

Libertarian Party of California 2006 Annual Convention

**Friday, February 24, 2006 – Sunday, February 26, 2006
Held on the Royal Caribbean *Monarch of the Seas* cruise ship**

Officers

**Aaron Starr, Chair
Lawrence Samuels, Northern Vice-Chair
Mark Selzer, Southern Vice-Chair
Willard Michlin, Treasurer
Daniel Wiener, Secretary**

Convention Call-to-Order

The Libertarian Party of California's 2006 state convention was called to order by Chair Aaron Starr at 7:10 pm on Friday, February 24, 2006.

Credentials Report

Executive Director David Ruprecht provided a Credentials report: There were 47 delegates credentialed, with another 24 requesting to be seated. A quick count in the room indicated that a quorum was not present.

Nominations for National Delegates

The Secretary Daniel Wiener requested that nominations for delegates to the 2006 national LP convention be turned in to him.

Attendees were given envelopes containing copies of the 2005 Platform (with line-numbering), 2005 Program (with line-numbering), 2005 Bylaws (with line-numbering and marked-up as proposed by the Bylaws Committee), Bylaws Committee report, 2006 Convention Schedule & Agenda, and the 2006 Convention Report by Officers and Committee Chairs.

Following the arrival of additional delegates, the Chair announced that a quorum was now present.

Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted unanimously.

The Convention recessed until Sunday, February 26, 2006.

Opening Remarks

The Libertarian Party of California's 2006 state convention was called back to order by Chair Aaron Starr at 8:17 am on Sunday, February 26, 2006. The Chair made some brief opening remarks, emphasizing that the LPC should focus on electing people to office in order to implement Libertarian policies. He introduced Kate O'Brien and Frank Manske as elected officials who were present as Libertarian delegates.

Credentials Report

Executive Director David Ruprecht provided a Credentials report: There were 62 registered delegates, with another 27 requesting to be seated (that number then grew by several). The Chair described the procedures and qualification requirements for becoming a delegate to the LPC state convention. Paul Ireland stated that Phong Pham and Faye Moralis had been members for more than 90 days and therefore should be eligible to be credentialed as delegates. The Chair ruled that the membership date is recognized based on the postmark of the envelope or the date that funds were actually received in the LPC office. Paul Ireland stated that the two people had delivered the membership dues to him in cash, and he had not been willing to send cash through the mail to the LPC office. The ruling of the Chair was challenged, and the Convention upheld the ruling of the Chair by a 24-19 vote (with only delegates who were already seated being able to vote). The Convention then agreed without objection to accept a list of 29 people as delegates, bringing the total number of credentialed delegates to 91.

Officers and Committee Reports

Officer and Committee reports were presented in written form (see below) rather than verbally. Treasurer Willard Michlin announced that copies of the detailed budget were available to delegates to supplement his summary. The following people did not submit reports:

Lawrence Samuels, Northern Vice Chair
Mark Selzer, Southern Vice Chair
Paul Ireland, Former Chair, Candidate Support Committee
Frank Manske, Chair, Candidate Support Committee
Eric Miller, Chair, Coalition Building Committee
Rick Nichol, Former Chair, Membership Retention Committee

Report of the Chair – Aaron Starr

Rather than being a body that promulgates philosophical pronouncements, the Executive Committee focuses on getting the administrative work of the party done between conventions. Those who join this committee are sometimes surprised to find that work and financial contributions are expected of them. Most stepped up to the plate and did committee work that advanced our cause. Some did not. Here I want to acknowledge the accomplishments of those non-officers who helped.

- **WEEKLY OP-ED PIECES.** The prior year, I articulated a long-standing vision of a weekly op-ed piece that would go to every newspaper in the state, communicating our message in a media- and voter-friendly way. Richard Newell took the ball and delivered, big time. Working with a team of libertarian authors, we now have over 40 op-ed pieces so far, with articles published in newspapers big and small, up and down the state.
- **LPC TELEVISION COMMERCIAL.** Working with Mark Johnson, Executive Director Dave Ruprecht filmed a new television commercial for the LPC on a shoestring budget. There are Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act limitations that prevent the party from airing it, but there is nothing that stops our Federal candidates from raising money and spending it on airing this commercial.
- **WEBSITE REVAMP.** Kevin Takenaga and Mark Johnson revamped the LPC website, giving it an updated look and feel and new technology to support distributed authoring.
- **CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT.** Ted Brown continues to bust his butt recruiting partisan candidates. Out of 112 California Libertarians who have agreed to run for partisan office, Ted was responsible for twisting the arms of about 100 of them. Later this year, the focus will be turning to

- non-partisan candidates. If we have your financial commitment, we can run hundreds for local, non-partisan office and win scores of these seats, as we have done in the past.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.** Kevin Takenaga and Bruce Cohen organized the office into an efficient working environment and replaced failing hardware. In addition, Kevin has developed the beginnings of an enterprise-level system to support IT needs.
 - **MEMBERSHIP TRANSITION.** We have been dealing with the transition from national's Unified Membership Plan to having separate membership and dues for the California party. This has required that we develop an independent database to track membership, develop and implement a county Membership Acquisition and Retention Agreement, implement an internal caging operation, draft renewal letters, etc. There is more work to do here, but we are way ahead of most state affiliates in this period of change. Special thanks to Kevin Takenaga and M Carling for their hard work here.
 - **IMPROVED MONTHLY PUBLICATION.** Created an editorial policy for "California Freedom" that moves our focus away from internal philosophical debates to externally oriented politics. Special thanks go to Bruce Cohen for managing this transition in our publication and helping us maintain the high standards we have achieved.
 - **CONVENTION CRUISE.** Planned and executed a convention cruise. For the first time, we are having our convention at sea. Many delegates are bringing spouses and are having a fun time. Special thanks go to Continuing Education, Inc. who put in the bid for this convention.

