

**Libertarian Party of California
Minutes, 1998 Annual Convention**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1998

Officers in attendance: Mark Hinkle Chair
Jon Petersen Northern Vice Chair
Bob Weber Southern Vice Chair
Eric Fine Treasurer
Elizabeth Brierly Secretary

At-large Representatives: Ted Brown Mary Gingell
José Castañeda Gail Lightfoot
Terry Savage

Alternate At-large reps: Joe Farina

Regional Representatives: Jeffrey Sommer Region 1, East Bay
Mark Murphy Region 30, Orange County
Philip Zoebisch Regional 37, San Diego
Juan Ros Region 38, San Francisco
Joe Dehn Region 43, Santa Clara

Alternate Regional Reps: Kit Maira Region 38, San Francisco
Marv Rudin Region 43, Santa Clara

The session commenced at 9:00 A.M.

Credentialing Committee Report

Committee was comprised of Elizabeth Brierly (Chair), Eric Fine, Wayne Nygren, and Terry Savage.

The delegation approved seating of all of the delegates whose delegate or alternate delegate status was submitted to the Secretary after the deadline of January 30.

The delegation approved seating of all of the delegates whose delegate or alternate delegate status was submitted to the Credentialing Committee at the convention itself. A quorum was present.

Mr. Mark Murphy (Region 30, Orange County) challenged the ruling of the chair. That ruling was that the elected county central committee members in Orange County do not constitute “elected public officials” in the eyes of the LPC Bylaws.

There were six people who would not qualify as elected public officials under the Chair’s ruling:

Gene Beed
Jack Dean
Mark F. Murphy
Rick Newhouse
Thomas Reimer
Victor Wagner, Jr.

Mr. Murphy qualifies regardless of this ruling, because he is a member of the LPC Executive Committee, whose members automatically qualify as delegates.

Mr. Murphy presented evidence from the California election code and from the LPC bylaws.

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A vote was held, and the five attendees (in addition to Mr. Murphy) from Orange County were seated as delegates.

The delegation voted (voice vote, no dissent) to form a new region, comprised of Madera and Mariposa Counties.

Report of the Chair (Mr. Hinkle)

Our three goals for 1997 were:

1. Membership of 5,000

Our membership is now 5,024.

2. Gross revenue of \$150,000

Our gross revenue for 1997 was \$190,000. To the best of Mr. Hinkle's knowledge, that is an all-time record for the LPC.

3. Hire a paid staff

Based on the fund raising that will happen during this convention, i.e., the continued support of the members, delegates, and guests, Mr. Hinkle would like to hire an individual he has identified who wishes to serve as the Executive Director of the LPC. This decision will be conditional on funding; if the LPC does not receive the funds we need, we will not hire any candidates. Mr. Hinkle stated that it is incumbent on us as a party of principle to be responsible for our employees, and not bring staff on board until we are certain that we will keep him or her employed from here on out.

The business session was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Los Angeles City Councilman Joel Wachs was introduced as the welcoming ceremony's speaker. He welcomed the LPC on behalf of the City of Los Angeles, and presented the Party with an honorary proclamation.

The keynote speaker was Steve Dasbach, the Chair of the National Libertarian Party.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1998

The meeting commenced at 9:08 A.M.

Credentials Report

Count of registered delegates: 83

Report of the Northern Vice Chair (Mr. Petersen)

- ◆ San Francisco was deactivated early in 1997 but was rejuvenated recently.
- ◆ Fresno County created its own LPC region.
- ◆ Santa Cruz County, although never defunct, has been revitalized.
- ◆ Two new regions were created: Marin in November and San Joaquin in February.
- ◆ Two Northern Conferences were held, one in Redding focusing on building Party support and membership, and one in Oakland, oriented toward concerns about the LPC convention and the needs of the northern contingent.
- ◆ Activism:
 - Santa Clara: Measures A & B lawsuit continues.
 - Shasta: Fighting the use of lease-revenue bonds by public officials to avoid a vote of the people.
 - San Mateo: Has computerized a method of sending out signature forms to get candidates on the ballot.
- ◆ Mr. Petersen will commence distributing membership information to the respective regions.

