

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 11-20-2004

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA
Saturday, November 20, 2004 Executive Committee Meeting
Burgundy Room at Sheraton Gateway Hotel, 6101 West Century

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:09 pm.

Officers:

Aaron Starr, Chair
Lawrence Samuels, Northern Vice Chair (absent)
Mark Selzer, Southern Vice Chair
Monica Kadera, Treasurer
Daniel Wiener, Secretary

At-Large:

M Carling
Ted Brown
Bruce Dovner
Allen Hacker (absent)
Mark Hinkle

David Nolan (At-Large Alternate) (absent)
B.J. Wagener (At-Large Alternate) (absent)

Regional Representatives:

Steve Cicero, San Diego
Allen Rice, Santa Clara
Bruce Cohen, Orange County
Mike Binkley, L.A. South Bay (absent)
Frank Manske, East Bay Representative

Terry Floyd, East Bay First Alternate (absent)
Timothy Johnson, Orange County Alternate (absent)
Mike Laursen, Santa Clara Alternate (absent)
Al Carlin, South Bay Alternate

David Ruprecht, Executive Director

2. Public Comments and Announcements

Executive Committee members introduced themselves. The meeting room is complimentary, since the hotel will be used for the 2005 state convention. Doo-Dah parade on 11/21/04. Audrey Carlin present.

3. Approve Agenda

Item 9c was inserted, for a Political Education Committee report (5 min). The agenda was approved as amended.

4. Consent Calendar - no items

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. ExCom meeting (8-21-04) – minutes were approved (as amended) without objection. The spelling of "Baca" will be corrected.

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6. Officer & Staff Reports

Chair - Aaron Starr

Prop 62 was defeated. Prop 60 allows us to get write-in candidates with only 40 Libertarian signatures. Primaries are now moved to June from March, which allows people more time to be a write-in Libertarian candidate. Cross-filing is back, so non-Libertarian can run as a write-in candidate. There will be far fewer races where there is only one major party candidate. The Chair is aware of 8 winning Libertarian candidates. Kate O'Brien was re-elected to the Rancho Simi Park District by a huge margin. Frank Manske was elected as Mt. Diablo Health Care District board member. LPC finances are in good shape. Executive Director David Ruprecht was hired.

Executive Director – David Ruprecht

David is trying to straighten out the office and make it much more volunteer-friendly. He's getting rid of unneeded equipment. Dave is putting together a regional chairs list. For the Writers Bureau, op-ed articles will be gang-emailed to state media; we'll want monitors to spot articles or other clippings which mention the LP. Then we can include clippings when sending out invoices. Articles will go after small business owners. We're trying to track down Libertarian elected officials. Dave wrote a newsletter article and attended various events and meetings. There is a possible telemarketer at \$35/hr.

Northern Vice-Chair - Lawrence Samuels -- Not present

Southern Vice-Chair - Mark Selzer

Mark has a campaign to increase membership and pledges by one per day. He's doing more work on TV show.

Secretary – Daniel Wiener

In email ballots:

- Approval of the minutes for the 8/21/2004 Executive Committee meeting failed.
- The LPC adopted a position in opposition to Prop 70 (the Indian gaming compact initiative).
- Steve Kubby's request to rent the LPC mailing list was approved. (However, Kubby has not agreed to one of the terms, to only use net proceeds for legal expenses.)
- The LPC passed a resolution expressing support for Steve Kubby's legal battle.
- A motion repudiating Dan Avila and opposing his election to any office was passed.
- A motion suspending Dan Avila's membership in the Libertarian Party of California for cause was passed. (Following his appeal to Judicial Committee, and then his failure to respond to emails from the Judicial Committee and meet deadlines for a hearing, his membership was terminated.) (M Carling is attempting to change rules of national LP to allow termination of members on national level.)
- The LPC was authorized to loan money to neighboring states if needed to cover late UMP payments.
- A motion to recognize Region 70 (West Riverside County) as being active failed.
- An Operations Committee motion to endorse Prop 1A failed.

The media database was sent to David Ruprecht, but he's still having problems accessing it. A message about SJR22 was sent out for Mark Hinkle.

Treasurer - Monica Kadera

The LPC has \$89,709 in the bank. Regional checks are ready to go out. We need an Audit Committee; Al Carlin will help and will try to get Dale Ogden and others to help. The LPC will refund the check from Kubby for rental of the mailing list. The LPC PAC is moribund; papers were filed to shut it down.

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2005 preliminary budget:

In appreciation of the great work by Elizabeth Brierly on the LPC newsletter, it was moved to increase her compensation from \$350 to \$450 per issue effective as of the next payment. M Carling moved a substitute motion to make it effective with the January issue and give her a \$250 end-of-2004 bonus. The substitution amendment passed, and then the main motion passed unanimously.

A motion to extend time for 15 minutes failed 5-6.

The budget was approved on roll call vote 13-0. In favor were: Aaron Starr, Mark Selzer, Monica Kadera, Daniel Wiener, M Carling, Ted Brown, Bruce Dovner, Mark Hinkle, Steve Cicero, Allen Rice, Bruce Cohen, Frank Manske, and Al Carlin.