Report of the Secretary – Daniel Wiener

The Secretary performs and oversees a variety of clerical and communication functions as delineated in the LPC Bylaws and Convention Rules.

Minutes were taken for the 2005 state convention and quarterly Executive Committee meetings. In addition, a number of mail ballots were conducted between physical meetings of the Executive Committee. The results of those mail ballots, along with decisions by the Operations Committee and the Judicial Committee, were reported at the quarterly meetings and included in the minutes. Summaries of meetings were emailed to county officers. The approved minutes of Executive Committee meetings were posted on the LPC web site at http://www.ca.lp.org/cat_minutes.shtml.

A project was undertaken to collect minutes from as many past state conventions and Executive Committee meetings as possible. Those documents were converted to PDF formats and posted in the Secretary's briefcase. Minutes from 85 past Executive Committee meetings are available at <http://snurl.com/excom>. Minutes from 21 past state conventions are available at <http://snurl.com/convention>.

Information was compiled on all county officers, including election dates and email addresses. The Group Mail program was initially used to send mass mailings to them. That was superseded by a group email list set up by Kevin Takenaga which permits (moderated) postings by all county officers. This low-volume list is intended for official, relevant LPC news and announcements only. The Secretary must pre-approve postings to make sure they fit within the criteria of the list.

The transition from the national LP United Membership Plan to a state membership system caused massive disruptions in the processing and maintenance of memberships. This was especially true with regard to the membership database. Previously the national Libertarian Party had been providing states with monthly database "dumps" which often had severe accuracy and timeliness problems. With the end of the UMP, it fell on state volunteers (especially M Carling and Kevin Takenaga) to update the data and import it into a newly-designed California database. Executive Director David Ruprecht and Monica Kadera also played critical roles in accomplishing this transition.

Report of the Treasurer – Willard Michlin

Our finances are healthy. We began the year with net assets of \$97,000 and ended with \$60,000. Cash in the bank declined from \$95,000 to \$79,000.

That being said, 2005 has proved to be a transition year for us with the national party's decision to phase out the Unified Membership Plan (UMP).

With the phasing out of UMP, there are a number of financial consequences:

- We are now responsible for our own membership processing, recruitment and retention.
- Many members have always given to the national party and not the state party. Educating them on the distinction between the two so that they begin contributing to us will be costly.
- Because a member typically pays for one year's membership in advance, accounting rules require that we defer the recognition of membership revenues and recognize them over a period of a year, while much of the costs associated with membership dues occur up front.
- California Freedom is now being mailed separately from LP News, so we have to incur our own postage costs.

If we expect to recruit and support many candidates this year and maintain – or even grow – our membership, we run a significant risk that our financial reserves will be depleted in 2006, unless we aggressively increase our fund raising. Give generously. Your contribution is our budget.

Rather than spend a lot of money printing out financial reports for those who aren't necessarily interested in reading them, I have a couple dozen copies of our financial statements available for any delegate to look over. Just come by and ask.

Report of the Candidate Recruitment Committee – Ted Brown, Chair

This committee is responsible for recruiting candidates for office who run serious campaigns and lend credibility to our party.

During this part of the election cycle, this committee is charged with finding Libertarians to run for partisan offices in California. 2006 is an election year, but the first day for candidates to take out papers was December 31, 2005. Thus, recruitment activity took place between August and December 2005.

Partisan offices up for election in 2006 are Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Controller, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, 4 seats on the State Board of Equalization, U. S. Senator, 53 U. S. House seats, 20 even-numbered State Senate seats, and all 80 State Assembly seats, for a total count of 165 positions.

There were several volunteers to take on some of the positions, but I primarily had to call through the LPC membership list to find Libertarians willing to run for these offices. Very few county organizations were willing to offer any assistance, including those who have recruited their own candidates in the past. Special thanks go to Art Tuma of Sacramento and Chuck McGlawn of Orange County for engaging in independent candidate recruitment efforts.

In any event, my calling was quite successful in signing up at least 100 of the 112 California Libertarians who agreed to run for the 165 positions. So far about 8 of them have dropped out, and we won't know until the filing deadlines are reached as to the final count of those who have qualified for the ballot.

I hosted a candidate training workshop for Southern California candidates, which was held in December in Los Angeles. About 20 candidates attended.

I'm looking forward to an active 2006 on the part of our candidates. They are, after all, the public face of our party.

Report of the Convention Funding and Development Committee – Allen Hacker, Chair

This committee is responsible for facilitating fully-attended LPC Conventions..

Accomplishments

One member made a formal request for assistance to attend the convention. That request was accommodated through the coordination of private accommodations, and that member will be present at the convention.

Given the lack of demand for this committee's services, I recommend it be discontinued.

Report of the Marketing & Branding Committee – Mark Johnson, Chair

Responsible for defining, developing, packaging and delivering an effective Libertarian Party of California brand in a cost-effective manner to the political marketplace, and ensuring a consistent message be conveyed in all public communications and appearances.

Summary: The Marketing & Branding Committee is a new committee formed at the urging of Mark Whitney, after his election to the Executive Committee last year. I took over the committee in August after Mr. Whitney resigned his membership. Mr. Whitney's original intent was to run a large direct marketing campaign to register voters as Libertarians. Due to the cost and the uncertainty of success, this program has been tabled, in favor of more certain marketing plans. The M&B committee this year focused on being a marketing resource to other committees, especially for writing copy. Some accomplishments are listed below:

- The production of a 30-second commercial starring LPC Executive Director, David Ruprecht. Though we planned to use the video to create local, targeted marketing campaigns, new campaign finances laws in BCRA forced us to mothball the video for the time being.
- The marketing of the Liberty at Sea '06 Cruise. The convention boasts over 120 attendees.
- Shared responsibility with Mr. Takenaga and the Infrastructure Committee for designing a new Web site at www.lp.ca.org.
- With shared membership being eliminated at the National Level, Mr. Carling took on the responsibility to convert the LPC to California-specific membership dues. The M&B committee assisted Mr. Carling by writing renewal letters, thank you letters, and other copy for the campaign.