Report of the Southern Vice Chair (Mr. Weber)

- ◆ Mr. Weber held candidate training seminars in L.A., San Bernardino, and Orange Counties, including procedures for getting onto the ballot, and hints for collecting signatures.
- ◆ County has had a donor provide an office for Party use for the duration of 1998, location in the MacArthur Park area.
- ◆ There are several areas in Southern California which do not yet have sufficient population density of Libertarians to make activism possible, including Antelope Valley and the High Desert area of San Bernardino County, both of which had split from their larger umbrella regions.
- ◆ Activism continues, including gun shows, although attendance at such events seems to have declined.

Report of the Treasurer (Mr. Fine)

Mr. Fine distributed a written treasurer's report and a budget statement, which he and Mr. Starr addressed as the delegates had the opportunity to ask questions.

A voice vote was held on accepting the treasurers report. It passed.

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Report of the Platform Committee (Mr. Brown, Chair; Mr. Lagasse, Parliamentarian)

I. Section 8. Tort Law Reform

Page 13, Section 8, second line:

Change the word “approximately” to “proximately.”

The sentence will thus read:

“We therefore call for individuals to be liable for damages intentionally or negligently (and proximately) caused by themselves of their property.”

This passed with a voice vote without dissent.

II. Individual Rights and Civil Order, Section 14. Family Life

Page 8, Section 14, sixth line:

Add the phrase “youth curfews” between ““morals laws”” and “government welfare programs.”

The sentence would then read:

“This usurpation is accomplished through “morals laws,” youth curfews, government welfare programs, child protective services and public schools.”

Mr. Adam Chacksfield opposed the proposed addition, and instead moved to add a second paragraph to the Family Life plank, to read:

“Recognizing that families and households are contractual institutions, and that people develop at different rates, government should cease compelling the dependence of young people through child labor laws, youth curfews, compulsory education, incarceration in children’s homes, and the prosecution of those who shelter runaways.” (1)

It was moved and seconded to amend Mr. Chacksfield’s amendment as follows:

Remove the phrase “and the prosecution of those who shelter runaways.”

The delegation voted on this amendment to the amendment; it failed in a voice vote.

The motion now on the floor was Mr. Chacksfield’s substitution for the Committee’s proposal, i.e., instead of adding just “youth curfews,” add new 2nd paragraph as illustrated above (1):

The amendment failed in a voice vote.

The delegation now voted on the Committee’s original motion, of adding “youth curfews” between ““morals laws”” and “government welfare program.”

The motion passed in a show of hands vote:

In favor:	51
Opposed:	23

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III. Individual Rights and the Economy, Section 10, Page 14, Transportation & Mass Transit

The Committee's proposal was to add a new item "a" and reletter the other items correspondingly:

"a. No individual should be denied the right to travel by the requirement of a driver license."

It was moved to change the motion to read:

"a. The right to travel by the requirement of a government-issued driver license."

This motion was seconded, voted upon, and **passed in a voice vote** without dissent.

A substitute amendment was proposed and seconded:

"a. The right to travel without the state's permission and without the requirement of government-issued licenses."

A vote was taken on the substitute amendment; it passed by a voice vote.

A vote was taken on the main motion, as amended. It failed in a voice vote.

IV. Judicial, Page 5, Section 7

The Committee proposed the addition of a new fifth paragraph, as follows:

"Imprisonment currently imposes vast costs on taxpayers, and provides victims with no restitution. Therefore, we call for the privatization of prisons so that entrepreneurs can compete to create self-financing secure communities, in which convicted criminals can earn money and pay restitution, first to their victims and then for the cost of their trial. To encourage innovation, private firms should be allowed to use any technologies compatible with the humane treatment of inmates.

