

Liberty for America

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Crusading for Liberty Since 2008

May 2014

Alabama Asks Your Support

Alabama does petitioning by political district. Petition successfully for political status in a district, and get ballot access for multiple elected offices within the district. LP Alabama petitioner and LNC member Paul Frankel writes us:

ALABAMA: We need help to pay for petitions in Bibb, Blount, Coosa, Chilton, and Shelby Counties. In addition to Jefferson County, which we completed for \$10,000 last year with help from Libertarian Booster PAC, we got \$12,500 from LNC with the overall goal of qualifying a federal candidate (US House) for the first time in Alabama since 2002. Now we must just raise the last \$2,500 (last 10%) to complete the project. Just think, a \$5 contribution will be worth \$50, a \$50 contribution will mean \$500, and a \$500 contribution is worth \$5,000! We are hoping to complete petitioning for Congressional District 6 and run the first Libertarian for federal office in Alabama since 2002!

Please donate what you can: <https://secure.piryx.com/donate/c8EdVwp9/Libertarian-Party-of-Alabama/ballotaccess> The same petitions allow us to run for up to about 20 state legislative seats and all county commission, county executive and county judicial races in all these counties, plus Jefferson which we already completed. These will be the first LP branded candidates in Alabama since 2002 except for one single LP candidate in one single legislative district in 2006. LP presidential candidates in 2004, 2008 and 2012 were all on as independents without the LP label. The last presidential candidate to have a Libertarian ballot label in Alabama was Harry Browne in 2000. With the passage of ballot access reform in Oklahoma, Alabama now has the worst statewide ballot access laws in the nation. With \$22,500 already raised from national liberty organizations and ballot access already achieved in Jefferson County, Alabama Libertarians would like to qualify 5 more counties with \$2,500 in individual donations to the state party to get us over the top, and run additional legislative candidates, a Congressional candidate, and county candidates in all six counties.

Support IPR Reporters

Paul Frankel is a regular contributor to Independent Political Report. He writes: I am looking for help to continue to travel to events such as LNC meetings, LP state conventions, and the like and provide coverage on Independent Political Report (IPR). So far this year I have made trips to the Virginia, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas LP conventions and an LNC meeting, and have attended every LNC meeting this past two year term to provide coverage. There were others I wanted to attend but could not afford to go. Contributions can be made via paypal to travellingcirus@gmail.com (note two Ls in travelling) or write the same address or call 205-534-1622 to discuss other ways to send me money. IPR is a volunteer activity, not a paying job.

Wonderful Libertarian News

We continue to have wonderful news about our party's advances across America.

Missouri

The Libertarian Party of Missouri is running 30 candidates this year, including one contested primary and candidates for U.S. Congress in every District. Their political status requires getting 2% of the vote in a race for statewide office. This year, the only statewide office on the ballot is State Auditor. On the ballot are a Libertarian, a Constitution Party candidate, and a Republican. No Democrat is on the ballot.

Oregon

The Libertarian Party of Oregon is conducting a privately-run, privately-funded primary among its 16,000 members. They already have 27 candidates on the ballot. Acceptances of nominations made via write-in vote may put them to near 40 candidates this year.

Wisconsin

The Wisconsin state party had its State Convention on April 12. Attendance was at an all-time record, with nearly one hundred Libertarians in attendance. A record number of candidates were nominated.

Colorado

The state convention had 80 attendees, three time last year's numbers, and nominated close to four dozen candidates. For

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In This Issue

This was your editor's busy time of year, in an unusually busy year. Time for preparing this issue was extremely short. Nonetheless, we have a fundraising appeal for Alabama ballot access, and a second appeal for funding the travels of the unpaid reporter of Independent Political Report. We have much good news from around the country, things that Libertarian state parties are doing successfully. Where Your Money Went returns next month.

We also have a report on a scheme to pack the National Convention by inflating the delegate count of Ohio. Finally, we have reports on the discussions of the Libertarian National Committee, which seems in its conversation to be doing rather little, though it did manage to spend \$895,000 on a building that is considerably smaller than my home.

the first time in many years, the State Convention was able to elect a full slate to the Colorado State Committee. US Senate candidate Gaylon Kent, Gubernatorial candidate Matthew Hess, Attorney General candidate David K Williams, and Congressional District 3 candidate Travis Mero are anticipating a tour of northwest Colorado.

Lily Tang Williams is running for State Representative in District 44. She is an immigrant to the United States. She writes: "As a Chinese American Immigrant, I have a compelling story to tell what it really means to be free after have lived under the Communist China regime for 23 years. I have set up a Facebook page for my campaign: Lily4Liberty I welcome you to go to the page and like it, share it with your Facebook friends, especially if you have friends who are immigrants. Some of them might connect with my message about choosing liberty against tyranny if they had a horrible experience living under a dictatorship."

Massachusetts

Massachusetts set a recent record for candidates for the state legislature, with seven candidates for the State Legislature and a candidate for Suffolk County (Boston) Sheriff. Ballot access in Massachusetts requires petitioning: 150 valid signatures for State Representative, 300 for State Senate, and 1000 for Sheriff. The signature requirements are identical for all candidates of all parties; any registered voter can sign a Libertarian nominating paper, but Democrats and Republicans cannot sign each other's papers.