In 2006, the Marketing & Branding Committee will continue to be a writing resource and will pursue opportunities to create brand-recognition among California voters about the Libertarian Party of California.

Report of the Media Relations Committee Report – G. Richard Newell, Chair

This committee is responsible for media relations and the solicitation, review and submission of guest opinion columns.

Current Committee Members

Writers for The Libertarian Perspective

- Joe Cobb
- Fred E. Foldvary
- Ron Getty
- Anthony Gregory
- Tibor R. Machan
- L.K. Samuels
- Thomas M. Sipos
- Adam B. Summers

Editors (The Libertarian Perspective and LPC press releases)

- Jacqueline Estrada
- Dan Minkoff

Other Significant Contributors during the 2005-2006 year

- Neal Donner
- Mark Whitney
- Richard Rider
- Bill Holmes
- Bruce Cohen
- Kevin Takenaga
- Aaron Starr

Accomplishments

The Libertarian Perspective

- Inaugurated the successful weekly op-ed column:

Obtained biographies and photos of writers; helped create initial web pages; set up initial email distribution mechanism; created all legal documents and obtained releases from the writers, wrote HTML email template, and etc.

- **Published approx. 40 quality op-ed columns on a wide variety of topics**

- Consistently delivered on time
- Email distribution, plus posted on ca.lp.org website each week
- Published by a number of conventional newspapers and also websites and web-logs, for example: San Francisco Examiner, Ventura County Star, Coastal Post, Reason Online, EnterStageRight, NewsCalifornia.com, and etc.
- Changed email distribution service three times without missing any weekly columns
- Recruited new writers

Press Releases

- **Wrote and distributed eight LPC press releases**

- Answered reporters questions, or connected them with someone who could
- All press releases distributed using a national distribution service
- Added fax distribution, and more recently added email distribution of press releases
- All press releases posted on ca.lp.org in a timely manner

Email Distribution List

- **Built media distribution list from zero to over 2000 entries**, mostly reporters, editors, and publishers
- Added self-subscription feature

Misc. Accomplishments

- Replied to dozens of email inquiries
- Media relations chairperson and committee members **posted or authored nearly 100 web pages on ca.lp.org**; (approx. 75% of total web site content)
- Wrote several articles for California Freedom

Report of the Membership Communications Committee – Bruce Cohen, Chair

This committee is responsible for overseeing the production of the party newspaper and any e-mail communications.

Accomplishments

E-mail outreach and contact –

- Modernized an outdated e-mail list to a web based marketing and contact system.
- Conceived, created and delivered 30 e-mail campaigns.
- Send out 131,232 total e-mail communications.
- Grew the LPCA e-mail contact database.
- Reduced the e-mail bounce rate from 58.8% to 18.2%
- Purged the LPCA e-mail database of thousands of bad e-mail addresses
- Worked with Marketing and Branding Committee Chair Mark Johnson to increase the open rate, click-through rate and effectiveness of outgoing e-mail.

California Freedom Magazine –

- Performed the duties of Executive Editor of California Freedom, including supervising and approving content.
- Developed an Editorial Policy for California Freedom.
- Developed an Advertising Standards Policy for California Freedom.

Plans for next year:

- Grow the LPCA E-mail contact database.
- Increase the circulation of California Freedom
- Increase the size of California Freedom.
- Increase Advertising Revenue for California Freedom

Report of the Membership Recruitment Committee – M Carling, Chair

This committee is responsible for recruiting new party members.

In addition to this committee, I chair the Membership Retention Committee, the Bylaws Committee and serve as one of your representatives on the Libertarian National Committee.

Accomplishments

- Acquired and studied the results of the hundreds of membership acquisition mailings done by the national LP as part of Project Archimedes during 1994 to 2000.
- Worked with county LP officers to develop a Membership Acquisition and Retention Agreement to make membership acquisition affordable.
- Prepared a test mailing to four carefully selected groups each of 1000 registered Libertarian voters asking them to become LPC members. Bruce Cohen, Mark Johnson, Rich Newell, Dave Ruprecht, and Kevin Takenaga all helped.

Report of the Membership Retention Committee – M Carling, Chair

This committee is responsible for retaining existing members by making them feel welcome and appreciated.

I took over the chairmanship of this committee mid-year when the former chairman was unable to fulfill his duties.

Accomplishments

In this limited period of time, we have accomplished the following:

- Worked with county LP officers to develop a Membership Acquisition and Retention Agreement to make membership acquisition affordable.
- Sent several renewal letters. Mark Johnson, Rich Newell, and Dave Ruprecht all helped.
- Renewed about 500 members and received about \$25,000.

Report of the Volunteer Development Committee – Allen Hacker, Chair

This committee is responsible for the recruitment, nurturing and organizing of volunteers for party activities.

Accomplishments

Close to 150 potential volunteers have made themselves available through the LPC website, and another 22 came in through the 2004 Badnarik campaign and LP HQ. A databasing process is in the works, with the intention that volunteers will be able to submit themselves directly into the database and be discovered by committee and project leaders through custom search criteria and project descriptions registered in the database.

Little work has been done as yet to promote the volunteers' availability, and few committees have requested resources from this committee. However, this project will have considerable value in the near and long run, and should be continued. A pilot application is being developed within the context of the Badnarik for Congress campaign, of which this committee's chair is the campaign manager.

Report of the Voter Registration Committee – Bruce Dovner, Chair

This committee is responsible for increasing the number of registered Libertarian voters.

