

State Convention 2014 Minutes

Libertarian Party of California

March 29-30, 2014
Holiday Inn Visalia
9000 W Airport Dr
Visalia, CA 93277

Call to Order

Kevin Takenaga called the convention to order at 9:15am.

Credentials Committee Report

Gale Morgan presented the initial credentials committee report with the following counts:

- 44 delegates attending
- Majority = 23
- 2/3 = 30

Appointment of Secretary Pro Tem

In the absence of Libertarian Party of California Secretary Janine Kloss, the assembly elected a Secretary Pro Tem. Gale Morgan nominated Kevin Duewel. In the absence of other nominees, Kevin Duewel was appointed by acclamation.

Officer Reports

Chair's Report, Kevin Takenaga

Takenaga reported that voter registration for the Libertarian Party of California has now surpassed the Green Party.

Takenaga reported the California College Libertarians were chartered as a partisan college libertarians group this year. California College Libertarians hosted their first convention on Friday, March 28.

Northern Vice Chair's Report, Gale Morgan

Morgan reported that in December 2013, LPC's Executive Committee ratified the affiliation of the Libertarian Party of Yolo County. In March 2014, they ratified the affiliation of the Libertarian Party of Nevada County.

Morgan reported that San Mateo County LP endorsed Doug Radtke for City Council and has been energized by San Mateo County Vice Chair Kevin Duewel.

Treasurer's Report, Brian Darby

Darby reported that a major donor shifted donations from state party to county parties.

Darby reported that the LPC has adopted donor relations management software Neon CRM, which will cut labor costs in software and in staffing.

Darby reported that 793 registered members of the Libertarian Party of California. The state database current with county party records

LNC Regional Representative's Report, Daniel Wiener

Wiener reported that the LNC plans to purchase a new office building in Alexandria, VA and is expected to close on April 25. Plans are to move in by Memorial Day weekend.

Wes Benedict has returned as Executive Director for the national party and Carla Howell is now Political Director.

Wiener reported that the 2014 Libertarian Party National Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio in June.

California College Libertarians Founder, Antoine Hage

Hage reported that since January 2014, California College Libertarians has increased membership by one club a month. The California College Libertarians plans to focus on mobilizing students around local elections.

Committee Reports

Platform Committee Report

Platform Committee Report was distributed. By LPC rules, debate was limited to 15 minutes per proposal. By LPC rules, debate was limited to 2 minutes per delegate.

Proposal 1

Motion: Gale Morgan moved to replace the text of Section IV-5 of the platform (see appendix) with the language in Platform Committee Proposal 1:

We hold that all human beings have rights, not merely the citizens of a particular county. In any conflict between rights and programs, we support abolition of the government program and affirmation of individual rights.

Government restrictions on the liberty of travel, residence, and employment, such as immigration and emigration laws, mandatory identification appears, and work permits, are violations of human rights, and we call for their abolition.

We respect the sovereignty of California and respect the borders of these United States of America, and discourage other national entities from intervening in our immigration policy. We believe private property owners have the right to restrict others from trespassing on their property.

We defend the rights of non-citizens of the U.S. to seek work, trade, and live within this county, just as we defend current citizens when they wish to exercise these same rights. We oppose welfare payments and other government redistributed benefits to citizens as well as non-citizens. Once other forms of government interference are removed from our society, the playing field would be level for citizens and non-citizens to pursue work and trade opportunities.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to amend by striking to third paragraph of Proposal 1.

Vote: Starr's motion to amend fails by hand count.

Vote: Voting on the unamended Platform Committee proposal, the chair ruled that the motion carried by voice vote. Division was requested. The proposal was found to have failed the 2/3 threshold by a counted vote of 25-14.

At 12:00 p.m. the assembly adjourned until 2:00 p.m. for lunch.

Civic Leadership by Libertarians

Following lunch there was an elected Libertarians panel discussion with Mayor Pro Tem Susan Marie Weber, Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Hewitt, and Council member John Inks.

Libertarian Water Policy

A panel discussion was held with Jim Hoerricks of the West Valley County Water District, Brian Holtz of the Purissima Hills Water District, and Jonathan Hall of the Tehachapi Cummings County Water District.

