

Secretary's Report

For April 15-16, 2017 LNC Session

Following is a status report for minutes of LNC and EC meetings since the previous regular LNC session on December 10, 2016:

- May 27-30, 2016 National Convention – Draft minutes were distributed and posted on our website in accordance with the timelines set forth in the bylaws. After feedback was received during the December LNC meeting, an updated version has been created and distributed. I anticipate these will be approved during this LNC meeting.
- July 17, 2016 LNC session – adopted during December 10, 2016 LNC session
- December 10-11, 2016 LNC session – auto-approved on January 9, 2017
- January 28, 2017 EC teleconference – auto-approved on February 11, 2017

There have been no LNC membership changes since the previous regular LNC session.

Committee membership changes since the previous regular LNC session:

- The LNC appointed Whitney Bilyeu, Sam Goldstein, Daniel Hayes, and Alicia Mattson to the Convention Oversight Committee during its December 10-11, 2016 meeting. Mr. Sarwark notified the LNC by email on 01/15/17 of his appointment of BetteRose Ryan (Chair), Erin Adams, and William Brackeen to the non-LNC-member seats on the committee.
- Email ballot 2017-02, ending on 01/23/17, created a Historic Preservation Committee and designated Caryn Ann Harlos as its chair and granted her the power to appoint up to 4 other members. Ms. Harlos notified the LNC by email on 02/20/17 of her appointment of James Gholston, Joe Dehn, Joseph Buchman, and Ed Fochler to the committee.
- Ken Moellman and Sean O'Toole had previously been appointed to the IT Committee. Mr. Sarwark notified the LNC by email on 02/28/17 of his appointment of John Athayde, Stephen Berger, Steven Haddox, Joshua Drake, and Doug Waddell to the committee.
- During its December meeting, the LNC created a committee to solicit bids for reviewing the 2016 LP Presidential campaign. Larry Sharpe and Trent Somes were appointed to that committee, and they were granted the power to name one additional member. The LNC was notified by email on 12/18/16 that they chose David Demarest as the third member.

Other tasks I have completed include:

- Provided staff an article for LPNews summarizing the December LNC meeting
- The listing of committee memberships on the website is up to date with the above changes
- Assembled applications for Platform Committee and for Bylaws and Rules Committee from 90 applicants for the LNC's review

LNC Policy Manual Section 2.07.2 requires that the Secretary “distribute to each affiliate party the Presidential vote totals which the Secretary proposes to use for purposes of delegate allocation for National Conventions as provided for in the Bylaws, no later than the last day of April in the year following a Presidential election...” I expect to accomplish this task on time.

The following 7 email ballots were completed since the December 10-11, 2016 LNC session:

Motion 2017-01: Amend a motion adopted on December 11, 2016 as follows:

“that the Libertarian National Committee establish a committee to take bids from political consultants for the task of extensively reviewing and making recommendations for the Libertarian Party’s messaging (and modes of messaging), inclusion in the debates, fundraising and campaign finance, campaign mechanics, and state and local affiliates. Said agency will agree to present their findings to the public before December of 2017. The committee will take bids until the ~~10th~~30th of January.”

Sponsors: Demarest, Katz, Mattson, Harlos

Started: 01/11/17

Ended: 01/21/17

Voting “aye”: Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Katz, Lark, Marsh, Mattson, McKnight, Redpath, Starchild

Voting “nay”: (none)

With a final vote tally of 13-0, the motion PASSES.

Motion 2017-02: The LNC establishes a Historic Preservation Committee to help preserve and publish historical documents of the party and to manage LPedia. This committee is granted a budget of \$5,000. Caryn Ann Harlos is appointed chair with authority to appoint up to 4 others. This committee will expire at the end of the LNC meeting preceding the 2018 LP National Convention.

Sponsors: Goldstein, Harlos, Demarest, Bittner

Started: 01/13/17

Ended: 01/23/17

Voting “aye”: Bilyeu, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Katz, Lark, Marsh, Mattson, McKnight, Moellman, Redpath, Starchild

Voting “nay”: (none)

With a final vote tally of 14-0, the motion PASSES.

Motion 2017-03: The Libertarian National Committee condemns the unjust detention of libertarian activists Ubaldo Herrera Hernandez and Manuel Velasquez by agents of the Castro regime in Cuba on February 2, and demands the immediate safe release of these political prisoners who were targeted for their peaceful activism promoting limited government and free markets. We further ask the U.S. government's State Department to place diplomatic pressure on the Castro regime for their release, and encourage Libertarian Party members and supporters to contact their elected officials toward that end.

Sponsors: Starchild, Harlos, Demarest, Vohra

Started: 02/14/17

Ended: 02/24/17

Voting “aye”: Demarest, Hagan, Harlos, Hewitt, Lark, Marsh, Sarwark, Starchild, Vohra

Voting “nay”: Bilyeu, Bittner, Goldstein, Hayes, Katz, Mattson, Redpath

Express abstention: McKnight

With a final vote tally of 9-7, the motion fails to achieve the 3/4 vote required to adopt a public policy resolution with previous notice (see LP Bylaws Article 7.11).