Accomplishments

- Created voter registration web site, www.lp-ca.org.
 - Created voter registration web pages and sales pitch based upon the LPC Program.
- Researched “Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act” (BCRA) regarding voter registration activities within 120 days of federal election. Found that such activities will cause the Party to trigger onerous reporting requirements under BCRA.
 - Determined that independent IRC 527 committees can support such efforts.
 - Determined that candidates can conduct voter registration without any additional reporting requirements, except if it forces them above the \$5,000 threshold.
- Distributed registered Libertarian lists to all candidates.
 - Customized lists for district, addresses sorted by proximity so as to facilitate easy walking or driving from one address to another.
 - Put lists in form that is easily imported into most popular spreadsheets and databases.
 - Distributed lists via password-protected website using SSL (encryption).

Report of the Website & Infrastructure Committee – Kevin Takenaga, Chair

This committee is responsible for the design, development and maintenance of all party websites, databases, and computer systems.

In the first half of 2005, the Committee upgraded the State Party website (www.ca.lp.org) and worked on the IT infrastructure at LPC HQ.

During the remaining months of the year, the Committee focused on developing and implementing a strategic solution for the Party database.

Accomplishments

- Performed a website redesign and installed a Content Management System (CMS) for distributed authoring.
- Upgraded computers and directed clean up of LPC HQ.
- Provided desktop support to LPC staff.
- Worked with National to improve data transfer to the LPC.
- Setup announce-only email lists to improve internal Party communication.
- Recruited volunteers to perform various committee duties, including on-going website maintenance and strategic planning.
- Began work on a database-use agreement.
- Supported end of UMP transition.
- Architected and developed a web-enabled, enterprise-wide application to support Party activities. Phase 1 complete.

Plans

- The Committee will continue to build upon the work started last year and develop IT resources to further advance the Party agenda.
- Qualified LPC Members with IT skills, experience, and time are invited to assist with all areas of Committee responsibility. Contact the Committee Chair for volunteer opportunities.

Platform Committee Report

Platform Committee Chair Ted Brown presented the Platform Committee's report. Other members of the Platform Committee were Susan Marie Weber, Brian Holtz, Bob Weber, Allen Hacker, Rick Nichol, and Camden McConnell.

1. Proposal # 1 was to add a new third paragraph to the Licensing Laws plank: We oppose issuance of state driver's licenses and the requirement that individuals must obtain a license to drive on public roadways. Private certificates of competency could be issued by insurance companies as a means of loss control. Any driver, whether certified or not, would still bear financial responsibility for any damages caused while driving. The proposal was approved by voice vote.
2. Proposal # 2 was to add the word "count" to the first sentence in the sixth paragraph of the Election Reform plank so that it would read: "To avoid fraud and manipulation, we oppose direct record electronic voting systems that do not use a voter verified paper ballot as the ballot of count, recount, audit and record." The proposal was approved by voice vote.
3. Proposal # 3 was to add at the end of Section B of the Judicial plank the words: and the right of the accused to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor. The vote was 36 in favor and 18 against, which met the two-thirds requirement by not the requirement for a majority of credentialed delegates. The proposal failed.
4. Proposal # 4 was to change the name of the Draft plank to "Military" and add a new first paragraph: We oppose the deployment of any military forces of the United States, including the California National Guard and California Air National Guard, beyond the borders of the United States, absent a formal declaration of war by the Congress. The existing paragraph would become the second paragraph. Also add a third paragraph: We support the creation of volunteer militias, independent of the National Guard. Rodney Austin moved to amend by striking out the words "any military forces of the United States, including". The amendment was approved 33-21. Angela Keaton moved to amend by striking the words "absent a formal declaration of war by Congress". The amendment failed for lack of enough seconds (10% of delegates). The question was divided into three parts. The first part (We oppose the deployment of the California National Guard and California Air National Guard beyond the borders of the United States, absent a formal declaration of war by the Congress.) was approved as amended by voice vote. The second part (We support the creation of volunteer militias, independent of the National Guard.) was approved by voice vote. The third part (changing the name of the plank to "Military") was approved by voice vote.
5. Proposal # 5 was to add the following paragraph to the Judicial plank: While Libertarians disagree about the morality and deterrence value of capital punishment, it is well-documented that many innocent people have been falsely condemned to death. For this reason, we call for a moratorium on the death penalty, and its replacement with life in prison without possibility of parole. The vote was 39 in favor and 31 against, which did not meet either the two-thirds requirement or the requirement for a majority of credentialed delegates. The proposal failed.

Ed Teyssier moved to suspend the rules to extend time for 10 minutes to complete the Platform Committee report. Passed.

6. Proposal # 6 was to add the following paragraph to the end of the Marriage plank: Until such time as the state of California ends its involvement in marriage, we call upon the state to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples. Michael Edelstein moved to amend by substituting the following wording: "We oppose the State of California being involved in marriage and that it end

such involvement immediately.” The amendment failed for lack of seconds. Bruce Cohen moved to amend to strike the last three words “same sex couples” and replace them with “any adult couple without regard to gender”. Michael Denny moved to amend the amendment by striking the word “couple”; it passed, with the convention agreeing without objection to also add an “s” to “adult”. The amendment (“any adults without regard to gender”) was approved by standing vote. The amended proposal (Until such time as the state of California ends its involvement in marriage, we call upon the state to issue marriage licenses to any adults without regard to gender.) was approved by voice vote.

Allen Hacker moved to suspend the rules to extend time for 10 minutes to consider a Platform amendment to limit the power of judges to change child custody. Failed.
The Convention recessed for ten minutes.

A motion was made to suspend the rules to consider an anti-war resolution for 10 minutes. Failed.

