

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

LNC MEETING NOVEMBER 16–17, 2019

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Policy Manual Section 2.02 SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Historical Preservation Committee

The HPC shall be responsible for directing the preservation and publication of Party historical documents and the administration of LPedia.org. A report of its decisions and activities shall be delivered at each LNC meeting.

The scope of the initial organizing work will last well into several years (the estimate is at least additional five years depending on member involvement), and LPedia will need to be maintained for the time of its existence.

Committee Members

- Caryn Ann Harlos (Chair)
- Joe Dehn (Secretary)
- Ed Fochler
- James Gholston
- Andrew Kolstee

Status of search for potential additions to committee:

The search for additional committee members has thus far been unsuccessful in discovering additional qualified applicants. The committee next term may wish to address this or decide to keep the committee at its current size.

Reports, Meetings, and Communications

The Committee is committed to transparency and conducts open meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month via Zoom. The monthly agenda is posted and updated here: http://lpedia.org/LPedia:LPHPC_Agenda. 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. The minutes and other records from its proceedings are preserved on LPedia¹ (links noted below for member review):

¹ The complete history of minutes and reports can be found at: http://lpedia.org/National_Historical_Preservation_Committee

Minutes Prepared since the last report:²

- July 17, 2019 https://lpedia.org/w/images/a/a6/Minutes_2019-07-17_HPC.pdf
- August 7, 2019 https://lpedia.org/w/images/9/95/Minutes_2019-08-07_HPC.pdf
- August 21, 2019 https://lpedia.org/w/images/d/d9/Minutes_2019-08-21_HPC.pdf
- October 16, 2019 http://lpedia.org/w/images/9/9e/Minutes_2019-10-16_HPC.pdf
- September 18, 2019 http://lpedia.org/w/images/8/83/Minutes_2019-09-18_HPC.pdf
- September 4, 2019 http://lpedia.org/w/images/3/39/Minutes_2019-09-04_HPC.pdf

Prior Committee Reports this Term:

- September 29, 2018 http://lpedia.org/w/images/e/e8/Report_2018-09-29_HPC.pdf
- March 9, 2019 http://lpedia.org/w/images/4/48/Report_2017-04-15_LPHPC.pdf
- July 29, 2019 https://lpedia.org/w/images/6/64/Report_2019-07-28_LPHPC.pdf

Motions Considered

James Gholston moved to authorize spending whatever remains of this year's budget on scanning; the motion passed without objection.

Regular Dedicated Non-Committee Volunteers

There are multiple regular volunteers that tend to specialize either in their state or in related subject matters such as election statistics. The committee is in search of another Colorado on-site volunteer and will be exploring internships once again. Ms. Harlos has been encouraging the state affiliates to take ownership of their pages and update them regularly.

² As per the requirements of the Policy Manual Section 2.02.1, the above-linked minutes contain the dates and attendance rosters for each of the Committee's meetings since the previous regular LNC Meeting.

STATUS OF DOCUMENT PRESERVATION

Storage Unit

Initial plans have been made to expand the shelving at the unit in order to maximize the storage space, but we are not at that point. Details on the method behind the organizational process as well as a tour of the site are available upon request.

Digitization

Documents and Papers:

All of the issues of LPNews are now up and digitized and another large batch of items to be scanned has been prepared comprising fund-raising letters, tri-folds, and misc. national publications such as Libertarian Volunteer. The expected completion date for that scan job by the vendor is December/January.

Audio/Video/Electronic Data Materials:

We received previously unknown boxes and boxes of Clark video material that will be digitized in the future, with some of the items being in the rarer formats for which there is only one current vendor who does that work. We need volunteers to work on other media categories such as audio and VHS. Additionally, all of the past meetings on UStream need to be downloaded ASAP as the Party wishes to cancel that account.

YouTube Channel:

This has worked out very well and the option of mirroring to Bit.tube will be implemented in the future for protection and redundancy. Bit.tube has just undergone a massive restructuring, so this project is waiting to make sure all the kinks have been worked out.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Harlos obtained high-quality sheet-fed and large-format flatbed scanners to use (used items retired from an office environment), Mr. Fochler acquired a CZUR scanner, and Mr. Dehn has obtained an iCODIS scanner. Both the CZUR and ICODIS are overhead scanners. These were not charged to the committee but are personal purchases that will be made available for the committee's use.

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS AND PROJECTS

State Party Preservation Efforts

State Party Coordinated Preservation Efforts/Committees:

- California
 - A historical committee, chaired by Joe Dehn, is working on collecting and preserving material relating to the state and local LP organizations.
- Colorado
 - The affiliate is using LPedia as its public records archive and regularly uploads records.

- Illinois
 - Their complete archive has been donated to the special collections library at the University of Illinois and added to the LPedia external archive list.
- New York
 - A historical committee is being led by Andrew Kolstee to organize their substantial records.