A motion was made (Mr. Nolan) and seconded to strike the word:

"first"

and the phrase:

"and then for the cost of their trial."

This motion passed in a show-of-hands vote.

The proposal now reads:

"Imprisonment currently imposes vast costs on taxpayers, and provides victims with no restitution. Therefore, we call for the privatization of prisons so that entrepreneurs can compete to create self-financing secure communities, in which convicted criminals can earn money and pay restitution to their victims. To encourage innovation, private firms should be allowed to use any technologies compatible with the humane treatment of inmates.

A motion was made and seconded to add to the beginning of this new paragraph:

"While we believe imprisonment should be limited to only perpetrators of crimes with victims,"

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The main motion then failed in a counted show-of-hands vote (2/3 required for passage):

In favor:	46
Opposed	33

V. Page 6, New Plank 8, Capital Punishment

The committee's proposal was to add a new plank, "Capital Punishment," and to renumber the subsequent sections.

The new plank would read:

"While death is a legitimate punishment for taking an innocent life, we do not trust the government enough to give any level the right to kill people.

"We believe that life in prison without possibility of parole is the punishment that would be most cost effective; adequately protect society; allow the perpetrator to work to pay restitution to his victim's family; and provide opportunity to correct the serious possibility that an innocent person may have been condemned.

"The killing of convicted individuals requires some persons to financially support a practice they find morally reprehensible; thus, we call for the abolition of death as a sentence for a crime."

It was moved and seconded to:

a. delete the first sentence, and

b. add the phrase "for intentionally taking an innocent life" between "parole" and "is" in what was originally the second sentence.

This amendment passed in a voice vote.

The proposal for the new plank now reads:

"We believe that life in prison without possibility of parole, for intentionally taking an innocent life, is the punishment that would be most cost effective; adequately protect society; allow the perpetrator to work to pay restitution to his victim's family; and provide opportunity to correct the serious possibility that an innocent person may have been condemned.

"The killing of convicted individuals requires some persons to financially support a practice they find morally reprehensible; thus, we call for the abolition of death as a sentence for a crime."

The main motion, adding the new Capital Punishment plank, failed in a show of hands vote.

VI. Secession, Plank 21, Page 10

The Committee's proposal is to add a new second sentence:

"Those who wish to secede should not have to obtain the permission from those they wish to secede from."

A grammar correction was proposed:

"Those who wish to secede should not have to obtain permission of those from whom they wish to secede."

There was no objection to this correction, so this is how the proposal would read.

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The main proposal passed in a voice vote

VII. Page 1, Statement of Principles

The Committee's proposal is to change paragraph 1 as follows:

Delete "challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and"; and
Add at the end: "and commit ourselves to minimizing the powers of the state."

Thus the new paragraph would read:

"We, the members of the Libertarian Party uphold the rights of the individual and commit ourselves to minimizing the powers of the state."

The proposal failed in a show-of-hands vote.

Mr. Petersen made a motion that we open at 8:30 A.M. instead of 9:00 A.M. the Monday, Feb. 16 session, in order to ensure enough time to work on bylaws.

The motion passed in a voice vote.

The convention recessed at 12:20 P.M.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1998

The session commenced at 8:34 A.M.

Bylaws Committee Report

Committee was comprised of Bob Weber (Chair), Joe Dehn, and Jon Petersen. The committee proposed the changes below, which were processed by the delegation as indicated.

I. STYLE CHANGES; PASSED BY VOICE VOTE, WITH NO DISSENT.

No debate item. (The Bylaws Committee vote was 3-0-0.)