Executive Committee Elections

Executive Committee elections were held, with five two-year positions and one one-year position to be filled. The Convention agreed to the Chair’s suggestion to suspend the rules such that delegates would be able to vote for up to six candidates, and the top five vote-getters would be elected to the two-year positions while the sixth-highest vote-getter would be elected to the one-year position. Nominations were opened, and the nominators and candidates each then spoke for a total of up to three minutes:

- Paul Ireland was nominated by Willard Michlin. Mark Selzer also spoke on Paul’s behalf.
- John Eckl was nominated by Bruce Dovner.
- Matthew Barnes was nominated by Matthew Shannon.
- Zander Collier was nominated by Matthew Barnes.
- Allen Hacker was nominated by Kevin Takenaga.
- Mark Johnson was nominated by Allen Hacker.
- Lois Garcia was nominated by Mark Johnson.
- John Ballard was nominated.
- M Carling was nominated by Lawrence Samuels.
- Don Cowles was nominated by M Carling.
- Richard Newell was nominated by Daniel Wiener.
- Frank Manske was nominated by Camden McConnell.
- Angela Keaton was nominated by Mark Selzer.
- Rick Nichol was nominated by Paul Ireland.

The names of eleven of the candidates had been submitted to the Secretary prior to the convention so that ballots could be printed. The names of John Eckl, Angela Keaton, and Lois Garcia were added to the ballots by hand. Ballots were turned in individually to the Secretary so that the delegate status of each voter could be verified. Michael Badnarik assisted the Secretary with the vote count. The results were:

62 – Mark Johnson
60 – Richard Newell
57 – Don Cowles
50 – M Carling
32 – Angela Keaton
29 – Zander Collier
28 – Allen Hacker
26 – Lois Garcia
25 – Rick Nichol
25 – Matt Barnes
22 – John Eckl
19 – John Ballard
14 – Frank Manske
13 – Paul Ireland

Mark Johnson, Richard Newell, Don Cowles, M Carling, and Angela Keaton were elected to two-year terms. Zander Collier was elected to a one-year term.

Keynote Address

Adrian Moore from the Reason Foundation gave the keynote address while ballots were being counted for the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Elections for Alternates

Due to time limitations, the Convention decided not to hold elections for Executive Committee Alternates.

National Delegate Elections

Due to time limitations, the Convention agreed without objection to select all the LPC members whose names were supplied to the Secretary to be delegates to the LP 2006 national convention. The following 79 members will accordingly be delegates:

FIRST	LAST	COUNTY
Michael	Acree	San Francisco
Rodney	Austin	Fresno
Phil	Berg	San Francisco
Marcy	Berry	San Francisco
Edward	Bowers	Orange
Elizabeth	Brierly	San Jose
Rick	Bronstein	Los Angeles
M	Carling	Los Angeles
Jose	Castaneda	Los Angeles
Joe	Cobb	Orange
Ryan	Cobb	Orange
Bruce	Cohen	Orange
Ron	Colfer	Alameda
Zander	Collier	Los Angeles
Curt	Cornell	Alameda
Don	Cowles	Los Angeles
Andrew	del Vecio	San Diego
Mark	Dierolf	Monterey
Bruce	Dovner	Los Angeles
John	Erickson	Alameda
Constance	Erickson	Alameda
Michael	Everling	Los Angeles
Jim	Eyer	Alameda
Michelle	Eyer	Alameda
Laura	Ferrer	Santa Clara
Terry	Floyd	Alameda
Alana	Garberoglio	Sacramento

Lois	Garcia	Santa Clara
Aubri	Gullett	Ventura
Allen	Hacker	Santa Clara
Mark	Hinkle	Santa Clara
Linda	Hinkle	Santa Clara
Logan	Hinkle	Santa Clara
Brian	Holtz	San Mateo
Paul	Ireland	Los Angeles
Mark	Johnson	Santa Clara
John	Jones	Los Angeles
Sandra	Kallander	Los Angeles
Angela	Keaton	Los Angeles
Gary	Lea	Contra Costa
Scott	Lieberman	Santa Clara
Gail	Lightfoot	San Luis Obispo
Frank	Manske	Contra Costa
Camden	McConnel	Contra Costa
Willard	Michlin	Ventura
Susan	Michlin	Ventura
Ed	Moss	San Luis Obispo
Richard	Newell	Contra Costa
Kate	O'Brien	Ventura
Naoko	Oshitani	Orange
Paul	Polson	San Luis Obispo
Juanita	Ramirez	San Bernardino
Bud	Raymond	Los Angeles
Rodger	Rosie	Los Angeles
David	Ruprecht	Los Angeles

Lawrence	Samuels	Monterey
Peter	Schowe	Alameda
Dave	Schrader	Los Angeles
Curt	Schultz	Alameda
Al	Segalla	Calaveras
Mark	Selzer	Los Angeles
Vibeke	Seymour	Orange
Thomas	Sipos	Los Angeles
Jay	Smith (Eckl)	Fresno
Marc	Solomon	Orange
Jeffrey	Sommer	Alameda
Aaron	Starr	Ventura
Morey	Straus	San Francisco

Mark	Stroberg	Alameda
Kevin	Takenaga	Santa Clara
Art	Tuma	Sacramento
Dick	Venable	San Luis Obispo
Kenneth	Vudmaska	Los Angeles
Sandi	Webb	Ventura
Lee	Welter	Sacramento
Daniel	Wiener	Ventura
Richard	Winger	San Francisco
Jerret	Wolstein	Alameda
Jonathan	Zwickel	Fresno

Judicial Committee Elections

Nine people were nominated for Judicial Committee, and the candidates were each given an opportunity to speak. The names of Mark Hinkle, Bob Weber, Saul Rackauskas, Camden McConnell, and Rodney Austin had been submitted to the Secretary prior to the convention so that ballots could be printed. Rodney Austin declined the nomination. The remaining nominations were added to the ballots by hand. The results were:

- 56 – Mark Hinkle
- 53 – Bob Weber
- 51 – Allen Hacker
- 47 – Camden McConnell
- 32 – Marc Solomon
- 32 – John Eckl
- 27 – Saul Rackauskas
- 19 – Starchild
- 12 – Sandor Woren
- 1 – Gail Lightfoot (write-in)
- 1 – Paul Ireland (write-in)
- 1 – Rick Nichol (write-in)
- 1 – NOTA

Mark Hinkle, Bob Weber, Allen Hacker, and Camden McConnell were elected. A run-off election was held between Marc Solomon (who received 36 votes) and John Eckl (who received 26 votes); there was also one write-in vote for Cullene Lang. Mark Solomon was elected. The Judicial Committee later chose Mark Hinkle to be its Chair.