Committee Reports (continued)

Platform Committee Report (continued)

Proposal 2

Motion: Gale Morgan moved to replace Sections IV-1, IV-7, IV-9, & V-8 of the platform (see appendix) with a single section with the language in Platform Committee Proposal 2:

To commit a crime, one must infringe upon the rights of another. Thus, the only crimes are crimes of violence or threat of violence, property losses, and fraud. Fundamental principles of justice require that persons be held accountable for the harm they cause others. The judicial process should be an earnest attempt to extract reasonable restitution from a person convicted of a crime and to convey that restitution to the victim, to imprison or exclude criminals from society when necessary, to hold persons liable for damages they do, and to fairly settle contract disputes.

All persons should be equal before the law and entitled to due process of the law. We support the repeal of all special penalties determined by the demographic affiliation of the victim, including all "hate crime" laws, as well as the repeal of special penalties imposed for crimes committed against government employees. We believe government agencies, and their representatives, shall be bound by the same laws and regulations applicable to the citizenry.

Until persons are proven guilty of crimes, their individual rights shall be accorded full respect. No individual shall be detained or restricted without formal charges being filed immediately following arrest. We believe in full restitution of loss incurred by persons arrested, indicted, tried, or imprisoned in the course of criminal proceedings against them which do not result in their convictions by the accuser.

Law should impose penalties proportional to the gravity of the violation of others' rights. Prison sentences should be served in their entirety, unless the victim pardons the perpetrator. We advocate an end to the practice of plea-bargaining without the consent of the victim.

Juries should invalidate or nullify all laws that are, according to their conscience, unjust. We believe jurors, rather than the judge, should set the sentence for a guilty offender up to the maximum allowed by the law.

Victimless "crime" laws are a legislative attempt to forcibly limit the lifestyle choices of individuals. We support the repeal of all laws restricting the voluntary exchange or possession of goods and services, such as consensual sexual activity, gambling, drugs; as well as all laws which control or prohibit any consensual activity between consenting adults.

Fault and causation should be the basis of liability in tort. Individuals must be liable for damages intentionally or negligently caused by themselves or their property.

Motion: Aaron Starr made motion to amend Proposal 2 to retain Section IV-9.

Vote: Starr's motion to amend Proposal 2 passed by voice count.

Vote: On the amended Platform Committee proposal, the chair ruled that the motion did not pass. Division was requested. The proposal was found to have failed by a counted vote.

Proposal 3

Motion: Gale Morgan moved to replace Sections IV-11, IV-13, & IV-14 of the platform (see appendix) with a single section after Section IV-16, with the title "Family, Marriage, and Reproductive Rights," and with the language from Proposal 3:

The choices of reproduction, marriage, and raising a family are personal decisions.

We support the rights of families and households to be free of government interference. Government interference has undermined the value of families and households as cultural institutions of love, kinship, and personal development.

We support the rights of individuals to form private relationships (including marriage) as they see fit, either by contract or by mutual agreement. Government should not dictate, prohibit, control, or encourage any consenting adults to form marriage contracts regardless of gender, sexual preference, or number of parties involved.

We support the fight of all persons to privacy in and control over every aspect of their biological nature. Government should not regulate, prohibit, subsidize or encourage any reproductive choice.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to divide the question: a motion to strike the existing Sections IV-11, IV-13, & IV-14; and a motion to pass the language from Proposal 3 as a new section with the title "Family, Marriage, and Reproductive Rights".

Vote: On dividing the proposal, the motion failed by voice count.

Vote: The unamended proposal failed by voice count. Division was requested. The proposal was found to have failed by a counted vote of 21 in favor and 13 opposed.

Proposal 4

Motion: Gale Morgan moved to replace the language of Section IV-7-J of the platform (see appendix) with the language from Proposal 4:

The repeal of all laws establishing any category of crime applicable to a particular age group.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to postpone indefinitely the remainder of the platform report and to adjourn for the evening.

Vote: The motion to postpone indefinitely the remainder of the platform report passed by voice count.

The convention adjourned for the evening at 4:50 p.m.

The convention reconvened at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, March 30, 2014

Richard Winger on Top-Two and Ballot Access

Ballot access advocate Richard Winger spoke on the increase in Libertarian voter registration in 21 of 25 states that register Libertarians.

