

Libertarian Party of California

Executive Committee

22 March 1997

The Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of California met in Santa Clara on 22 March 1997 from approximately 10:11 to approximately 18:04. All 14 members (the San Francisco representative position currently being vacant) were present for all or part of the meeting.

The officers reported on the initiatives they had undertaken in beginning their terms, and on various other matters relating to their areas of responsibility. Notable topics included: a report of appointments made by the Chair, a report on an incident at the San Fernando Valley office, and reports by the Vice Chairs on regional meetings that they attended and on activities of various regions in opposition to ballot measures.

The Treasurer and Aaron Starr reported on the new accounting system that they had set up, and on the financial state of the party. Major topics included: switch from cash to accrual method, a completely new chart of accounts, and additional reports that might be helpful to Executive Committee members in understanding our financial situation.

The financial statements for the end of February showed a significant deficit; this was partly an artifact of the switch to the accrual method, which changes when expenses are counted, but also partly due to a significant total of actual payments to vendors and for officer reimbursement which for various reasons were not made during 1996 and instead were made in the last two months. It was reported that the current fundraising letter is doing well, having brought in almost \$8,000 so far.

Joe Dehn presented a report on the switch to the unified membership plan and transfer of work being done by the current database contractor. A motion was proposed to make acceptance of the unified plan contingent on the dues being \$35, but this motion was not adopted.

A completely new budget was adopted for 1997, reflecting the new chart of accounts and the unified membership plan. Other notable differences from the previous budget include: a doubling of the vice chairs' discretionary budgets so they can do more to encourage regional development, ending spending for the 800-number, and allocation of \$3600 for a TV ad that was produced a number of years ago but apparently never paid for. There was discussion of the large portion of the budget accounted for by the newsletter, and of ways to reduce this expense in the future.

In order to alleviate concerns expressed about the financial health of some regions as we make the transition to the unified membership plan, it was decided to provide small regions with a supplementary payment of \$.30 per member per month through the end of 1997. Several programs to help regions build their own financial strength for the longer term were discussed: expansion and promotion of the program under which the state party collects pledge payments for regions, the regional version of the "Success '97" conference expected to be held in California this fall by the national LP, and an LPC-sponsored training program specifically on the topic of local fundraising.

The policies relating to inactive regions were amended. Any region which has at least two elected officers will be considered "active", replacing the previous rule in which the number of members was a factor. Inactive regions will no longer have dues held for them in a separate fund. Instead, when a region becomes active it will be granted "seed capital" equivalent to up to one year's dues; a line was added to the budget to cover anticipated outlays for this purpose during 1997.

There was a discussion of possibilities for the 1998 convention; two groups have expressed interest, but have not yet presented complete proposals. A decision will likely be made on this by mail ballot in May.

The minutes of the 17 February meeting were approved. Approval of the minutes of the convention was deferred until the next meeting. The Chair appointed William Crane, Jose Castaneda, Ted Brown, and himself as the Style Committee

to review the Platform and Bylaws.

Other items discussed included recruiting of statewide candidates for 1998, the relationship between the LPC and "LPC Special Services", the status of the telephone affinity programs, the lawsuit against the "open primary", and what would need to be done to get our own section in the Election Code.

The next meeting is scheduled for 14 June in the Los Angeles area, with the Operations Committee to set the exact location.

Note: This is only a summary of the meeting, and is not intended to be relied upon as a complete record of business.