The Convention adjourned for lunch.

Bylaws Committee Report

Bylaws Committee Chair M Carling presented the Bylaws Committee's report. Other members of the Bylaws Committee were Ray Strong, Daniel Wiener, Frank Manske, and Allen Hacker.

1. Proposal # 1, a no-debate item, was approved by voice vote:

Bylaw 9: OFFICERS

Section 8.

The Executive Committee shall appoint new officers, including the Chair, ~~at-large~~ Executive Committee members and alternates, or Operations Committee members if vacancies occur, such appointees to complete the term of office vacated unless a convention meets sooner, in which case a new election shall be held for any officer position so filled.

2. Proposal # 2, a no-debate item, was approved by voice vote. The following provisions were moved from the Convention Rules into Bylaw 17 (Convention) without changing any wording:

Rule 3: DELEGATES

Section 1.

Any delegate or alternate to a Party convention must be a current member of a county central committee as defined in Bylaw 3, Section 3, at the meeting at which delegates are selected.

Section 2.

Certification of delegates and alternates selected for each county shall be submitted to the Party Secretary at least two weeks prior to the opening session of the convention by the person presiding over the meeting at which the delegates were selected.

Section 3.

Failure by a county to submit certification at least two weeks prior to the opening session of the convention shall cause no delegates to be registered from that county.

Section 4.

Delegates to the Party's state convention shall have been state central committee members at least 90 days prior to the convention.

Rule 4: CHALLENGE OF DELEGATES

Section 1.

Any slate of county delegates to a Party convention may be challenged by petition of 10% of that county's central committee members. The petitions must be submitted to the Secretary of the Party and the Judicial Committee at least seven days prior to the convention. The petition must state the names of the delegates proposed to replace those challenged, and the reason for the challenge.

Section 2.

The Judicial Committee shall hear all the challenges on the day before the convention convenes and shall provide a ruling in each case to the Party Secretary before the convention convenes.

Rule 6: VOTING ELIGIBILITY

All delegates in good standing shall be eligible to vote on all matters. In order to vote on a given matter, a delegate must be present on the floor at the time that the vote is taken. Each delegate present shall have one vote. Any delegate from a county, including delegates sent to the convention as provided in Bylaw 17, Section 4, Paragraph B, may be replaced by an alternate from that county with the consent of the county delegation.

Rule 7: VOTING PROCEDURE

The Chair may require any motion offered from the convention floor to be in writing, signed by the maker, and submitted to the Secretary.

3. Proposal # 3, a no-debate item, was approved by voice vote:

Bylaw 7: DUES SHARING

40% of dues revenues shall be retained by the Party. Each active county central committee shall receive the portion of the 60% attributable to the members and associate members ~~in~~^{of} that county ~~party~~. However, if the Party participates in a joint membership arrangement which allows for a portion of initial dues to be retained, that portion shall be retained by the Libertarian Party state or county organization which recruited the new member or associate member. Dues shall be distributed to any active county central committee upon request, or whenever the total amount owed to the county central committee exceeds \$50.

4. Proposal # 4, a no-debate item, was approved by voice vote:

Rule 10: AGENDA

E. Elections, in the following order:

5. National convention delegates, Libertarian National Committee representatives and alternates, ~~National Platform Committee representative, and National Credentials Committee representative~~ at Party conventions immediately preceding national conventions.

5. Proposal # 5, a no-debate item, was approved by voice vote:

Rule 10: AGENDA

~~K. Style Committee appointment.~~

6. Proposal # 6, a no-debate, item was approved by voice vote:

Rule 10: AGENDA

E. Elections, in the following order:

1. Party officers in odd-numbered years ~~for two-year terms~~, and in even-numbered years to fill the unexpired terms of vacated Party officers;
2. At-large members of the Executive Committee ~~for one year terms~~;
3. At-large alternates of the Executive Committee ~~for one year terms~~;
4. Judicial Committee members ~~for one year terms~~; and

7. Proposal # 7, a no-debate item, was approved by voice vote:

Bylaw 8: COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

Section 4.

A county is deemed as having selected its officers, ~~Executive Committee representatives~~ and convention delegates only if an election notice has been mailed to the members at least 30 days but no more than 60 days in advance of the election. The election notice must also be sent to and received by the Party Secretary at least 30 days in advance of the election. Such notice shall specify the reason for the meeting and a time and place reasonably accessible to its membership. An election must be held every year. The results of the election must be reported to the Party Secretary within 15 days after the election. Any member of the central committee of that county may challenge the legality of an election by bringing the issue before the Judicial Committee. The Executive Committee may declare a county inactive if it fails to hold elections in accordance with this section.

8. Proposal # 8, a no-debate item, was approved by voice vote:

Bylaw 5: MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.

Individuals may become members of ~~a county~~^{the state} central committee either by:

- A. Election to the committee by Libertarian voters in a primary election pursuant to the relevant parts of the election code, provided they have signed the statement described in item C below,
- B. Becoming a holder of California public office that is subject to election other than county central committee, provided they have signed the statement described in item C below, or

C. Making application, paying such dues as prescribed by the Executive Committee and signing the following statement: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals." The Executive Committee may authorize participation in a joint membership arrangement with the national Libertarian Party for the purpose of satisfying the dues requirement.

No ~~county~~state central committee member shall be a registrant of or hold office in any political party other than the Libertarian Party.

Section 3.

Membership ~~in any county central committee confers membership~~ in the Libertarian Party of California State Central Committee is the only requirement for membership in a county central committee.

9. Proposal # 9, a no-debate item, was approved by voice vote:

Bylaw 17: CONVENTION

Section 3.

