

**The Libertarian Party of California
Executive Committee Meeting**

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Meeting Location:
Suite 400
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Los Angeles, Calif.

The Executive Committee of The Libertarian Party of California met on Saturday November 7, 1992 in Los Angeles, in the offices of Libertarian Party of Los Angeles County. The following are the minutes of that meeting.

Chairman Pat opened the meeting by asking for additions to the agenda, and asking for acceptance of the minutes. Bob asked that Carol Ann Rand's name be corrected. Jerry asked to clarify his statement concerning PAC candidate support: The PAC cannot be expanded to support Federal candidates, but it has been expanded to support State Assembly and State Senate candidates. Bill asked that the minutes be corrected to show the vote on controversial issues in the newsletter. (The tape recorder ran out of tape, and all the member's vote were not recorded.) Bill said he voted in favor of the motion. Jerry said that he voted against the motion. Ted proposed a motion that the list of attendees to the Ex-Com be omitted from the body of the minutes, and that instead the list be included as an attachment to the minutes. The motion passed with a majority voice vote.

Ray said that he has had a computer problem, and has lost his copies of the previous two Ex-Com meetings: specifically the meeting following the Convention, and the subsequent meeting. Ray asked if anyone had copies, and if they did, would they please forward a copy to him.

Kim asked it would be possible for the minutes to be loaded into Liberty Bell, and thereby allow everyone easy access to the minutes. Bill said that since the minutes are not approved until the subsequent meeting, release prior to approval would not be wise. The request was turned down.

Jerry delivered the treasurer's report. As of the end of September, we are approximately \$15,000 in debt. That is now about \$12,000, and we should be totally out of debt by February. Most of the debt is owed to the Regions as unpaid shares of dues money. By December, all the Regions should be paid their second quarter dues. By January, all third quarter dues should be distributed, and by February, all fourth quarter dues should be distributed. The reason that we will be able to catch up so fast, is that the majority of our members renew at the end of the year. Pat asked if any money had come from the Marrou campaign. The campaign indicated to Pat that they had \$2,500 for the State Party from Marrou contributors. Jerry said he had not received anything. Pat said that he will check into this.

The Ex-Com agreed that the decisions that lead to the payment of the bounty hunters was bad; it crippled us in this election year. However, we have increased our total number of registrants, and we have moved past the Peace & Freedom Party in total number of registrants.

Jerry said that we have one bounty hunter left to pay, and that we owe her approximately \$3,500. Pat asked if it was possible to pay this person now, would be please do so, since he being harassed by this person. Jerry explained that this bounty hunter sent in a box of registrations at the last minuet, and on top was a note saying 286 registrations. He set the box aside, and later, after going through, noticed that 286 was only the top packet. There were more packets in the box, and they totaled almost 900. Jerry said that we are paying this person \$1,000 per month with 8% interest. If there is sufficient income this month, he will pay her off completely.

Neil noticed that the treasurer's report indicated income from income tax forms. Jerry explained that taxpayers may check a box on their income tax forms, and contribute to the a political party of their choice. Neil said that use of government funds is in violation of Party Principals. Jerry said that since the contributions are voluntary, no principals have been violated.

Mark said that the results of the October newsletter are as follows: 11,042 letters were mailed out. 72 people returned the Business Reply Envelopes. 45 people contributed \$1,405.

Ray was reminded that November 30th is the official tally date to determine the number of Convention delegates each Region will get.

Jerry said that AT&T has sent us a proposal on discounts for our 800 number. If we will commit to AT&T's 800 service for 3 years, they will give us a 15% discount. Jerry explained that our 800 number that ends in '1776', can only be carried by AT&T. However, starting next year, it will be possible to take our 800 number to any telephone company, and so we will not 'have' to do business with AT&T. It was recommended that when it becomes possible to move our number, there will be much competitive bidding from other carriers, and so we should defer any decision until that time.

Pat had a question on our Execuline phone service. There was not supposed to be a monthly charge for Execuline, yet he noticed a \$2.00 charge on his phone bill. Apparently, this was an error, and recent change overs have not been charged this \$2.00.

