

Minutes, April 22, 2007

Executive Committee Meeting, Libertarian Party of California

Crow Canyon Convention Center
3301 Crow Canyon Road
San Ramon CA 94583-1617

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Call to Order

- Chair Kevin Takenaga called meeting to order at 16:20.

Attending

Officers

Kevin Takenaga, Chair
Richard Newell, Northern Vice Chair
Zander Collier, Southern Vice Chair
Don Cowles, Treasurer
Beau Cain, Secretary

At-large Representatives

Matthew Barnes, San Bernardino County
Ted Brown, Los Angeles County
Brian Holtz, Santa Clara County
Cam McConnell, Contra Costa County
Mike McMahon, San Bernardino County
Chuck Moulton, Santa Clara County
Lawrence Samuels, Monterey County
Mark Johnson (not present)

Alternates

Chuck Moulton, Santa Clara County
Jesse Thomas (not present)

Staff

Executive Director Angela Keaton

LPC Members

In attendance, but role wasn't taken.

- Quorum declared.

Call for Comments from Gallery

- Fresno Treasurer Jonathan Zwickel protested both the mandatory \$30 annual subscription fee and the lack of clarity on the registration form
- Aaron Starr from Ventura County acknowledged Zwickel's appeal, and reminded committee about bylaws item that reduced prospective member options, intended to increase income, and it worked.
- Starr helping with conversion from MYOB into QuickBooks, to integrate DonorPerfect for Operation Breakthrough, currently working with consultant Joe Kennedy, plan B would be adopted if current plan isn't successfully implemented in two weeks.
- Starr wishes to finish project of working with an outside vendor to identify prospective libertarian voters from a list of every elected official in the state, and stated his willingness to contribute financial support for project in order to identify registered Libertarians
- Collier called for ExComm approval for Starr to continue working on QuickBooks conversion project, to which there was no objection.

Approval of Agenda

- The Executive Director's report and the nomination of California Freedom Newspaper Editor were scheduled for early consideration so the people involved could leave the meeting early to catch their flights.
- Move ExComm vacancies to top of agenda.
- Add need for business cards to agenda

- Add Comments from Gallery section of agenda before Approval of Agenda section
- McConnell called for the ExComm to apologize to the outgoing Chair for missing end of the convention business session, where maintaining a quorum was difficult.

Approval of Previous Minutes

- No previous minutes.

Reports

Officers Reports

Executive Director (Keaton)

- Return rate from mailing was expected to be around 2 - 4%, but many responses were stamped, some included donations
- Ali Martin returned from Australia, has processed volunteer, working with new webmaster to improve website to work with DonorPerfect
- Continuing to clean the office
- Past few weeks concentrated on convention, will return to focusing on donations.

Chair (Takenaga)

- Welcomed new ExComm to the administration.
- Promoted supporting county growth
- Emphasized meeting people, inside and outside the party
- Recommended visiting state office in Panorama City, suggested a weekend party there

Northern Vice Chair (Newell)

- Bought GPS for car, found leads for activating counties, in particular in Mendocino, Yolo, and Solano counties
- Samuels asked if Newell will continue to publish Libertarian Perspective, Newell indicated that it's on the agenda because he will not continue to publish it, and so it needs a new publisher.

Southern Vice Chair (Collier)

- Reported speaking to members in SoCal and find that they're poised to move forward

Secretary (Cain)

- No report

Treasurer (Cowles)

- Anticipates working closely with Starr to develop a different budget than was approved in March, intends to bring proposal to next meeting
- Wishes to produce positive cash flow due to monthly expenses and preponderance of small donations, necessitating fundraising
- Coffee Club: asked members to "buy coffee" on a monthly basis, donating the money that the donor would have used to buy a cup of coffee
- Will visit San Bernardino to accompany local members on fundraising calls. Anticipates finding prospects and expects ExCommers to join them. Mentioned the benefit of wearing shirts with collars.

Committee Reports

Bylaws Committee Report (Carling)

- M Carling distributed copies of bylaws as amended from committee meeting. Noted that not all proposals were addressed during meetings.
- Takenaga asked if Style Committee needed to review bylaws. Carling noted that it shouldn't be necessary at this stage of editing.

Old Business

- None

New Business

California Freedom Newspaper Editor

- Nominations: Ted Brown reported advertising vacant position through several libertarian publications; Tom Sipos, Vice Chair of Los Angeles, submitted appropriate portfolio, Brown suggests a 3-month trial, Sipos doesn't want to do layout right away, so expense is the critical issue.
- Starr suggested that Shane Cory was negotiating with vendor that is soon to be contracted by the NatComm for Libertarian Party News, and that marginal cost of adding California Freedom wouldn't add much expense. Current printer is Walton Press in Georgia.
- Question is whether we wish to have content developed locally, as well as pricing.
- Keaton stated that we spend over \$2100 a month to produce California Freedom, expressed enthusiasm at prospect of being the production manager.
- Starr reported that negotiations are moving along well.

MOTION: Lawrence Samuels moved to adopt the 3-month trial of Tom Sipos at \$300 per issue, Collier seconded.

