election law situation. Kentucky--not active. Mariotti also offered a caveat about election laws: he predicted they will become more restrictive around the country.

Region 7: (Cooley) Tennessee--Bacon race in Memphis has a chance; active party. North Carolina--Conerly new state chair; very active; six candidates, permanent ballot status. Virginia--one local (Arlington) candidate. Maryland--new chair; needs organization; one candidate. West Virginia--not active. D.C.--not active.

Region 8: (Jim Clarkson for Blanchard) Louisiana--one candidate on ballot. Mississippi--no candidates. Alabama--no candidates; new leadership; ballot status for 1980. Georgia--one candidate; tough ballot laws. Florida--newsletter; little action. South Carolina--several candidates; ballot status uncertain.

Region 9: (Smith) New York--Greenberg major race; ballot deadline Sept. 15--tight. New Jersey--several candidates. Delaware--Good new chair; can now qualify for ballot with small number of registrations. Pennsylvania--Smith for Congress on ballot; working on newsletter; new chair.

Region 10: (Curland) Connecticut--two local candidates; hiring someone to work for party. Rhode Island--small, no candidates. Maine--getting going. Massachusetts--much work on convention; four candidates. Vermont--no activity. New Hampshire--14 candidates; full-time executive director; have become accepted part of political scene; good chance for permanent ballot status.

14. 1979 CONVENTION: Bergland reported that professional help (including P. R.) will be available from the Bonaventure Hotel. The convention is scheduled for the weekend after Labor Day. The subcommittee, including California members of the Nat Com, have met once, will be meeting more frequently now that ballot drive is over.

15. YES ON 23: Hanson moved adoption of a resolution proposed by David Nolan:  
"WHEREAS we as Libertarians believe that all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, without surrendering to government confiscation, and  
WHEREAS taxation is nothing more than legalized theft, and  
WHEREAS the Libertarian Party's national platform specifically calls for repeal

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of the Sixteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. . .

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the National Committee of the Libertarian Party that we declare our support for the nationwide "YES ON 23" petition drive now being conducted on behalf of House Joint Resolution 23 (popularly known as the Liberty Amendment) and urge all state and local Libertarian Party organizations to participate in said petition drive wherever possible and appropriate."

After objections to the resolution by Crane, Howell and Hocker, Sanders' motion to table passed.

16. NEXT MEETING: Hanson moved that the next meeting of the Nat Com be held in Las Vegas, Nevada January 13 and 14; the motion passed. After discussion, it was agreed that a two day format would be used for the meeting, that time would be allowed for subcommittee meetings, and that a detailed agenda would be sent in advance, with reports and proposals attached.
17. MEMBERSHIP: Clark requested that membership printouts by state be sent to state chairs; Sanders requested a printout by state to begin delegate apportionment procedures.
18. ANNUAL REPORT: Sanders requested guidance in what Nat Com members wanted in the Secretary's Annual Report, to be presented at the next meeting. Information on finances, membership and candidates, as compared with one year ago, was suggested. Further suggestions should be sent to Sanders and Hocker.
19. DUES: Sanders noted that the dues listed in the latest LP News differed from those approved by the latest Nat Com resolution on dues (Resolution K4, passed 1/30/77), and moved the following: "The dues of the Party shall be as follows: Student, \$5; Basic, \$10; Sustaining, \$20; Patron, \$100; Associate, \$250; Benefactor, \$1000." The resolution passed. Howell pointed out that dues had been changed before without Nat Com approval, and emphasized that this was improper.
20. PLATFORM AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEES: Sanders requested that applicants for the Platform and Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committees be invited, and publicized in the LP News. Crane suggested that appointments to the committees be placed on the agenda for the next meeting; general consent.
21. VACANCIES: Sanders requested that filling the positions of Membership Chair and three members of the Mailing List Committee be placed on the agenda for the next meeting; general assent.
22. NEIL SMITH PROPOSAL: Sanders requested that Neil Smith's letter and proposals, received prior to this meeting by Nat Com members, particularly the idea of a Shadow Cabinet, be placed on the agenda for the next meeting; general assent.
23. THANKS TO MASSACHUSETTS: Hanson moved a vote of thanks to the Massachusetts Party for hosting the convention and the Nat Com meeting; general assent.
24. ADJOURNMENT: Crane moved that the meeting be adjourned; general assent.

Respectfully submitted,



Sylvia Sanders, Secretary

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ADDENDA

RESOLUTIONS: Nat Com members at the meeting received copies of the newly-compiled resolutions; absent members and state chairs should be receiving these with these minutes. Please check them over to see if you have any arguments. Also please note the following changes, based on actions taken at this meeting:

- A10. It is the sense of the body that Nat Com members should not be members or candidates of any party other than the Libertarian Party. (9/4/78:3)
- G9. The National Director, with the approval of the National Chair, is authorized to disburse, without Nat Com approval, up to \$1000 on any project not budgeted by the Nat Com. A specific reporting of any such disbursement shall be made at the Nat Com meeting following such disbursement.. Resolutions C3 and H6 are rescinded. (9/4/78:4) (Rescinds C3, H6)
- G10. The salary of the National Director shall be \$1725 per month beginning in October 1978. (9/4/78:5) (Alters G8)
- F12. A Salary Review Committee, consisting of the Treasurer as its permanent chair and two members of the Nat Com appointed by the Treasurer, shall prepare recommendations for salary decisions. (9/4/78:5)
- A11. The Nat Com endorses the concept of combining Tax Day and Election Day, and encourages state parties and candidates to work for this proposal. (9/4/78)
- K6. The dues of the Party shall be as follows: Student, \$5; Basic, \$10; Sustaining, \$20; Patron, \$100; Associate, \$250; Benefactor, \$1000. (9/4/78) (Rescinds K4)

GREEN SHEET CHANGE:

new Region 5 Representative:

Tom Laurent  
113 South 17th  
Guthrie, OK 73044

(409) 282-0292 (home)  
282-0820 (office)