Jerry said that he received a check for \$71 from Execuline for our portion of our members' usage of one month's Execuline Long Distance Service. But we now have a dilemma: Execuline treats this outgo of funds as a tax deductible business expense, and needs out Taxpayer ID to continue paying us. If we provide our number, then we will have to declare this money as income, and file forms. Jerry asked for advice: Should he provide Execuline with our Taxpayer ID number? If was voted to refer this question to the Operations Committee. (The Op-Com has since decided to release the number)

Bill delivered the Northern Vice Chair's report. Concerning Chico, Bill talked to Tim Calhoon, past officer in Chico. Tim said that he has not heard any negative remarks concerning the Marrou Campaign, or the State Party. With the election over, things should calm down and return to normal. At Stanford University, Dick Boddie spoke there during one of his tours, and had a good response. There were over 80 people there to hear him at an evening event. Vicky Vallas now has a 900 number. Bill said that this only reinforces his concern about Vicky. Her heart maybe in the right place, but in the end, she is a negative for our Party. We will never be taken seriously as a political party with candidates like Vicky.

Neil said that in a discussion with Randy Grindle, that Marin, Solano, and Sanoma counties are inactive, and so Randy should be considered the Chair of those Regions. The Northern Vice Chair said that he does not agree with that.

Bob delivered the Southern Vice Chair's report. Chris Conrad of Hempsters will be putting on a Bill of Rights Rally and a candle light vigil for Don Scott, the Malibu resident who was shot by police during a drug raid, which turned out negative. Call Bob for specific times and dates. Bob said that he is asking for volunteers to circulate a questionnaire throughout the state. The questions asked are:

1. Did you vote for Clinton, Bush, Perot, or somebody else?
2. Do you know who the presidential candidate was for:
The American Independent Party
The Libertarian Party
The Peace & Freedom Party
3. If you voted for Perot, if Perot had not been on the ballot, Who would you have been most likely to vote for?

Bill said that the Perot vote has already been broken down. Its:

40% Clinton

38% Bush

22% Other Party, or would not have voted.

Bob said that he would still like to know how many would say Libertarian. There are additional questions on economic issues, drugs, etc. Bob said that he would like about 50 people to get 50 responses before the Convention. Bill said that all this information is available now for a fee from various polling organizations, and that the data is more statistically accurate than sending volunteers out onto the street. John said that after his April election, he commissioned a poll that sampled 200 individuals, at a cost of \$1,400. What he found was very disheartening, the voters were almost totally unaware of him. Bob said that he still intended to go forward with his idea.

Gail reported on the LA County fair. We manned an outside booth during the entire 23 day run, gave the Nolan quiz, and talked to people. Attendance was down this year, probably due to the economy. We got a lot of names, and 18 people sign up as new members. We took in contributions, and almost broke even, but our main focus was answering questions, not on asking for contributions.

Ted reported on election results: We received a mixed message from the voters. The voters agreed with us on 9 of the 13 ballot propositions. But on the one proposition where we wrote the ballot against (the School Bonds), we lost. But School Bonds always do well in California. The Rail bonds lost, the voters rejected the mandatory health care, they rejected the tax the rich, and passed the snack tax repeal. Also, the term limits proposition passed. On the Presidential race, Andre Marrou got almost 300,000 nationwide, a very poor result, but Perot stole all our thunder. In the Senate races, Libertarian senate candidates polled almost a million votes nationwide, but in California, our candidates finished fifth, instead of our usual third. We did better in the local races. Nine of our candidates were the balance of power in their races. In the races where there was no Republican candidate, we got our highest percentage of the vote. Shannon Anderson got 17% of the vote, and Kim Almstrom got 15.6% of the vote. In the local races, we did best in the rural areas. Vicky Vallis had 16,800 votes, for 10.6% of the vote. Ted said that there are not enough registered Libertarians to carry our candidates, and that a majority of our vote comes from dissatisfied voters. We do best in two way races, and next in three way races. When the voters are presented with more third party candidates, the protest vote tends to get diffused. John McCready said that he agreed, that in his election, a three way race, he mailed to 3rd party registrants, and got 7% of the vote. Elected Libertarians were David McCann, elected to the Orangevail Recreation Board, and Robert Patchin, elected to the Villa Park City Council. Bill Brown was defeated in the Camerio City Council. Bill Struthers was defeated in the Clear Lake City Council. Bill appears to have been caught up in the anti-incumbent fever, as all the incumbents running there, were thrown out. In New Hampshire, four Libertarians were elected to the State Assembly, two of them were incumbents. In Nevada, Tamera Clark only got 44% of the vote, but it appears that there might be massive voter fraud going on there, since she was leading in the polls. She and five Republican, all leading in the polls, were magically defeated. Lawsuits are going to be filed.