Individual Preservation Efforts or Donations of Items

Individuals regularly contact the committee regarding their personal collections. The committee is very focused about what kinds of material it will accept, and offers advice concerning items it generally does not accept. In cases where it appears that important items will be thrown away if the committee does not intervene, we try to find a home for them in an academic archive if possible. The priority remains the national party records, and the committee encourages and trains state parties to use LPedia as their permanent archive and to organize local volunteers to do the digitization work.

Nolan Archive

These materials are presently stored in the Utah home of Dr. Buchman who has expressed interest in writing a biography of David with the encouragement of his widow, Elizabeth. Elizabeth signed a written copyright waiver for these materials to be published with or without attribution to LPedia and for commercial or non-commercial use. Ms. Harlos will be consulting with Dr. Buchman to find out his current intentions and perhaps transfer those records to Colorado.

Craigslist

Ms. Harlos proposed that the committee put advertisements on Craigslist in major cities soliciting donations of older historical material and had researched a vendor that could manage this for us. It appears that the vendor may have scammed us, and Ms. Harlos committed to making a personal donation to recoup the cost if her efforts to pursue a refund from the vendor is unsuccessful.

Yahoo Lists

The committee is researching potential solutions to bulk download these lists for preservation but so far is encountering difficulties. New options are being explored at the November meetings. Yahoo has notified its users that these groups will be deleted on December 14, 2019 making this a top priority.

Miscellaneous

Doug Hoiles (CA) sent the committee a previously unpublished manuscript of Karl Bray that he had from when he was working with on potentially self-publishing in the year of Karl's death. Doug did not want this manuscript to be lost and wanted it to be preserved in our physical archives at a minimum. The title of work is "Taxes are Revolting: Why Aren't You?."

STATUS OF LPEDIA

General Statistics³

- 3,532 Articles
- 22 Active Editors
- 4,222 Document/Image Uploads

Daily unique visitors remain about 100-125 with bumps when particular pieces are featured on Facebook, I appear at various speaking engagements, and around the dates of various elections. The committee is presently working hard to provide a framework for having usable and helpful data as the crucial 2020 election season approaches.

Featured Articles

At regular intervals, detailed and image-rich articles are featured on the front page to freshen up content and highlight various affiliates, events, people, and documents. Nearly any article can qualify if they meet the standards of high-quality content. Types of content are alternated in order to not emphasize one interest over any other and provide variety. The following are the 2019 featured articles thus far:

- Chuck Moulton
- Libertarian Party US Presidential Election Results
- Alex Merced
- Libertarian Party of California Voter Registration
- David Bergland
- Mike Seebeck
- LP News Issue 1

Massive Category Clean-Up

During the Wild West years of LPedia, the category tree decided to embrace anarchism and had resisted Ms. Harlos' top-down insistence on a logical organization but her determined authoritarianism has prevailed, and the resource is rapidly becoming more useable rather than having arcane categories for any possible combination of desired tags such as "Pink-haired Libertarians in Colorado with a Beagle." The initial structure has been laid out using OmniOutliner with the master file available for download. The process is coming close to completion with the exclusion of the "images" and "publication files" categories. The current top-level category tree is structured as follows:

- Collections
- Definitions

³ ***Last report statistics:***

- 3,165 Articles
- 30 Active Editors
- 3,611 Document/Image Uploads

- Events
- Images
- Issues
- Lists
- LPedia
- Organizations
- People
- Places
- Publications
- Records

Templates

This is another area that had been in rough and disorganized shape and has been methodically organized by Mr. Kolstee. The present goal is the deprecation of all obsolete templates, the creation of a current template index, and preparation of usage documentation for each template.

Technical Issues

Mr. Fochler noted that current wiki best practices involve using /wiki/ as the subdirectory for main wiki content. The committee is working with the host provider (mywikis) in order to make a smooth transition to this format without losing our page ranks.

Data Back-Ups

Regular back-ups are done professionally and consistently. All of the uploaded documents are also kept offline on hard drives and regularly copied to drives stored at a safety deposit box. Any member who provides Ms. Harlos with hard drives may have a copy of all of these records. The committee would like to see them widely distributed so that there is never a single source/point of failure.

General Upgrades/Improvements

The following items were added:

- “Getting Started as Contributor” added to sidebar
- An informational box was created for insertion on documents that change over time (such as platforms and bylaws) to indicate that the subject version was not the most current version.

STATE CONVENTIONS

Convention booths featuring historical items were featured at the Alabama, California, Colorado, and New York conventions.

2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The committee has begun its initial planning to table at the 2020 national convention.

ACCOUNTING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019

Total Expenses Booked: \$536.00

Total Revenue: \$2,665.00

Total Budget: \$2,500.00

Funds Committed: \$2,000.00

The committee is now fully funded for the year and has been advised by Mr. Kraus that it can raise and spend up to 10% over budget without requiring a budget amendment. These figures will be re-evaluated before the December meeting. The historical project has fundraised its own budget since its creation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caryn Ann Harlos, Committee Chair