For the purpose of representation at the annual convention, the number of members affiliated with each county shall be determined by the Secretary as of the end of the ~~third~~fifth month prior to the opening session of the convention. The Secretary will notify each county central committee of its eligibility for delegates by mail, no later than the 20th day of the ~~second~~fourth month prior to the opening of the convention.

9(a). Proposal # 9(a) was the only item added to the Bylaws Committee's report during its meeting on Saturday, February 25, 2006. It would re-insert Bylaw 17 between the current Bylaws 16 and 17. It was approved by voice vote:

Bylaw 17: Write-in Votes for Partisan Office

A person seeking the Party nomination for a partisan office by write-in votes in the direct primary election shall be deemed nominated and shall have his or her name printed on the general election ballot as Libertarian Party nominee if both the following conditions are met:

A. He or she receives more votes than anyone else for the Libertarian Party's nomination for that office.

B. He or she receives a total number of votes in the Libertarian Party direct primary election for that office equal to the number of signatures that he or she would have needed in order to have qualified to appear on the Party's primary ballot per Calif. Election Code sec. 8062. This bylaw shall supercede Cal. Election Code sec. 8605 for Libertarian Party direct primary nominations by write-in votes.

10. Proposal # 10 would add three sections to Bylaw 3:

Bylaw 3: SCOPE

Section 1.

The Party shall endeavor to elect Libertarians to state and local office within California. The Party may also support or oppose changes to California law.

Section 2.

The Party shall not make any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything of value, for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office.

Section 3.

County parties may make any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything of value, for the purpose of influencing any election for federal office if their county bylaws expressly so authorize.

Section 4.

The Party shall conduct its activities primarily within the state of California. Any Party activities taking place outside of California must be coordinated with and approved by the state or national Libertarian Party organizations having jurisdiction over the areas affected.

A motion to call the question failed. Mark Selzer moved to amend by replacing wording to say that "The state party shall not spend more than \$1,000 total on federal candidates". The amendment was withdrawn. A motion to call the question passed. The proposal failed 31-30 (it required 46 votes).

11. Proposal # 11 was approved:

Bylaw 7: DUES SHARING

The state or county Party organization that acquires a new member shall retain the first year dues. 40% of subsequent year dues revenues shall be retained by the Party. Each active county central committee shall receive the portion of the 60% attributable to the members and associate members in that county. However, if the Party participates in a joint membership arrangement which allows for a portion of initial dues to be retained, that portion shall be retained by the Libertarian Party state or county organization which recruited the new member or associate member.—Dues shall be distributed to any active county central committee upon request, or whenever the total amount owed to the county central committee exceeds \$50.

12. Proposal # 12 would make the Program Committee a year-round committee:

Bylaw 19: PROGRAM

Section 1.

The Party Program shall consist of up to five planks which state interim measures and practical policies, designed to implement the Party position on issues of interest to California. The Program shall not conflict with the Statement of Principles or the Platform. ~~The Program shall be in effect until the next convention. The adoption of a plank shall require approval of two-thirds of the votes cast, but not less than a majority of all delegates registered.~~

Section 2.

The Program Committee shall be a standing committee of five members selected by the Executive Committee. The Program Committee may at any time, by a majority vote, recommend the adoption, amendment, or deletion of a plank. Changes to the Program take effect immediately upon ratification by the Executive Committee of a Program Committee recommendation. The adoption or amendment of a plank shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee. The rescission of a plank shall require a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 3.

Challenges of adopted planks believed by a delegate to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party or with the Statement of Principles or Platform of the Libertarian Party of California shall be referred in writing, **during the convention,** to the Judicial Committee **by the delegate(s)** requesting action for consideration. The challenge shall specify in what manner the plank is believed to conflict. The Judicial Committee shall decide whether the plank in question conforms to the respective Statement of Principles or Platform and make a report stating the justification of its decision to the floor of the convention. If the plank is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it will be declared null and void, but can be reinstated in the Program by a three-fourths vote of the convention.

Bylaw 14: COMMITTEES

Section 3.

There shall be a Platform Committee ~~and Program Committee~~ for each convention. ~~Each~~The committee shall consist of a coordinator and one delegate from each county central committee. The coordinator ~~of each committee~~ shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at least 30 days before the convention. The county delegates shall be selected at least 30 days prior to the convention in such a manner as each county shall provide.

It was moved to amend by deleting the words “, during the convention,” and changing “by the delegate(s)” to “any member” (see yellow highlighted sections above). The amendment passed. The proposal as amended was approved.

13. Proposal # 13 was approved:

Bylaw 16: NATIONAL COMMITTEE REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

Section 5.

A National Regional Executive Committee Representative may be recalled by the Executive Committee. A vacancy shall occur whenever an LNC representative misses two meetings or an alternate misses three meetings since his last selection. The Executive Committee may reappoint the previous holder of the vacated seat.

14. Proposal # 14 was approved:

Bylaw 5: MEMBERSHIP

Section 5.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend a county central committee member for failure to maintain all the qualifications of membership established in Section 2, or for cause. Notification of the suspension is subject to written appeal within fifteen (15) days of notification. Failure to appeal shall terminate membership. The Executive Committee may reinstate memberships terminated under this section. The term "cause" as used in this section shall include but not be limited to the following:

A. Intentionally involving, or threatening to involve, legal authorities in any non-civil dispute against the Party or one of its affiliates.

B. Having unpaid debts over 90 days old outstanding to the Party.

~~Section 10.~~

~~Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, a county central committee member shall be suspended indefinitely if, without the permission or pardon of the Executive Committee, the member:~~

~~A. Is registered in any political party other than the Party or one of its affiliates;~~

~~B. Intentionally involves, or threatens to involve, legal authorities in any non-civil dispute against the Party or one of its affiliates; or~~

~~C. Has unpaid debts over 90 days old outstanding to the Party.~~

~~Members suspended under this section will be reinstated when the offending condition(s) has (have) been resolved.~~

15. Proposal # 15 failed:

Bylaw 11: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~~Section 9.~~

~~On all other matters, main motions shall require a simple majority of the eligible positions on the Executive Committee.~~

Time for the Bylaws Committee's report expired.