Eric reported that the budget committee has finished its work and the 1993 budget is ready for approval.

We discussed the need to find a new editor of the Newsletter. After hearing from 3 prospects, it was decided to refer the decision to the Op-Com.

Mark reported on the 1993 San Jose Convention. All the contracts have been signed with the Hotel, and the speakers list is now being prepared. A flier is being prepared to be included in the next newsletter. Gail asked if it would be possible to present an award to a northern California personality at the Convention. This would be similar to the Tom Lykis award, for a non-Libertarian who has promoted or otherwise encouraged the spread of libertarian ideas. Gail said she understands that there are several northern California talk show hosts who have libertarian sympathies. Mark said that the Convention plans do include this award presentation.

We have to appoint the by-laws committee, and we have to appoint a platform committee chair. The Regions select their own delegates to the platform committee. The by-laws committee will chose their own chair. Last year there was a proposal to eliminate the platform committee, and adopt the national platform, plus a 10 point program of items specific to California. John introduced a motion that the Executive Committee charge the By-laws Committee to come up with a proposal that would require the Platform Committee to develop a 10 point program of action items specific to California. The motion was seconded. Kim, lasts years Platform Committee Chair, spoke against the motion, saying that time constraints prohibit the committee from developing such a list. Bill volunteered to prepare a first draft of such a list, that would be submitted to the Platform Committee. John's motion passed with a unanimous aye vote.

Ted Brown was nonimated to chair the 1993 Platform Committee. There were no other nonimations, and Ted was elected with a unanimous aye vote.

The following were nonimated for members of the By-laws committee: John McCready, Neil Donner, Mark Hinkle, Jerry Douglas, Eric Lund, John Vernon, Jerry Collette, Ron Holman and Gail Lightfoot. The following were elected to the committee with at least 8 votes of the Ex-Com: Eric Lund, Mark Hinkle, Jerry Douglas, John Vernon, and Ron Holman. Gail Lightfoot was elected as an alternate.

John introduced a motion that the Ex-Com charge the By-laws committee to draft a by-law that would require all Libertarian candidates to pledge to support the Libertarian program. There was no second to the motion, and the motion died.

Pat introduced a motion that would allow the San Bernardino County Region to split into two Regions, a north Region and a south Region. The current Region, with the largest area in the state, has over 80 members, but the mountains seperating the northern half from the southern half discourage travel to a common meeting location. The county itself has tried for 20 years to split into a Mojave County and a San Bernardino County. Jerry spoke against the motion, and said he would like to see an end of the mulitiple LA Regions. John spoke against the motion, but said that there is nothing to prevent the Region from having two meetings, one in the north, and one in the south. Ed said that they are doing that, and it is a strain on the Region Chair, who has to preside over two meetings. Don spoke in favor of the motion, saying that he gets many calls on the 800 number saying that the Region meeting place is too far away, and asking for the procedures set up a local chapter in their town. Ted reminded all, that our by-laws require that any county that splits, is required to elect a County Chair with whom the local County officials may deal with on legal and technical matters. The vote was 7 in favor, and 3 opposed. Since the motion did not receive 8 votes, the motion failed. (All action items require a minimum of 8 votes for approval)

Pat asked for permission and funding to mail a fund raising letter to all the registered Libertarians in California. Mark said there was still money in the budget for fundraising. There were no objections.