Michigan

The State convention is May 17 in Howell, Michigan. Scotty Bowman and Heather Richards-Wodrich staged a Marketing for Liberty event at the Lansing, MI Capital Area LP office. Roughly 50 persons attended, with speakers including Pat Clawson – Former CNN reporter, Tim O'Brien – Advertising consultant / membership growth expert, Helena Blakemore – Video/Movie producer, Derek Magill – Campus activist/organizer, Bill Gelineau – Election result analyst, Greg Marshall – Radio talk show host to TEA Party market, Heather Richards-Wodrich – Media relations consultant, and Brian Wright – LPM cofounder, author, publisher, strategist. A video of event high points will be appearing on the michiganLP.org web site.

The LPM had representatives at the Michigan Grassroots PowWow, organized by the Plainwell Patriots, with 40 organizations and 400 people in attendance. Libertarians were well received. LPMichigan experimented with treating National Party members as state party members, and discovered that most Libertarians only joined one of the two organizations.

Gay Star News reports that Lorence Wenke, who spent six years in the Michigan state House of Representatives as a Republican, has switched to the Libertarian Party and will run for state senate again.

Arizona

The Maricope County LP meets monthly and has active fund

raising. They emphasize that "...self ownership and the non-initiation of force are core principles defining Libertarianism..." and "... change without understanding does not last...", and emphasize they do not do fund raising for new buildings and payroll expansion.

Iowa

We received from friends in Iowa a letter from their State Chair, Keith Laube: "The number of voters registered as Libertarians in Iowa keeps increasing! I obtained the current list/addresses of registered Libertarians today from the Secretary of State office and there are now 3,284 registered libertarians in Iowa. Our goal is to have 3,690 by spring 2015. This is a phased goal to reaching the milestone goal of about 25,000, which is 2% of cast votes.

Spring 2012 - 1,550

Spring 2013 - 2,240

Jan 2014 - 2,569

April 2014 - 3,284

We increased by 715 due to the Secretary of State correcting voter registration with their mailing. Thanks to Jake [Porter] for getting the Secretary of State office to correct their problem. Momentum is a great thing. We are the up and coming party!

Laube credits Libertarian Secretary of State candidate Jake Porter for doing much of the work that led to a solution. He quotes from Porter's web site: "After working for the past week with the Director of the Iowa Senate Democrats Ron Parker, Senate Majority Leader Gronstal, and Sarah Reisetter Director of Elections at the Iowa Secretary of State's office, I am happy to announce that our voter registration issues have finally been resolved after almost seven years!

This afternoon (February 21, 2014), I received a call from Sarah who informed me that they followed up on the list of voter registration issues at the DMV and that within the next few days the issue will be resolved. She also said that I was not far off in my belief that the voter registration issues was tried to a database error, the issue appears to have impacted both us and Green Party, and she thanked us for being persistent on the issue even though we were not believed at first. I thanked Sarah for all of her hard work.

Even better, the Secretary of State's office has agreed to send a direct mailing postcard to any registered voter who may have been impacted and not allowed to register as a Libertarian or Green at the DMV since 2007 to correct the error."

Outright Libertarians

Outright Libertarians will hold its 2014 General Conference

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Meeting at the 2014 LP National Convention on Saturday, June 28, immediately following the close of business. 2014-2016 officers will be elected. Outright Libertarians reports that in the last few months it has doubled the number of its state chapters.

Oregon

Wes Wagner reports that they are up to 30 candidates prior to their private primary, and hope to exceed 50 candidates this year. They are also polling their members on initiative petitions likely to appear on the Oregon ballot this year.

LSLA

The LSLA has announced a speaker schedule for the Columbus State Convention. We quote

Candidate 10am-12:00 Carla Howell - Who's Driving
Candidate 12:00 - 1pm LUNCH ON OWN
Candidate 1pm - 3pm Evan McMahon - Candidate Training
Candidate 3pm - 5pm Harold Thomas - Candidate Training
Candidate 5pm - 6pm Sharon Harris - Communications
Internal 10am - 11:30 Paula Edwards - FEC Compliance
Internal 11:30am - 1:00pm LUNCH ON OWN
Internal 1pm - 2pm Axinn, Redpath, Frankel - Managing a Petition Drive
Internal 2pm - 6pm Multi-State Team - Divisional Structure of a State Party

Convention attendees should realize that the restaurant facilities at the hotel are extremely limited. Eating in an hour may prove to be a major challenge, though I gather for dinner the surrounding area is quite good.

Kansas

Their electronic state newsletter is now weekly! Tehir noinee for Governor is Keen Umbehr. He started working life running a trash collection firm, went back to college with his children, and is now a practicing attorney in Abilene. The official objective is to win 5% of the vote and gain major party status. Other Kansas candidates include Randall Batson - US Senate
Chris Clemons - US House, 2nd District
Brent Stackhouse - State Representative, District 14
Michael Kerner - State Representative, District 17
Kenneth Maggard - State Representative, District 19
Jeff Caldwell - State Representative, District 36
F. Caleb Christopher - State Representative, District 38
Dan Hogan - State Representative, District 67
Gordon Bakken - State Representative, District 84
James Pruden - State Representative, District 86
John Kostner - City Commission, Kingman City seat #1

District of Columbia

The D.C. Voter Registration Cards record us as the Libertarian Party.

