LIBERTARIAN
PARTY HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY September 21, 2026

Date and Time: Monday, 21 September 2026 at 7:15pm Eastern time

Where: Online: Zoom

Committee Attendees: Caryn Ann Harlos, Joe Dehn, Sam Bohler, Andrew Kolstee, Alfa Shaw, Beth Vest, James Gholston (honorary member)

Other Attendees: none

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm Eastern time.

Records of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the 17 August meeting were approved without objection. *(Note: the additional meeting that had been scheduled for 31 August did not take place.)*

General LPedia: There was discussion of how to handle the new affiliate in New Hampshire, which is named "Granite State Libertarian Party", and other cases where a new affiliate is recognized or an existing affiliate changes its name. It is not yet clear whether GSLP might at some point change its name, to something containing the name of the state, but practice up until now has been to have a single article about whatever affiliates there have been in a given state, with the article being named "Libertarian Party of <state name>", even if that is not the name by which they identified themselves, with changes over time, if any, documented in that article and redirects for any significantly different name(s). Alternative suggestions were made for naming such articles: just "<state name>", or "Libertarian Party - <state name>", either of which would make it clear that we are using a name that is *not* itself the organization name, but the former might be seen as precluding articles about each state itself. Alternatively, we might continue with our current naming convention but include a disclaimer in cases where the affiliate has chosen a different name, making explicit that the article name is just following our convention. For now, we will redirect "Granite State Libertarian Party" to the existing article, but it was agreed that committee members who prefer a different approach for the longer term should send a proposal to our list so that we can make a decision about this at the next meeting.

Templates: Caryn Ann said she had not realized that we already have an info box template for campaigns, because it was not mentioned in the article listing info box templates. Andrew said others also appear to be missing and that he will add them.

Site Technical: Caryn Ann again asked how best to tag a user in the talk page for an article so that they receive a notification the next time they log in. Sam said he will send a recommendation about this to the committee mailing list.

Site Statistics: Sam reported on a burst of activity during the month prior to our last meeting, likely related to the New Hampshire situation. He said although he is happy with MyWikis he plans to look into alternatives that might provide a similar level of service at a lower cost, to be prepared if our spending becomes a budget issue.

Storage Unit: Caryn Ann said she has done some work there since our last meeting.

Convention Memorial Committee: Caryn Ann said she has asked Steve Dasbach about sending a national announcement soliciting volunteers to work on this.

Transferring Material to University of Virginia: Caryn Ann reported that she is still waiting for followup by Evan McMahon on the gift deed for the material we wish to donate.

Electronic Copies of Current Publications: Caryn Ann said she is still awaiting response from Steve Dasbach on this.

Donald Trump Article: James said he commented out a section that was problematic and made an update reflecting that he was elected to a second term. Caryn Ann said somebody should add material relevant to the LP, including the attempt to make him a Life Member.

Reports of Committee Members: Written reports from several committee members are attached.

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Uploading Project: There was discussion of progress being made and decisions that need to be made about how to proceed with the project to upload already-scanned material, with a current focus on correspondence from the 1990s. Various points were considered regarding apparent conflicts among speeding up the process vs. aesthetics of the result vs. preservation of information from the original scan. In various cases, desirable fixes may include straightening, removal or masking of rough edges, removal of smudges or other defects not actually part of the original document, and removal of blank pages.

Alfa showed a tool that he has developed which partly automates the process, including determining how much straightening is needed and removing the blank pages that were used as separators in doing the scanning.

Caryn Ann said we need to aim for the best possible result now, while still making reasonable progress, because we are not going to be doing it again later. She noted that the plan is to donate or discard the paper originals. She was especially concerned that leaving ragged edges would make the result significantly less presentable. Concern was expressed about lossiness in the rotation process. Approaches were suggested to preserve the original scan to allow for the work to be redone if better results were deemed more important in the future or better technology for doing this becomes available, including simply keeping all the original files somewhere; there are services which would allow us to do this at a reasonable cost. It might also be possible that the "straightening" could be done by coding the rotation into the PDF, leaving the actual matrix of pixels unmodified. It was noted that in some cases the original scans might have already lost something significant, either by being generally low quality or chopping off an edge of the page that contained text. It was suggested that part of the process could include noting such cases so that those specific pages could be rescanned before we get rid of the originals.

There was agreement that automating the process as much as possible, and avoiding manual processing of every page, would help us get the material available as soon as possible. Combining an automated process with a manual check of the result might be a good compromise. Caryn Ann said that the tool that Alfa developed gets us "90%" of what we need, her main remaining concern being ragged edges.



Caryn Ann called a special meeting for 5 October during which we will discuss this project further. She asked that members of the committee articulate their positions on these issues by e-mail before then. She also wants Kyle to be able to present the tool that he developed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm Eastern time.

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Committee Member Monthly Reports

Joe Dehn

* Prepared and distributed draft minutes of August meeting.

* Added material to the Manual of Style sections regarding file names:

    covering use of the "circa" convention for dates

    covering agreed-upon "Corr" series code for files containing correspondence of all kinds, including use of "to-" and "from-" name elements

    deprecating previously-recommended codes "Letter" and "Email" (removed from main article, listed as deprecated in the complete list article SERIESABBREV)

* Uploaded minutes and recordings of recent Libertarian Party of California EC meetings.

* Updated Featured Article to "Radio Advertisement 1976 Roger MacBride for President".

James Gholston

I've been going over the articles created with AutoBio, but personal life interruptions have eaten up a few weeks, mainly relenting in the past couple of days. I'm mostly, but not all the way through the cleanup pass as of an hour and a half before the meeting.

I've looked into the output format that most of the YahooGroup information that I have. They are in a not really human-readable JSON format and have been contemplating ways to turn those into LPedia-ready documents.

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Andrew Kolstee

- Started going through scans (named most of the files; have not had a chance to investigate further to finish them)

- Added some documents on the 1983 convention from the Nolan Archives

- Kept LPNY State Committee stuff up to date; added recent minutes

- Organized some of the physical LPNY Archives into boxes and folders

Beth Vest

I have access to my folder now. I had some questions about exactly what to do with the files so I can be sure I am doing what needs to be done. I want to finish the files in my folder over the next week or two.

It seems easy to create articles from the needed articles page, but I have had some trepidation about just proceeding with that, though I started working on a couple of those things. I would rather work on things that are high priority, and besides the work in my folder would welcome more guidance on that front so I can definitely be more productive.