Pat asked the two vice chairs to develop a list of nonominees for Activist Recognition Awards. The list should have at least five Libertarians who were unusually active in 1992, preferably in statewide activities, and in activities for which they were not paid. Pat asked for the names within 30 days. Bill suggested that we should also consider awarding a crack-pot award for government officials who have done some stupid things.

Pat said he would like to tighten up the quality of our candidates. Some of our candidates, like Vicky Vallis, are not really Libertarians; Vicky was quoted as being in favor of a Canadian style health program. Paul said that some of theses charges are un-true. Some of the newspaper article about his candidiacy charged him with non-libertarian ideas that he had never even considered. Still, Pat said that he would like to see us drop the idea that we need to run candidates in every race. We should run in races only were we have strong articulate candidates. We should also be keeping score of incumbents, and targeting those who are the most non-libertarian for defeat. That might even mean that we work with one of the other parties for that defeat. To that end, Pat introduced a motion that a 5 member Candidate Advisory Board be established to be composed of people who have run sucessful campaigns. The board would have a budget, and would recruit, screen, and advise Libertarian candidates for office. The motion was seconded. Bill said that he objected to the idea that we not run candidates in every race; as a political party, that is our main purpose. John said that offen you don't know how the race will develop until after the primary. We may miss opportunities if the board decides not to enter some races. Richard spoke in favor of the motion: we can still field candidates in all the races, but the board could determine who the strong candidates were, and where we should focus our resources. Bill introduced a motion to postpone consideration of this motion until the next Ex-Com meeting. The vote was 6 to 5 in favor of postponing.

Don Myers reported on the 800 number. Though the number was busy during the election, it was not as busy as we feared it would be. Calling volumes were down, in the 1988 election, we responded to over 3,000 calls. This election, it was less than 2,000. We anticipated about 5,000 calls. On one day, we received 250 calls. Don distributed copies of flyers that were mailed to people who called the 800 number. Alot of calls were received on Prop 155, the School Bonds inititative. Alot of people who called did not understand what a bond issue was, thinking that a bond issue was tax free. Two more lines have been installed, for a total of three lines, so now most of the calls are getting through. Don said that he wished to thank all the people who volunteered their time answering the phones. Pat said that many of the Regions have complained to him that they are not getting their inquiry lists. Don said that inquiry lists were mailed out

at the begining of October, again two weeks ago, and again yesterday. That works out to about every two weeks. Bill said that the National Party should also receive inquiry lists by disk or modem once a month. Don said he would speak with the National Party.

Pat proposed to do a new mailing. He still has 10,000 Libertarian envelopes and return envelopes, and these have already been paid for. Pat proposes to mail to as many new Libertarian registrants as possible. The mailing make good business sense; on our last mailing, out of 5,000 letters, 100 replied with membership money. On the mailing before that, out of 5,000 letters, 98 responded with money averaging \$30-35. This is a 2% responce, and a net profit. Pat proposed to mail 3rd class, so postage would be about 8 cents each, and total cost would be about 20 cents per letter, or about \$2,000 total. Pat was advised that inaddition to asking registrants to become members, they should be informed about, and invited to, the February Convention.

Pat also proposed a second mailing to all the people who have called in on our 800 number. These people would be sent a voter's registration card, asked them to register Libertarian, and give them a Libertarian bumper sticker. The message would also say that if they can't afford the registration fee, just send us a dollar to let us know they are interested. Similar mailings have also paid for themselves.

Ed said that we are putting the cart before the horse,, we need to be doing better planning, and focus who our contributors are going to be. We should tend to stay away from 3rd class and bulk mailing, since most of it gets thrown away.

It was suggested that if there was sufficient money to pay back the one remaining bounty hunter, that we instead continue to pay her off in payments, and use the remainder to finance the mailings. Jerry said we have signed an agreement to pay her the full amount before the end of the year. Jerry suggested that the mailing go out, so that it would arrive between Christmas and New Years; using 3rd class, they might mean mailing about the 18th.

