



LIBERTARIAN

PARTY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY August 7, 2019

Date and Time: Wednesday, 7 August 2019 at 4:00pm Mountain time
Where: Online: Zoom
Committee Attendees: Caryn Ann Harlos, Joe Dehn, Ed Fochler, James Gholston
Other Attendees: LPedia user “Vermont”

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm Mountain time.

Records of Past Meetings: The minutes of the 17 July meeting were approved.

Policy Updates: There was discussion of a recent update relating to the naming of articles that have the nature of a “list” or “index”. This policy language does not provide guidance for cases where a list or index is only one component of an article. Ed offered that “list” suggests a curated list, while “index” suggests something created in an automated manner. Joe offered that “list” suggests something that has value itself, while “index” suggests that the primary function is to point people to other articles/documents. He also said that it is not necessary for every article that contains a list or index to have any such word in its name, because other mechanisms that help people find lists (e.g., links, categories) can refer to such articles regardless of their name, and said that in cases where an article contains other types of material that could be misleading, causing people to assume there was nothing there but a list, and might also lead to unnecessary proliferation of articles on the same topic. Discussion included some general principles – names of articles should be as short as possible to distinguish the topic, and additional words are most useful to distinguish multiple articles relating to one topic (e.g., if there is at first one article and then the list part gets spun off as a separate article). Joe will update the policy to reflect these ideas.

Category Rebuild: Caryn Ann asked for input on what kind of categories would be appropriate for an article like “Libertarian Party of California Membership History”. It was suggested that since “membership” is a function of interest to many LP organizations, it could be the basis of a useful category, which might even end up



having sub-categories like membership statistics and ways to promote membership if there are enough such articles. Caryn Ann will work on this.

Templates: There was discussion of how to handle obsolete/deprecated templates, with concerns on the one hand about avoiding the appearance of “bloat” and people using them in new articles, and on the other hand keeping them somehow available in order to view/understand old versions of articles that made use of them. A combination of the following steps appeared to have support as being sufficient to discourage new uses without actually deleting anything: (1) having an easily accessible list of current/recommended templates in which they are not mentioned, (2) removing all existing uses so that nobody will copy from them, (3) adding a note to the template itself that it is obsolete and, where it makes sense, providing a reference to its replacement.

Site Statistics: Ed referred to the statistics as “incredibly boring”, with traffic continuing at about 100 users/day and with the presidential candidates continuing to be the most referenced article other than the main page.

Ballot Access News: Caryn Ann has heard that Richard Winger is looking for a long-term home for the archives of Ballot Access News, but it is not clear exactly what this includes. There did not seem to be any objection to the idea of hosting electronic copies of past issues of BAN on LPedia, but we are not in a position to offer storage space for significant quantities of physical documents that are not directly LP-related.

California: Joe referred to his written report of the LPC HPC to the LPC Executive Committee. (These reports are available on LPedia.) They have made progress on scanning of state newsletters. Caryn Ann said she thinks there are perhaps 50 issues of Caliber in our storage room; she will send more information about them to Joe when she has a chance.

Storage Room Rent: Caryn Ann mentioned that she had been unable to access the storage room because the rent had not been paid, which is something that has to be done by the national office, but that this was now resolved.



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Texas: Caryn Ann reported that the material delivered to her in Austin by Whitney Bilyeu really was “an RV load”; the cost to ship it from Texas was \$522. She said it contains many items we didn't otherwise have, including much material about the Texas LP, some items relating to other states, and other libertarian movement material. Some of the items which duplicate what we already have (e.g., magazines) have significant market value (e.g., as reflected on Ebay), which makes them useful in soliciting contributions (e.g., as auction items or premiums). She plans to keep some of the non-LP material in her own basement, rather than using the storage space paid for by the LP, but information about what she has could be posted to let people know it is available for research purposes. Joe asked how the material from state/local parties outside Texas would be handled; Caryn Ann said all the material about a particular state gets filed together regardless of where it originally came from, and that she has about 3 linear feet of newsletters from California that has been accumulated it that way.

Scanning Job: Caryn Ann said she is still working on the preparation of the material and can't say exactly when it will be submitted, but that she hopes it will be soon so she can get it out of her house.

Craigslist: Caryn Ann reported there are some issues communicating with the vendor regarding method of payment, so this test has not actually started yet.

Admin Requirements/Agreement: Caryn Ann presented her proposed update to the admin agreement. The changes were approved without objection.

Scanning Technology: Ed said that he did receive the CZUR scanner previously discussed, that it works and is completely portable (battery-powered, needs a computer but that can be a laptop), can handle 11x17, but the scans are not as high quality as we might like. Joe said he has been looking at some other devices of that general type for possible use in California.

Future Meetings: The next meeting is scheduled for 21 August 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16pm Mountain time.