LNC Report – M Carling

Portland has been selected for the 2006 national convention. A motion regarding dues failed. A motion to let the Treasurer cook the books (i.e., ignore life membership liabilities) failed. A budget was adopted, but not a good one (it's not conservative and it violates the national party's reserve requirements). The office is sorting out database conversion problems (behind schedule). The treasurer forced out bookkeeper (who was also the operations person) due to personality issues and accounting differences. National will focus more on recruiting new members; lapsed member efforts have gotten all the low-hanging fruit. There is much staff turn-over; most are good. The Executive Director is better with front office than back office activities; we need a strong operations director (a new one starts Monday). FEC reports: The former bookkeeper amended reports as often as 12 or 13 times in a single day, which caught the FEC's attention; the LP has not been forthcoming in meeting inquiry deadlines; Mark Nelson, Treasurer, is legally responsible. Audit Committee responsibilities were defined, despite objections of the Treasurer. Geoffrey Neale is no longer involved in the database due to insistence by Treasurer on conforming its structure to accounts. Neale won't give the FEC extraction program to Treasurer, and the Treasurer won't allow the former bookkeeper to do work on a voluntary basis. Our Region has a great relationship with Oregon; Hawaii is not very communicative but is being kept informed.

7. a) 2005 Convention Report. It will be held Friday evening through Sunday evening (Feb 18-20). The website for the convention will be handled by Allen Hacker. Potential speakers are Gary Nolan, Tom McClintock (no honorarium), Jim Babca, Jim Gray, and Kate O'Brien.

A motion to extend time for 5 minutes passed 10-2.

Package prices: \$39 for floor pass, \$69 for floor pass plus breakout sessions, \$249 for all speakers & meals, \$299 for everything. Bruce Cohen will sell packages, as will Dave Ruprecht. An ad will go in the newsletter.

Time was extended for another 5 minutes.

Thea McClean will do registration.

Platform Committee may skip (most of) its time, and perhaps give time to the Program Committee.

b) LPC Regional Officers List posting privileges: it should include all officers and be a moderated list.

8. a) Selection of a Credentials Committee. Thea McClean may take up the task. The Secretary was empowered to determine the Credentials Committee.

b) Discussion of Western Riverside's (Region 70) status. A motion was made to rescind the prior action which divided Riverside County into two regions, subject to the consent of the Chair of Desert Area Libertarian Region (71) and the Chair Pro-Tem of Western Riverside Region (70), the resulting region to be known as Riverside County region (33). Passed 11-0-2.

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- c) Steve Cicero made the following motion: Whereas Eli Conroe has behaved in a manner unbecoming of a libertarian; and Whereas he has advocated the use of force as a means of achieving political and social goals; Resolved that the Executive Committee suspends Mr. Conroe's membership in the Libertarian Party of California. The motion failed 8-1-4, having required at least ten votes.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Candidate Recruitment & Elected Officials – Ted Brown reported some very good results, especially down-ticket. We won on 8 ballot measures. Laura Brown had 8.7% in a 3-way Assembly votes. “Teacher” and “Crime Scene Investigator” are good occupation designations. 3.5% House, 4.2% State Senate, and 4.4% State Assembly were the averages of Libertarian Party candidates in races with both major party candidates.
- b. Coalition Building – Terry Floyd wasn't present.
- c. Guest Opinions – B.J. Wagener wasn't present.
- d. Fundraising – Bruce Cohen: We need to get Jim Gray's list, as promised. Discussions were held with David Ruprecht. We need to ASK regularly, and use direct mail as well as other methods. Perhaps we can do something in January?
- e. Awards – Bruce Cohen. Bruce got some advice from the new head of the Republican Party (who seems very libertarian). Recognizing people is very important.
- f. Legislation – Allen Rice. Analysis of the election results is on Allen's web site. In registration vs votes we did really well as far as percent of base.
- g. Legal – Martina Slocomb has resigned, so this position is vacant.
- h. Events Planning & Oversight – M Carling gave a report.
- i. Bylaws Committee – M Carling: Moved to fill vacancy with Frank Manske. Approved unanimously.
- j. Volunteer Development – Allen Hacker – not present.
- k. Membership Acquisition & Retention – Allen Rice: A list of volunteers is being sent out to regions. New members are being welcomed with a form letter. A motion by M Carling to commend Allen Rice for his efforts was approved unanimously. The Executive Director will telephone new members.
- l. Platform Committee – Ted Brown will hold the usual Friday convention meeting.
- m. Voter Registration – Bruce Dovner: no report.
- n. Infrastructure Development & Website – Bruce Dovner. The network in the office is working, as is the laptop connection. The front computer is running out of memory. Equipment was boxed up. Platform, Bylaws, and Program mailing lists are being created. Bruce is working on a cosmetic redesign of the web site. The Aug. 1st database is up. Allen Rice will translate current data from national into the previous format so old scripts will work.
- o. Program Committee – Bruce Dovner: the usual meeting is planned.
- p. Member Communications – Mark Hinkle gave a report.

10. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held following the state convention.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.