Pat therefore introduced a motion that the Party provide him with \$2,000 to complete the mailing. The motion was seconded. In spite of the financial problems we are experiencing, it is the function of the Party to grow and attract new members. Experience has proven that this is the best way. Jerry was asked it there were sufficient funds to provide to Pat. Jerry said that the only way this money could be guaranteed would be to postpone payment of the dues money to the Regions. Gail spoke against the motion, saying that the Ex-Com was considering spending money that was not theirs to spend, but rightfully belonged to the Regions. John offered an ammendment to the motion to postpone the mailing until at least January, when we could review our finances. There was no second to this motion. The main motion passed with a unanimous aye vote.

Kate spoke about wooing Republican office holders. The

Republicans seems to be splitting into at least two factions, the right wing religious faction, and a moderate wing of fiscal conservatives. This might be an opportune to time to woo the non-religious fiscal conservatives to the Libertarian Party, as has been done in New Hampshire. A committee should be set-up to target such Republicans for eventual conversion. This committee would review and score Republicans for possible ease of conversion. The committee should also look at former office holders for conversion. Kate spoke to Bill Winter from New Hampshire to see how they did it, and his responce was that it wasn't easy. His suggestions were: Somebody high in the Libertarian Party needs to get to know their target as an individual, as a person, not as a legislator. Invite them to speak at our supper clubs, conventions, form a relationship. One Republican took 3 years to convert. We need to be pragmatic in our expatations, these people are pragmatist, and do not want to commit political suicide. We need to display a growing and energetic party, capable to accomplishing things. Here we need to bring our perceptions together, we may view the Republican party as a sinking ocean liner, and we the only solution, but their view is likely to be of an ocean liner in trouble, and us a leakly river raft. Without elected Libertarians, this might be the hardest to do. Third point: we need to convince our target that we are sane ordinary people, not gun carrying drug users. (Another hard one!) They will need to feel proud of the fact they converting Libertarianism. Fouth point: It helps if they have a libertarian issue that is important to them, that they have not been able to generate support for from within their own party. The first New Hampshire Republican to switch did so because the Republican Party came out in support of a State Income Tax, which he had been opposing. Point Five: Be prepared to offer a proposal, such as, if you agree to run as a Libertarian, we will do the following: provide workers, funds, etc. What ever it is, we need to follow through, and provide it well. Point Six: Be prepared to make a big fuss over those who do switch over, they are taking a big risk.

Kate therefore introduced a motion that such a committee be formed. The motion was seconded, and Bill volunteered to be a member of the committee. Pat suggested that Republicans Tom Campbell and Bill McClintok be targeted. He has already asked the Convention committee to invite them to speak at the Convention. Dick Rutran's name was also mentioned as a possibility. Kate was asked it the committee would also target Democrats, and she said that it could, but their ship is not sinking at this time, and so are prospects might be better with Republicans. Other legislator's names were discussed. There was no vote taken on Kate's motion, but the consences seemed to be in favor of such a committee. Kate asked that those who wish to serve on this committee, to contact her.

Pat said that he would like to send a registered letter to all members of the California Congressional Delegation, asking them to work with the Libertarian Party to repeal the Federal Seizure Laws. The law changed in 1986, and property can now be seized without due process. Pat said that he believes that the general public believes that this is unethical and unamerican. Bill said

that he supports the repeal, but does not believe that there is widespread support for this idea. Outside the legal community, most people believe that the law applies only to drug pushers, and they deserve the worst treatment they can get. Therefore, Bill would approach this differently. We should approach someone like Tom Campbell, ask him to put together a politically correct list of people who would work for the moderation if not repeal of Federal Seizure laws. Bill also suggested that we need a California Libertarian attorney who feels strongly about this issue, and is willing to commit his time to coordinating and following up. Ted suggested that we contact Manie Klauser from the Association of Libertarian Lawyers, and ask for his advice. From the left, we might want to contact the ACLU. Assemblyman John Burton is holding hearings now in Sacramento on the State's Seizure laws. It was agreed between Pat and Bill, that Bill would first approach Tom Campbell, and ask his advice, and report back through the Op-Com.