Former Governor Gary Johnson via Webcast

Gary Johnson spoke on how libertarians win on issues like marijuana legalization, gay marriage, and non-intervention, even when libertarian candidates do not win. Our America Initiative is using the presidential debate commission.

Motion: Aaron Starr moved that the people registered and present be immediately counted off, suspending Convention Rule 3.3.

Vote: Starr's motion carried by voice count.

- By count off, 46 delegates were present.
- Majority = 24.
- 2/3 = 31.
- 10% for the purpose of seconding was 5 delegates.

Party Elections

Southern Vice Chair

Motion: Ted Brown nominated Jonathan Jaech for Southern Vice Chair.

Takenaga called for more nominations. Hearing none, nominations for Southern Vice Chair closed.

Vote: The motion to elect Jonathan Jaech as Southern Vice Chair passed by voice count.

At-Large Members

Motion: to suspend the rules to combine the election of the At-large with the alternates, where the top 5 would have two-year terms, the 6th would serve a one-year term, and the 7th and 8th would serve as alternates.

Vote: Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion:

Gale Morgan nominated	Kevin Duewel	37	3rd
Brian Thiemer nominated	Jim Hoerricks	36	4th
Ted Brown nominated	David McDonald	16	
Eric Osborn nominated	Stephen Blakeman	24	8th
Dana McLorn nominated	Flavio Fiumerodo	25	7th
Antonie Hage nominated	Dana McLorn	31	6th

David Bowers nominated	José Castañeda	19	
Brian Thiemer nominated	Jose Tovar	32	5th
Flavio Fuimorodo nominated	Leon Weinstein	38	2nd
Dana McLorn nominated	Antonie Hage	39	1st
Write in	Brian Thiemer	1	
Write in	Eric Osborn	1	

Votes: Total ballots cast = 44 ballots.

Antonie Hage received 39 votes for 1st place.

Leon Weinstein received 38 votes for 2nd place.

Kevin Duewel received 37 votes for 3rd place.

Jim Hoerricks received 36 votes for 4th place.

Jose Tovar received 32 votes for 5th place.

Dana McLorn received 31 votes for 6th place.

Flavio Fiumerodo received 25 votes for 7th place.

Stephen Blakeman received 24 votes for 8th place.

Jose Casteñeda received 19 votes.

David McDonald received 16 votes.

Brian Themer received 1 vote.

Eric Osborn received 1 vote.

Antonie Hage, Leon Weinstein, Kevin Duewel, Jim Hoerricks, and Jose Tovar were elected for two-year terms as At-Large members of LPC's Executive Committee.

Dana McLorn was elected for a one-year term as an At-Large member of LPC's Executive Committee.

Flavio Fiumerodo was elected as the First Alternate At-Large member of LPC's Executive Committee.

Stephen Blakeman was elected as the Second Alternate At-Large member of LPC's Executive Committee.

Judicial Committee

Motion: SusanMarie Weber nominated Ted Brown for Judicial Committee.

Ted Brown nominated Aaron Starr for Judicial Committee.

Ted Brown nominated Jill Pyeatt.

Motion: Gale Morgan moved to accept the nominees by acclamation.

Vote: Motion to accept by acclamation carried by voice count.

Libertarian National Committee Representative

Motion: Starchild nominated Dave Jones, Marin County.

Ted Brown nominated Daniel Wiener, Ventura County.

Vote: In total, 43 ballots were submitted.

Dan Wiener received 32 votes

Dave Jones received 25 votes

Ted Brown received 1 vote.

NOTA received 1 vote.

1 improper form.

Dan Wiener was elected as LNC Representative.

Libertarian National Committee Alternate

Motion: Mark Hinkle nominated Janine Kloss.

Gale Morgan nominated Scott Lieberman.

Starchild nominated Dave Jones.

Motion: Starchild withdrew his nomination for Dave Jones without objection.

Vote: In total, 40 ballots were submitted.

Scott Lieberman received 25 votes.

Janine Kloss received 20 votes.

Dave Jones received 1.

Scott Lieberman was elected as LNC Alternate.

Libertarian Party National Convention Delegates

Motion: Aaron Starr moved to suspend to accept by acclamation the nominated slate of 42 candidates provided they are eligible to serve and accept the position by April 30.