Program Committee Report

Because of the passage of Bylaws Committee Proposal # 12, the Program Committee's report was dropped from the agenda. The current Program will remain in effect unless and until it is changed over the course of the coming year.

Resolutions

Allen Hacker moved the adoption of the following resolution, which was adopted without dissent:

Resolution to Oppose Proposition 82, aka the "California Preschool for All Act"

Whereas, Prop 82 creates a \$2.5 billion a year entitlement program yet will provide only an 8% improvement for pre-school enrollment,

Whereas, studies are inconclusive as to the touted benefits of a one-size-fits all program,

Whereas, it has been shown that the benefits of preschool, which fade by the 3rd grade level, are being blown out of proportion by the proponents of this bill,

Whereas, Prop 82 destroys a working system in favor of an untested theory,

Whereas, the creation of universal preschool amounts to a blatant power grab by the state education bureaucracy,

Whereas, the LPC platform calls for an end to government and tax-funded pre-school programs,

Whereas, the "California Preschool for All Act", will provide neither adequate preschool education nor education for all,

Resolved, that the Libertarian Party of California strongly opposes Proposition 82, the "California Preschool for All Act", and urges all Californians to vote in opposition of the measure's passage and encourages Party members to support the "No on Prop 82" campaign.

Mark Selzer moved the adoption of the following resolution:

All Libertarian Party conventions will take place within the geographic confines of the state of California and will not be held on a ship, plane, or train and will never require members of the California Libertarian Party to pay any fee to vote on party business.

Daniel Wiener moved to amend by substituting the following wording:

The Libertarian Party of California convention body expresses its appreciation to all the people who worked so hard and effectively to put on an enjoyable and productive 2006 state convention.

Mark Hinkle moved to call all previous questions. Passed.

The motion to amend by substitution passed 33-29.

The resolution as amended ("The Libertarian Party of California convention body expresses its appreciation to all the people who worked so hard and effectively to put on an enjoyable and productive 2006 state convention.") received 38 votes in favor and 20 votes against, which did not meet either the two-thirds requirement or the requirement for a majority of credentialed delegates. The resolution failed.

Ted Brown moved the adoption of the following resolution. Michael Edelstein moved to amend as shown below by the addition of the words highlighted in yellow. The changes were accepted by the Convention.

Resolution Regarding The War In Iraq

Whereas: The United States **government has accomplished its goal of eliminating any threat of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq;**

Whereas: The United States **government has succeeded in deposing a brutal dictator;**

Whereas: The war in Iraq was executed without a formal declaration of war by the Congress, and is therefore unconstitutional;

Whereas: The war in Iraq was sold to the American people by the administration based upon exaggerations, half-truths, and lies;

Whereas: The Libertarian Party Platform opposes foreign intervention, except in cases of imminent danger to the United States;

Whereas: The war in Iraq is not in the national security interests of the **people of the United States, and does nothing to fight terrorism, indeed increases the likelihood of terrorism;**

Whereas: It is wrong to send American soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen to die or be wounded when it is not in the national security interests of the **people of the United States;**

Whereas: There is no purpose in continuing to spend money and suffer casualties in order to occupy Iraq;

Therefore Be It Resolved: The Libertarian Party of California demands that the President and Congress withdraw our armed forces from Iraq.

A motion to extend debate for five minutes failed. A motion to extend debate for three minutes failed. A motion to extend debate for one minute failed. The vote for the resolution was 35 in favor and 25 against, which did not meet either the two-thirds requirement or the requirement for a majority of credentialed delegates. The resolution failed.

Lawrence Samuels moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Non-Interventionist Resolution

WHEREAS American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world, and conduct foreign policy upon the enlightened principles of non-intervention;

WHEREAS the United States government should return to its historical libertarian tradition of avoiding entangling alliances, foreign quarrels and imperialist adventures, and recognizing the right to unrestricted trade and travel;

WHEREAS the United States has intervened in the affairs of Iraq -- a nation that neither directly attacked nor threatened America. Such overt hostilities are contrary to the principles of the Libertarian Party.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we demand that the President and Congress act to end the occupation of Iraq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Armed Forces of the USA have the full support of the Libertarian Party. We believe that the withdrawal of U.S. forces as quickly as possible will better

ensure their safety and create a more manageable situation for the elected Iraq government to maintain civil order.

Camden McConnell moved to amend by substituting the following resolution:

Resolved that the LPC takes no position on the War in Iraq.

The proposed substitute amendment failed 28-38.

A motion was made to call the question. Failed.

The vote for the resolution was 37 in favor and 26 against, which did not meet either the two-thirds requirement or the requirement for a majority of credentialed delegates. The resolution failed.

It was moved to suspend the rules to reconsider the anti-intervention resolution passed by the Executive Committee for 15 minutes. Failed.

Endorsement of Candidates

Ted Brown moved to endorse all the LPC statewide candidates: Art Olivier for Governor, Lynnette Shaw for Lt. Governor, Gail Lightfoot for Secretary of State, Donna Tello for State Controller, Marian Smithson for State Treasurer, Ken Weissman for Attorney General, Dale Ogden for Insurance Commissioner, Michael Metti for U.S. Senator, Kenita Watson for Board of Equalization (BOE) District #1, Willard Michlin for BOE District #2, and Monica Kadera for BOE District #4.

Rodney Austin moved to suspend the rules to endorse the candidates by acclamation. Mark Hinkle objected, but was willing to so suspend the rules for everyone except Gail Lightfoot, which was agreed to without objection. The endorsement of all candidates except Gail Lightfoot was approved by voice vote. The endorsement of Gail Lightfoot was approved by voice vote.

Adjournment

The Convention adjourned *sine die* at 4:48 pm.