Motion 2017-04:

WHEREAS the current federal classification of cannabis under the Controlled Substances Act as a Schedule 1 drug having no medicinal value is an inaccurate classification at odds with the findings of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine and those of many other researchers; and

WHEREAS this dishonest classification is an impediment both to useful academic research, and to realizing the economic benefits that legalization offers; and

WHEREAS cannabis is a drug with few harmful effects and zero documented fatalities which is even safer when not forced into the black market, where labeling, testing, and quality control are less prevalent; and

WHEREAS drug prohibition in the United States has been an unmitigated failure, with a third of Americans self-reporting having used cannabis despite strict penalties against its sale, manufacture and use, and over \$1 trillion of taxpayer money in a futile effort to enforce drug laws, including those pertaining to cannabis; and

WHEREAS the black markets created by these unconstitutional statutes have led to increased violence both in the United States and in other countries such as Mexico where cannabis and other drugs are produced for the U.S. market; and

WHEREAS millions and millions of peaceful Americans have been arrested, imprisoned, fined, or otherwise needlessly criminalized and stigmatized, potentially for life, because of their use of cannabis, and the 2 million Drug War prisoners currently behind bars in the United States have given this country the highest documented incarceration rate of any nation on Earth, accounting for a reported 25% the world's prisoners; and

WHEREAS drug prohibition has been the major driver of the practice of asset forfeiture, in which over \$13 billion has been seized by law enforcement across the country, often from people who have not been convicted of, or sometimes even charged with, any crime; and

WHEREAS this gross violation of legal due process, has incentivized the arbitrary and often discriminatory arrest of U.S. residents in what has come to be known as "policing for profit" ; and

WHEREAS unconstitutional statutes attempting to control what people choose to put into their own bodies constitute a vast and dangerous government intervention into people's personal lives violating the cherished American values of individual freedom and choice; and

WHEREAS polls now show that most Americans support legalizing cannabis for both medical and recreational use, and voters in multiple states have voted accordingly;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Libertarian National Committee supports the immediate full legalization and federal de-scheduling of cannabis and industrial hemp products, as a much-needed first step toward ending the destructive "War on Drugs" entirely, in accord with the Libertarian Party's platform.

Sponsors: Harlos, Demarest, Starchild, Redpath

Started: 02/24/17

Ended: 03/06/17

Voting "aye": Demarest, Harlos, Lark, Marsh, McKnight, Redpath, Starchild, Vohra

Voting "nay": Bittner, Hayes, Katz, Mattson, Starr

Express abstention: Goldstein, Hagan

With a final vote tally of 8-5, the motion fails to achieve the 3/4 vote required to adopt a public policy resolution with previous notice (see LP Bylaws Article 7.11).

Motion 2017-05:

The Libertarian National Committee strongly opposes the unjust arrest and detention of peaceful individuals. The arrests on February 2, 2017, and subsequent detention of libertarian activists, Ubaldo Herrera Hernandez and Manuel Velazquez, in Cuba illustrate the threats to freedom we all face around the world.

The Libertarian Party calls on the Cuban government to immediately release details of the above-mentioned arrests and detentions, including the specific charges being levied against the individuals in question. In the absence of such information, we call for the release of these prisoners.

Libertarian activism worldwide must not be deterred by the attempts of authoritarian leaders, totalitarian governments, and dictatorial regimes to silence the voice of freedom. We condemn any acts of official oppression, and uphold the promotion of limited government and free markets in any country. Furthermore, we call on the U.S. Department of State to publicly denounce violations of the right to free speech, the right to peaceably assemble, and the right to due process abroad.

Sponsors: Bilyeu, Harlos, Demarest, Marsh

Started: 03/09/17

Ended: 03/19/17

Voting "aye": Bilyeu, Demarest, Goldstein, Harlos, Katz, Lark, Marsh, McKnight, Moellman, Redpath, Sarwark, Starchild, Vohra

Voting “nay”: (none)

With a final vote tally of 13-0, the motion PASSES.

Motion 2017-06: Move to budget an additional \$5,000 (budget line 90) to relocate the historical records in the Duke Street basement and in the off-site storage facility to a location in Colorado to be determined by Historical Preservation Committee Chair. The facility will be paid by for and under the control of the LNC and will be obtained at a cost equal or less to the price paid for the similar facility in Virginia. The Executive Director will be directed to send out up to two fundraising emails to cover this expense and the prior budgeted Historical Committee expense (credit to budget line 25).

Sponsors: Harlos, Hayes, Bittner, Demarest

Started: 03/24/17

Ended: 04/03/17

Voting “aye”: Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Goldstein, Lark, Marsh, Sarwark, Starchild, Vohra

Voting “nay”: Katz, Mattson

Express abstention: Redpath

With a final vote tally of 12-2, the motion PASSES.

Motion 2017-07: The site for the August 19-20, 2017 LNC meeting will be Kansas City (MO or KS).

Sponsors: Goldstein, Hagan, Hayes, Bittner

Started: 03/24/17

Ended: 04/03/17

Voting “aye”: Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Lark, Marsh, Mattson, McKnight, Redpath, Vohra

Voting “nay”: Starchild, Starr

Express abstention: Bilyeu, Katz

With a final vote tally of 12-2, the motion PASSES.

Alicia Mattson
LNC Secretary