

# **LNC Region 2 Report**

(Arizona, California, Hawaii)

for the meeting of  
14-15 December 2002

*Joe Dehn and George Squyres*

## **Arizona**

*(George Squyres)*

### **Campaigns:**

#### **Governor**

Despite running what many have called the best Libertarian governor's race in Arizona history, candidate Barry Hess polled a disappointing 1.66%. The reason for this is widely held to be the fact that Arizona's gubernatorial race was the closest in memory, and a particularly nasty contest, involving a Democrat and a Socialist Independent, both running with millions in Arizona's Clean Elections campaign welfare money. Hess got excellent press and particularly high marks for the televised debates on Arizona's PBS channel. Despite inadequate funding, the loss of his campaign manager halfway through the campaign, and the disappointing poll result, Hess' campaign is considered very successful because of the tremendous Libertarian presence it created in Arizona, and the excellent job performance as a candidate.

#### **Secretary of State**

Sean Nottingham ran a low key campaign, making the public appearances that time and funding allowed, and polled a respectable 4.32%

#### **Attorney General**

Retired Attorney Ed Kahn also ran a low key campaign, responding to a good portion of the public inquiry and surveys, and polled a reasonable 3.13%

#### **Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Running a strictly paper campaign, and despite serious health problems, state party secretary John Zajac did the work necessary to put a Libertarian on the ballot and garnered 3.59% of the vote.

The above four candidates, in running for these state level offices, fulfilled a state requirement that entitles the state affiliate to continued access to all of the Secretary of States' voter records.

#### **U.S. House of Representatives**

All eight congressional districts had Libertarian candidates on the ballot.

**District 1:** Candidate Ed Porr received 5.1% of the vote, the highest for a Libertarian House candidate in the state, and the fourth highest in the country. This was particularly good in light

of the Republican candidate spending over \$3M in what was continually referred to as the dirtiest political race in the country.

<b>District 2:</b> Ed Carlson	3.54%
<b>District 3:</b> Mark Yannone	2.4%
<b>District 4:</b> Amy Gibbons	4.8%
<b>District 5:</b> Warren Severin	2.59%
<b>District 6:</b> Andy Wagner	2.49%
<b>District 7:</b> John Nemeth	3.94%
<b>District 8:</b> Joe Duarte	3.07%

### State Senate

Five State Senate districts had Libertarian candidates. 2/X denotes a two-way race against a major party candidate; CE denotes a candidate participating in Arizona “Clean Elections” public campaign financing.

<b>District 8:</b> Orville Weyrich	14.57%	2/R	
<b>District 10:</b> Manfred Alber	3.41%		
<b>District 14:</b> John Wilde	19.25%	2/D	
<b>District 17:</b> Yuri Downing	3.74%		CE
<b>District 28:</b> Kimberly Swanson	25.81%	2/D	CE

### State House

Three state House races had four Libertarian candidates, District 17 having two slots available with six candidates in total. There were no two-way races; CE denotes a candidate running with Arizona “Clean Elections” public campaign financing.

<b>District 17:</b> Trevor O. Clevenger	2.28%	CE
Paul Dedonati	2.45%	CE
<b>District 24:</b> Patty Kelly	11.85%	
<b>District 26:</b> Robert W. Quilici	9.22%	

It must be noted that the Arizona Clean Elections Commission has commenced an audit of three of the above CE candidates for questionable use of funds: Yuri Downing, Trevor O. Clevenger, and Paul Dedonati.

### **Ballot Access:**

Arizona continues to enjoy statewide ballot status, and latest registration figures show the margin needed to maintain statewide status has increased. In addition the registration in almost all of the counties has increased, with the result that Coconino has surpassed the number needed to achieve ballot status, Santa Cruz is less than 10 away from ballot status, and Graham and Greenlee are approximately 25 away.

The lawsuit affecting the election of Precinct Committeemen is still awaiting appeal, although the outcome is moot at this point. Any positive outcome of the appeal will not be effective before the 2004 election cycle. Only three counties’ representatives will be allowed to vote for

state officers at the upcoming state convention in Phoenix in January 2003. This Regional LNC Representative and At-Large Representative Michael Dixon will not be allowed to vote for state officers.

### **Open Primary Law:**

The lawsuit against the open primary is still awaiting appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The prospects of the AZLP prevailing continue to be good, as the Ninth Circuit has already thrown out a California open primary law (*Brown v Democratic Party*), and the results of the current election cycle will add weight to the AZLP's case, as many contests gave Libertarians a voter total larger than the registration base, clearly showing the presence of the Independent vote.

## **California**

*(Joe Dehn)*

### **I. Campaigns**

#### **A. Partisan Offices**

Gary Copeland, the ballot-qualified candidate for Governor whose endorsement was rescinded by the LPC, ended up receiving 2.1% of the vote, the highest percentage ever for a candidate running for this office as a Libertarian. (Ed Clark got 5.5% running as an independent in 1978, before the LPC had ballot status.) Art Olivier, the endorsed candidate, did not get enough signatures to qualify as an official write-in candidate, so there is no vote count for him.

Candidates for the other statewide offices received from 1.4% to 3.2% of the vote. Candidates for Board of Equalization (each district representing ¼ of the state) received from 3.8% to 6.2%.

For U.S. Representative, Maad Abu-Ghazalah, running in District 12, did the best against both a Democrat and a Republican, 7.1%. In two-way races, Sonia Harden got 24.4% in District 10 (against a Democrat) and Karl Dietrich got 22.1% in District 49 (against a Republican).