Grammatical and syntax corrections as noted in the version of the Bylaws distributed at the convention on Saturday, Feb. 14, 1998, as follows:

- A. Page 1, Bylaw 2, Item F:
Change "Law" to "law" (lower case).
- B. Page 2, Bylaw 3, Section 3, Item B, second sentence:
 - i. Change "agreement" to "arrangement."
 - ii. Remove the comma after the word "Party."
 - iii. Strike the "s" from the word "requirements" at the end of the sentence.
- C. Page 3, Bylaw 3, Section 6, third sentence:
 - i. Strike the "s" from the word "revenues."
 - ii. Change "State" to "state" (lower case).
- D. Page 4, Bylaw 3, Section 14:
 - i. End the sentence with a colon instead of semi-colon.
- E. Page 8, Bylaw 9, Section 2, second sentence:
 - i. Place the last instance of the word "mail" into quotation marks.
- F. Page 9, Bylaw 9, Section 2, last sentence:
 - i. In the phrase "Executive Committee a which meeting," replace the word "a" with "at."
- G. Page 13, Bylaw 16, Section 4, second sentence:
 - i. Change "regional" to "Regional" (capitalize at the beginning of sentence).
- H. Page 16, Convention Rule 3, Section 4:
 - i. Change "Parties" to "Party's."
- I. Page 16, Convention Rule 6, fourth sentence:
 - i. Change "Bylaw 16" reference to "Bylaw 15."
- J. Page 18, Convention Rule 10:
 - i. Combine items D and E, and relabel the subsequent items accordingly.
 - ii. In the new item "F" (Elections), item 1, replace "credentialed" with "credentials."
 - iii. In the new item "G" (Presidential Straw Poll), add ", one vote only" to the end of the sentence.

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- K. Page 21, Convention Rule 16:
i. Move the third sentence of the fifth paragraph (sentence begins, “No nominee for delegate or alternate...” to the end of the ninth and last paragraph in Rule 16 (the paragraph which begins, “After receiving notice....”).

II. Bylaw 4 (Organization), Section 3, Item B **PASSED WITH AMENDMENT**
(The Bylaws Committee vote was 3-0-0.)

Add to the end of the paragraph:

“but if a county fails to have a representative in attendance at two successive meetings, the position on the committee shall, through the next convention, pass to the next largest county not already having a county representative;”.

Mr. Starr made a motion to add, between “meetings” and “the position,” the phrase: “or if the county declines to be represented”

The amendment passed in a voice vote.

The overall item passed in a voice vote.

The resulting language is:

“One representative from each of the five largest counties, as determined for representation at the most recently held convention; but if a county fails to have a representative in attendance at two successive meetings, or if the county declines to be represented, the position on the committee shall, through the next convention, pass to the next largest county not already having a county representative;”

III. Bylaw 9, Section 2 **PASSED**
(The Bylaws Committee vote was 3-0-0.)

Add, after the end of the third sentence:

“Members may change their vote up to the close of the voting period.”

This item passed in a show of hands vote.

The resulting language is:

“The Executive Committee may without meeting together transact business by mail by voting on questions submitted by the Secretary at the request of at least five members of the committee or by the Chair. For the purposes of this section mail refers to USPS mail, e-mail, fax mail, or any other commonly known term that refers to “mail.” Fifteen days from the marked date of the mail ballot shall be allowed for the return of votes thereon by mail to the Party Secretary. Members may change their vote up to the close of the voting period. If, at the expiration of the applicable period, a quorum of the Executive Committee has not voted the measure being voted upon shall be deemed to have failed. The Secretary must preserve all such votes until the next meeting of the Executive Committee at which meeting the Executive Committee shall order the disposition of such votes.”

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Special Order:

Since the above amendment passed, an additional vote was requested to consider changing the first words of the third sentence from "Fifteen days" to "Seven days." It was clarified that "days" meant calendar days rather than business days.

Mr. Starr made a motion to change "Seven days" to "Ten days."

The amendment passed in a voice vote.

The overall special order amendment failed in a voice vote. The fifteen-day period shall remain in effect.

IV. Bylaw 15, Section 3, Item B **PASSED**
(The Bylaws Committee vote was 3-0-0.)

Add, after the end of the last sentence:

"Central Committee membership shall not be considered to be a holding of public office."

A motion was made to remove the word "not" from the amendment.

This proposed amendment failed in a show of hands vote.