- Newell suggested the trial start immediately, Brown objected because next issue is already under development, and that the agreement is to pay per issue.

MOTION: Brown moved to pay no more than \$500 monthly for layout. No second.

MOTION: Collier moved to print newsletter in black and white to decrease costs.

- Starr explained that printing isn't the big expense, but that layout and mailing is the larger cost consideration. Color is only marginally more expensive than black and white. Suggested getting quote for both color and black and white printing.

MOTION: Barnes substituted motion to get quote for both black and white and color printing.

VOTE: Substitute motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Keaton to get quote for printing California Freedom in color and in black and white.

VOTE: Main motion passed with one objection.

Fill ExComm Vacancies

- Two officers still have one year left on other seats, and Carling has become judicial committee chairman, leaving 3 at-large vacancies.

MOTION: Brown nominated Bruce Dovner for one of 3 at-large vacancies, Holtz seconded. Dovner accepted.

MOTION: Collier moved to nominate the two alternates, Chuck Moulton and Jesse Thomas, who accepted.

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

ACTION: Takenaga to notify the newly elected ExComm members.

Business Cards

- Collier suggested that LPC pay to have sample business cards printed for all ExCommers, to enhance the image of ExComm members as ambassadors for the state party.
- Moulton asked if previous ExCommers had business cards, which they didn't. Suggested having an official ca.lp.org address on business cards. McMahon suggested Kinkos can produce up to ten different business cards per page for about \$5 per card.

MOTION: Friendly motion to add cards for two staff members.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

- Keaton suggested Vista Print at about \$25 for 500 cards.

ACTION: Keaton to research business cards for ExComm members.

Operations Committee

- Takenaga opened the floor for nominations.

MOTION: Ted Brown was nominated, along with all ExComm officers.

- Dovner spoke in favor of Ted for institutional memory and record of good judgment. Moulton spoke in favor of all the officers serving because they have a superior knowledge about Party issues (the Chair about the big picture, the vice-chairs about county concerns, the Treasurer about finances, and the Secretary about the minutes). Brown noted that we had not always done that.

VOTE: The secret ballot result was Newell 12, Cain 11, Cowles 10, and Collier and Brown tied at 7. The subsequent runoff was won 6-4 by Collier.

National Credentialing Committee

- Takenaga suggested Cory Nott

MOTION: McConnell nominated Cory Nott. Moulton recommended appointing an alternate.

- Takenaga explained that job is to ensure that delegates are properly registered for debate on the floor of the National Convention.

MOTION: Newell nominated McConnell for Alternate.

MOTION: Collier moved to close nominations, seconded by Newell.

VOTE: Both nominees, Nott and McConnell, were approved unanimously.

Convention Committee

MOTION: Takenaga called for creation of Convention Committee, empowered to organize, plan, and promote the 2008 convention.

- McConnell noted that establishing committee now provides focus for future development.

VOTE: ExComm approved creation of committee.

Media Relations Committee

MOTION: Newell noted that Dan Minkoff has provided PR for party through press releases and Libertarian Perspective, and is a media relations manager, and asked to appoint him to chair the committee.

VOTE: Agreed without objection.

Resolutions

MOTION: Convention Committee motion to add five minutes to agenda to discuss convention possibilities.

VOTE: Call for division passed 8 to 3.

- Committee offered opinions about producing convention on a cruise ship.
- Move to extend meeting 10 minutes was unopposed.

VOTE: Committee voted to allow non-ExComm member to speak.

- General opinion seemed to be that although the cruise was fun, most oppose it because it didn't accommodate convention business. Exception was Holtz, who mentioned that the captive nature of the venue improved attendance at business meeting.
- Starchild voiced objection to cruise ship convention because it is financially exclusive. Zwickel voice support for cruise ship convention because it drew a different audience than other venues have drawn. He also voiced support for producing conventions in hotels for convenient accommodations. Carling expressed appreciation for convention programs, and noted that the cruise ship excelled in offering entertainment and an abundance of high-quality food.
- Motion to extend meeting to 6:30 met no objection.
- Westwell opposed cruise convention.

VOTE: Motion to have Starchild not sit at ExComm table passed with two objections.

- Thank convention committee for their successful effort. Secretary chosen to draft letter of appreciation.
- Thank outgoing ExComm for their successful efforts.
- Set next meeting for June 9 in San Diego, likely from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Action Items

Secretary (Cain)

- Prepare minutes for ExComm review by May 2, 2007, and for later publication
- Draft letter of appreciation to convention committee for successful efforts
- Draft letter of appreciation to outgoing ExComm for successful efforts

All

- Review, revise, and approve minutes

Executive Director (Keaton)

- Research ExComm business cards
- Get quote for both color and B&W printing of *California Freedom*

Chair (Takenaga)

- Notify alternates Moulton, and Thomas of election to vacated ExComm posts.
- Appoint Convention Committee Chair for 2008 convention.
- Notify Dan Minkoff of appointment to chair Media Relations Committee.