For State Senate, the best showing against a Democrat and a Republican was 6.0% by Michael Metti in District 36. David Eaton, the candidate who was the recipient of unsolicited help from the prison guard union, got 4.5% in District 12. This was three times the difference between the Republican and the Democrat, but the Democrat (who the union really supported) lost anyway. The best showing in a two-way race was 26.9% for Jason Sewell in District 6 (against a Democrat).

For State Assembly, the best showing against a Democrat and a Republican was 6.4% for Michael Denny in District 12. The best showing in a two-way race was 24.0% for David Kozlowski in District 7 (against a Democrat).

## **B. Non-Partisan Offices**

At least 25 candidates won non-partisan offices this fall (including candidates who won by default). This is more than the number of winners reported in the rest of the country put together. It is also a record for California. The total number of people running for office this year also set a record.

It should be noted, however, that some of the apparent increase over previous years may be due to improved measurement. For the first time, the state party attempted to find every Libertarian running for non-partisan office by comparing the names of every candidate running for every office in the state with the names of registered Libertarians in the corresponding counties. This turned up quite a few candidates who were otherwise unknown to the party, including some of the winners.

As previously reported, the funds for Operation Breakthrough this year were raised on a “pay for performance” basis, with pledges per winner to be collected after the results were known, to pay back money borrowed to do the candidate recruiting. Based on the number of winners, and assuming that contributors make good on their pledges, it looks like this approach was a success and it will be possible to pay back all the loans.

## **C. Ballot Measures**

All four statewide propositions (bond/tax measures) against which the LPC took a position passed.

Some local measures bond/tax measures failed, in some cases by very small margins in situations where local Libertarians were the only visible opponents.

## **II. Ballot Access**

Coming out of this election, the LPC remains qualified on the basis of both votes and registration. Four of our statewide candidates achieved the 2% required; on this basis the LPC is qualified for both 2004 and 2006. And, due to the low turnout in this election (which determines the registration count required for the next four years), the LPC is easily qualified on the basis of registration, even though our registration count has dropped slightly over the past two years. The turnout was so low that the Peace and Freedom Party, which had lost its ballot status and was not able to run candidates this year, now has enough registrants to qualify for 2004.

## **III. Convention**

Plans continue for the 2003 convention to be held in Ontario (San Bernardino County) over the Presidents Day weekend, with a speaker lineup being recently announced.

There is discussion of making changes to the state bylaws in the areas of membership definition, convention delegate qualification, and representation on the state Executive Committee.

## **IV. Membership**

Paid membership continues to decline. Two new membership-related initiatives are being undertaken by the state party.

The first is a fundraising appeal based on the pay for performance concept. Donors were asked, instead of contributing a fixed amount, to pledge a small amount per new member/contributor. If enough people are willing to pledge in this way, resulting in a high enough per-member pledge total, it is conceivable that this approach could bring in enough money to fully cover the cost of an ongoing recruitment effort. This program went into effect this month, with pledges being collected based on new members/contributors in November (of which there were 34).

The plan under consideration for actually doing the recruiting involves hiring a marketing person who would set up an automated telephone calling system. Additional people would be brought in as “salesmen”, likely on a commission basis, to close the sale. The pitch would be for pledges of at least \$10/month, rather than a basic membership.

## **V. Office/Staff**

The Executive Director is gone and there are no current plans to replace him. Instead, assuming that the telephone membership solicitation project proceeds as planned, the people associated with that activity will account for most of the paid staff.

The part-time office assistant is leaving and probably will be replaced by another part-time person.

The new newsletter editor, Scott Wilson, has now been on board for three months.

## **VI. Finances**

### **A. Budget**

The state Executive Committee has adopted a budget of about \$176K for 2003. This is down quite a bit from what was budgeted for 2002, but is in line with the 2002 actuals. This figure does not include Operation Breakthrough, which is expected to cost about \$25K in 2003 (if it is done, which has not yet been decided).

### **B. UMP**

The LPC is not in an immediate crisis from the UMP delay, but there isn't a lot of slack in the budget and any further falling behind could start to cause problems. The new budget is based on the assumption of regular UMP payments, based on a level of membership approximately as it is now.

Also, because the LPC distributes 60% of the UMP revenue to its local regions, the failure to make the full November payment has already been felt at the region level. Regardless of whether they actually need the money right now, by being told that they are only getting half as much as they were expecting local activists in every part of California have been sent an abrupt message that UMP may not be something they can depend on anymore.

At this point it appears that most activists in California still see the value of UMP and related arrangements between the LPC and the national organization, and are hopeful that this is just a temporary situation. However, a committee has been formed to study the implications of withdrawal, to be ready to report at the February convention in case the delegates want to consider that option.

## **Hawaii**

*(George Squyres)*

### **Campaigns:**

#### **Governor:**

The team of Tracy Ryan & Ken Vaughan ran a good campaign in the Governor/ Lt. Governor's race and had a polling result of 0.4% of the vote in a tight six-way race that saw Hawaii elect its first woman as governor and a Republican at that. The contest had the Democrat, the Republican and the Libertarian candidates, as well as a Green Party, a Free Energy, a Natural Law, and a local comedian running as a Non Partisan candidate. Because of the large number of parties in the contest, none but the major parties were invited to the debates. The hard work of the HLP on reforming ballot access laws enabled the other candidates to spoil the show for the LP.

#### **U.S. House**

**District 1:** Candidate James H. Bracken received 2.1% of the vote, running a paper campaign, and despite serious health problems.

**District 2:** Candidate Jeff Mallan polled 2.4% of the vote, running a minimal campaign as a peace candidate.

#### **State House**

**District 30:** John Orendt ran a very top level campaign with public funding achieving a respectable 11.6% in a two-way race against a Democrat in a district that is 99% Democratic. The first time candidate in a first time district gained valuable experience and is looking forward to the next election.