The main motion passed in a individual count-off vote:

In favor: 43
Opposed: 29

The resulting language is:

"Elected Central Committee membership shall not be considered to be a holding of public office."

Election of LPC Officers and Executive Committee Representatives

At-Large Representatives to the LPC Executive Committee
(Top five vote-getters)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Votes</u>	
Steve Alexander	16	
Tammy Austin	22	*
Sharon Ayres	26	*
John Scott Ballard	19	
Ted Brown	38	*
José Castañeda	14	
Jack Dean	21	
Gail Lightfoot	22	*
Dale Schneider	5	
Aaron Starr	24	*
Richard Venable	13	

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Alternate At-Large Representatives to the LPC Executive Committee
(Top vote-getter is first alternate; second vote-getter is second alternate)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Votes</u>	
Steve Alexander	12	
John Scott Ballard	11	
José Castañeda	20	* (2 nd alternate)
Jack Dean	21	* (1 st alternate)
Marv Rudin	1	
Terry Savage	17	
Dale Schneider	0	
Dick Venable	17	

LPC Judicial Committee
(Top five vote-getters)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Votes</u>	
Steve Alexander	22 or 21	
Richard Boddie	47	*
Mr. Ghermann	27	
Mary Gingell	45	*
Bruce Lagasse	37	*
Ed Moss	32	
Wayne Nygren	36	*
David Nolan	38	*
Mr. Schar	16	
Dennis Schlumpf	25	
None of the above	0	
291 total		

LPC Representatives to the National Committee
(Top two vote-getters)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Votes</u>	
Jeffrey Sommer	14	
Scott Lieberman	44	
Terry Savage	45	*
Joe Dehn	53	*
None of the above	2	
158 total		

* Voted in

Note: Because Scott Lieberman did receive a majority of votes he will be considered an alternate representative.

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Delegates to National Convention, July 1998

(California is eligible for 229 delegates, in addition to those automatically designated to be delegates.)

Of the following 84 members, those who are not *automatically* designated as delegates were nominated and voted in as delegates to the National LP convention, July 1998:

Steve Alexander	Elizabeth Brierly	Eric Fine
Caroline Andrews	Ted Brown	James Freeman
Tammy Austin	José Castañeda	Gary Gagnon
Sharon Ayres*	Ed Clark*	Ernst Ghermann
John Scott Ballard	Brian Cross	Mary Gingell
David Bergland*	Jack Dean	Kim Goldsworthy
Richard Boddie	Dennis Decherd	Mark Hilgenberg
David Bonino	Joe Dehn	Linda Hinkle
Ed Bowers	Michael Everling	Mark Hinkle
Geoff Braun	Joe Farina	John Hospers*
Brian Hund	Kit Maira	Linnea Nygren
Manny Klausner	John P. McCready	Wayne Nygren
Michelle Kubby	Marion McEwen	Kate O'Brien
Steve Kubby	Laura McFadden	Dale Ogden
Bruce Lagasse	Bruce McKenzie	Pam Pescosolido
Cullene Lang	Erich Miller	Jon Petersen
Scott Lieberman	Ed Moss	Robert Poole
Gail Lightfoot	Mark Murphy	Deborah Pulido
Eric Lund	Richard Newhouse	Paul Rako
Stacy Macris	David F. Nolan	George Reis
Juan Ros	Harold Taborsky	Bob Welch
Rodger Rosie	Jean Taborsky	Dan Westphal
Marv Rudin	Jane Terrell-Vardoulis	Ed Wimmers
Terry Savage	Tom Tryon	Richard Winger
Bob Scheckler	Michael Vardoulis	
Dave Schrader	Richard E. Venable	
Jeffrey Sommer	Tom Verkuillen	
Aaron Starr	Victor A. Wagner, Jr.	
Laura Stewart	Bob Weber	
Paul L. Studier	Alice Lee Welch	

* Automatically designated as a delegate to National convention

The convention was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.