Mark introduced a motion that the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party formally request the Secretary of State to include a line item "None of the Above" as an acceptable item on the Libertarian Primary ballot. The motion was seconded. Mark said that most likely, the Secretary will deny the request, and that our next action would be to sue the State. Bill spoke against the motion, saying the point of "None of the Above" is to indicate dissatisfaction with the General Election. It's pointless for us to have "None of the Above" on our own ballot. Bob also spoke against the motion. In his assembly there are very few Libertarians, he only recieved 200 votes in the primary. It would not be very difficult, or inconceivable that the Republicans would register 201 Republicans as Libertarians, who would be committed to vote "None of the Above" in the primary, and thereby eliminate a Libertarian candidate for the General Election. Mark said that the point is that if we adopt "NOTA", we can take the moral high ground, and shame the other two parties to also adopt "NOTA" for the General Election. The motion was defeated with a majority nay vote.

Ted said that the National Party currently has an Advertising and Publications Review committee that reviews all fund raising letters, public statements, literature, etc, to insure conformity with the Libertarian Platform. There are resolutions standing that say that the California Party should have such a committee, but we don't. Since we generate considerable letters, public statements, etc, Ted proposed that we form a State Advertising and Publications Review Committee to consist of three people appointed by the Ex-Com. The motion was seconded. The committee would review fund raising letters, permanent literature, ballot agruments, but would not review newsletters, the Chair's letter, and press releases. Pat spoke against the motion, saying we have not had a problem with this material. Ray asked if this function could not be assumed by an existing committee. Bill said that members of the committee would be picked for their expertise, which another committee might not have. John said that he was concerned with ballot agruments might not have sufficient time to circulate for review. The vote was 4 in favor and 5 opposed. The motion failed.

John spoke about proposition 155. The Secretary of State allowed a major error on the ballot arguments. Our argument said that the pay back on the bonds was 1.6 million, when in fact the pay back is 1.6 billion. John suggested that we should file suit on this. Ted said that when he reviewed the sample proof, he did not notice the error, and thinks it was not there then. Bill suggested that the measure could be invalid, or we could ask for a financial settelment, for us or the taxpayers. But if it turns out that we signed off on the error, we are going to look foolish. He suggested that Ted call the Secretary of State, and ask for a copy of the proof. If it was the State's fault, we sue, if it was Ted's fault, we shut up, and forget the whole thing. Pat asked Ted to call him as soon as he learned anything.

Jerry asked for authorization to make some expence budget adjustments for the following accounts: \$2,500 for the newsletter, \$2,000 for date processing, \$7,000 for Postage, Printing and Supplies, and \$2,200 for the 800 number. Our total expense budget is on track, and we need only move money from some other discredissionary expense accounts. We are under budget on Accounting and on Bank charges. The Ex-Com approved these adjustments with one dissenting vote.

It was agreed that the Ex-Com would meet next on the Friday before the Convention, late in the afternoon.

Pat asked the elected officers of the Ex-Com if they would run again at the Convention. Pat said that he regards this past year as a big disappointment, caused by the registration drive. The Party did not grow this last year. Still he is willing to serve another term. All the officers, Jerry, Ray, Bob, and Bill, said that if anyone else wanted the position, they would step aside, but that they are also willing to serve another term. The next term is a 2 year term. John said that we might be looking at the situation too harshly, registration has increased, dues paying membership has not decreased. For years, the Ex-Com has been criticized for not focusing on increasing registration; this year we did. Pat said that our numbers are up, but our percentage against all registered voters has only held constant. Still Pat thanked the Ex-Com for their efforts, and their willingness to be constructive.

At large John Vernon, Dick Bodie, Kate O'Brian, Ted Brown, Ross Crain.