Kevin Takenaga, Chairman	Jim Gray	Melisse Lusin
Gale Morgan, Northern Vice Chairman	Jawg Greenwald	Les Mangus
Jonathan Jaech, Southern Vice Chair	Jane Heider-Samuels	David McDonald
Janine Kloss, Secretary	Linda Hinkle	Dana McLorn
Brian Darby, Treasurer	Mark Hinkle	Matt Murphy
Phil Berg	Brian Holtz	Gloria Strong Rotunno
Elizabeth Brierly	Zoe Holtz	Daniel Simon
José Castañeda	Jonathan Jaech	Lawrence Samuels
Terry Chong	David Jones	Starchild
Mike Denny	Jay Jones	Aaron Starr
Janice Edelstein	Sandra Kallander	Ray Strong
Michael Edelstein	Janine Kloss	Art Tuma
Shawn Fox	Scott Lieberman	Daniel Wiener
	Gail Lightfoot	Richard Winger
	Tom Lippman	

Vote: The motion to suspend passed without objection.

The slate of LP California Delegates was accepted.

Endorsements

Motion: Brian Thiemer moved to substitute to nominate an office for Secretary of State

The motion to substitute passed by voice count.

Motion: Barnes moved to substitute resolutions and endorsements forward to the current point in the agenda.

Vote: Barnes motion passed by voice count.

Resolutions

Motion: Mark Hinkle moved to accept the following resolution:

LPC Conventions should only be held in the San Francisco, San Diego, or Los Angeles metropolitan areas.

Motion failed for lack of 5 seconds.

Motion: Joe Dehn and José Castañeda moved to accept the following resolution:

Whereas, the Green Party has seven candidates for state wide office and the Peace and Freedom Party has three candidates for state wide office and the Libertarian Party has only one candidate for state wide office.

Whereas, only candidates running as Libertarians can help build the Libertarian "brand".

Whereas, only candidates running for federal and state office can use their campaigns to address issues such as the income tax, war and peace, the welfare state, ending the war on drugs, freedom of the press including the Internet, the government takeover of the health care industry, and the value of money.

Whereas, votes for non-partisan candidates cannot help us measure growth in support of our political philosophy.

Whereas, only votes for "Libertarian" candidates can show us the number of voters who really understand that "freedom is the answer" is growing.

Whereas, only by offering candidates with "Libertarian" next to their names can we invite voters to join us by taking the critical first step of voting Libertarian.

Whereas, the Libertarian Party of California has had candidates since 1978.

We, the delegates of the Libertarian Party of California at convention, declare, We believe running Libertarians as Libertarians is an essential function of the Libertarian Party of California.

Motion: Brian Thiemer called the question.

Vote: The motion to call the question passed without objection.

Vote: The resolution failed by voice count.

Motion: Brian Thiemer moved to adjourn the business session of the convention.

Vote: Motion did not pass by voice count.

Motion: To suspend the rules in order to consider remaining known candidates for endorsements.

Vote: Motion carried by voice count.

Motion: Mark Hinkle moved to accept the nomination of Jonathan Jaech for Attorney General. Hearing no objection, Jonathan Jaech was endorsed.

Motion: Motion to endorse José Castañeda for Board of Equalization and Michael Stogner for San Mateo Board of Supervisors, District 3.

Vote: With objection, José Castañeda and Michael Stogner are endorsed by the Libertarian Party of California.

Call for Orders of the Day.

Motion: Donn Coenen moved to suspend the rules to consider endorsement for Jedediah Biagi for Board of Supervisors of Nevada County.

Vote: Without objection, the Libertarian Party of California endorsed Jedediah Biagi for Board of Supervisors of Nevada County.

Motion: Kelly Mordecai moved to suspend the rules for a straw poll.

Vote: Motion failed by voice count.

Motion: Starchild moved to suspend the rules to consider previously submitted resolutions.

Vote: Motion failed by voice count.

Call for Orders of the Day.

Motion: to adjourn *sine die*.

Vote: Business session was adjourned *sine die* without objection.

Appendix

<http://ca.lp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Platform-of-the-Libertarian-Party-of-California-as-amended-in-Convention-April-7-2013.pdf>