



# T LIBERTARIAN

## PARTY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY September 16, 2020

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, 16 September 2020 at 4:00pm Mountain time

**Where:** Online: Zoom

**Committee Attendees:** Caryn Ann Harlos, Joe Dehn, Ed Fochler, James Gholston, Andrew Kolstee

**Other Attendees:** none

The meeting was called to order at 4:08pm Mountain time.

**Records of Past Meetings:** The minutes of the 2 September meeting were approved.

**Videotapes:** Caryn Ann reported that Whitney Bilyeu has some VHS tapes that she wants digitized; she will be sending them to Caryn Ann who will then select which ones to forward on to Tara.

**Site Statistics:** Ed reported that normal traffic is still running at about 100 users/day, but that is based on removing from the counts a larger amount of additional traffic that appears to be somebody in China copying the whole site. This additional traffic started in early September and has been dropping off since then, but at this point about 30% of the "user" count still seems to be a result of this.

**Feature Article:** Joe reported that "History of the Libertarian Party of New York" is now the featured article, and explained the process by which he made this selection, starting with an attempt to find a suitable article using the new rating system. He found that we don't yet have enough articles rated "B" for this to be used directly (most of those either having already been featured or not suitable for some other reason), but this experiment did lead him indirectly to the article he chose. He suggested we need to put more effort into both rating existing articles and improving their quality.

**Rating System:** Joe said he is planning to do assessments of various classes of articles relating to the Libertarian Party of California, e.g., past state chairs, past candidates for Governor and US Senate, and the county/local organizations. The goal



of this would be to create tables that show the work to be done to get these kinds of articles in shape, as a tool for the LPC HPC to prioritize work and encourage volunteers. Currently, there are many past state chairs and candidates for important offices for whom there is no article at all. As part of this he has written a program that can, making use of the category pages that already exist for each quality rating, tabulate the quality ratings for any specific list of articles. Andrew said that as part of assessing the rest of the articles we may want to come up with recommendations for standard sections, and their order, for various types of articles (e.g., biographical, state parties). Joe said we should avoid being overly rigid about this, as this could encourage a writing/editing style that would in some cases not fit a particular subject and make some articles harder to read. There was, however, general agreement that it would make sense to come up with a standard order for topics, to be applied to the degree those topics are going to be covered in any given article. James mentioned the LP of Santa Clara County as an example of what an article about a county party should look like.

**State Collections:** Caryn Ann reported that material relating to Colorado is being uploaded at least monthly. She said there should be an article about the history of the Libertarian Party of Oregon dispute, as it has heated up again. There was discussion of similar disputes/splits that have occurred in other states, which might also be documented. Joe noted that such splits often arise from attempts to apply state election laws to the LP, but that this doesn't always lead to acrimony, citing the case of California when a split was initially deemed necessary (in 1980) but then because everybody actually wanted to work together they found a way to recombine the organizations.

**Committee Membership:** Caryn Ann reported that she was, at the recent LNC meeting, reappointed as Chair of this committee, and that she was in turn reappointing the rest of the current members as of today. She said another mailing will be going out shortly inviting applications for another committee so she will arrange for the HPC to be included in that. She will pass along to us the responses from both that and the earlier mailing together.

**Nolan Collection:** Caryn Ann reported that she had a chance to speak with Joe Buchman at the LNC meeting. They spoke about arrangements for him to visit the storage room, but because he won't be going home before then this will not be an



opportunity for him to bring any of the Nolan material. It is still not clear where things stand on the request that he ship the material to our scanning company.

**LNC Meeting:** Caryn Ann reported on various topics, noting that there was relatively little controversy. The most publicized decision was the designation of the porcupine as our symbol to be used in contexts where other parties are represented by animals. Joe said we need an article about this, as well as about other symbols that have been used or proposed for use as representing the LP. There is a restructuring of subcommittees underway; Caryn Ann said that she will be pushing use of LPedia as part of this.

**Future Meetings:** The next meeting is scheduled for 7 October 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37pm Mountain time.