New Mexico

The LPNM State Convention was May 10. It was scheduled to

feature speakers from the Independence Institute, the Rio Grande Foundation, and the Albuquerque Tea Party.

Virginia

LPVA Federal candidates include:

Robert Sarvis – U.S. Senate (website, Facebook, Twitter)
Xavian Draper – U.S. House of Representatives, 1st Congressional District 804-837-6358 (website, Facebook, Twitter)
Allen Knapp – U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd Congressional District (website, Facebook)
Justin Upshaw – U.S. House of Representatives, 3rd Congressional District. (website, Facebook)
Bo Brown – U.S. House of Representatives, 4th Congressional District (Facebook)
Will Hammer - U.S. House of Representatives, 6th Congressional District (website, Facebook)
James Carr – U.S. House of Representatives, 7th Congressional District (website, Facebook, Twitter)
Jeffrey Carson – U.S. House of Representatives, 8th Congressional District (website)
Bill Redpath – U.S. House of Representatives, 10th Congressional District
Marc Harrold – U.S. House of Representatives, 11th Congressional District (Facebook, Twitter)

Packing the Convention

Our financial investigations have indicated how the Libertarian Party of Ohio was able to expand its membership so dramatically last year. At the end of September 2013, Ohio had 665 active national party members, according to the monthly report from the LNC staff to the National Committee. At the end of October 2013, Ohio had 729 active national party members, and by the end of December Ohio had 1071 active national party members, these counts all being “Bylaws Sustaining Members” as defined in the party bylaws. An increase of 406 memberships would cost \$10,150.

That’s really remarkable. How did Ohio add 406 members, an increase of close to 60%, in a period in which the general National Party membership was entirely very nearly stable?

To understand this, we go to the Ohio state party financial filings. They file twice, for Federal Funds with the FEC and for non-Federal Funds with the Ohio Secretary of State. The LPOH 2013 post-general filing, filed on 12/10/2013, shows that for that period the LPOH started with \$1977.35, had income of \$4222.80, and spent \$13188.08. The game between starting cash, income, and spending was covered by a \$10,000 loan dated 10/25/2013.

The loan was from Aaron Starr.

Copies of the Secretary of State Filings for the key pages appear in our electronic edition on Page 14. The key page changed after this article appeared on Independent Political Report: We show on page 14 the before and the after.

Starting the day before the loan was recorded, the LPOH began

sending large sums of money to the Libertarian Party National for memberships:

\$275 for 11 memberships on 10/24/2013
\$875 for 35 memberships on 10/30/2013
\$1175 for 47 memberships on 11/15/2013
\$3125 for 125 memberships on 11/15/2013
\$875 for 35 memberships on 11/19/2013
\$3375 for 135 memberships on 11/26/2013 (one of these was listed separately)
\$150 for 6 memberships at the start of December

That's a total of \$9850 for memberships. In the prior four month period, the account paid for 22 memberships, all in October 2013. In the next five months, the account paid for 6 national party memberships.

In other words, Mr. Starr's loan covered the 400 extra members, thereby appreciably increasing the Ohio delegate total at the National Convention.

Now we come to the anomalies in the LNC side of the issue.

First, the money for these memberships came from the Ohio non-Federal account, not from the Ohio FEC-filing account.. That's not allowed. To transfer money to the LNC from the Ohio Party, the money had to come out of the Ohio Party Federal account. It did not.

Second, the LNC did not disclose that it had received these funds from the Ohio Party. At least six of those transfers were individually over \$200, and the total is well over \$200, so entries showing transfers from the LP Ohio should surely appear. It does not.

You can go through the LNC FEC filings yourself, and there are no entries showing transfers from the LP of Ohio. That money left Ohio, approximately the right number of extra memberships appear in the LNC records for Ohio, but there is no sign of the LNC receiving the money.

Third, we can be entirely certain that the LP of Ohio was not simply transferring Federal dues money it had received from individual donors. The LP Ohio started the October-December filing period with under \$2000, enough for fewer than 40 people, and in that period it received donations from only 65 people, one of whom being Nancy Neale.

There's no two ways about it. Aaron Starr lent the LP of Ohio \$10,000. LP of Ohio was then able to pay for an extra 400 national party sustaining memberships from Ohio.. Their delegate account was substantially increased.

In addition, if you believe that these funds were actually collected from the renewing members*, and simply forwarded by the LPOH, a further issue arises. The LPOH received in the words of the FEC "designations or other means of recognizing that a certain amount of money has been raised", namely they got extra delegates. The dues payments are therefore bundled contributions, requiring the LNC to determine if the donation amounts crossed the bundling threshold.

*Our sources advise us that the memberships were renewals, made in at least some cases without the consent or approval of the person whose membership was renewed.

The Ohio Federal filings are at fec.gov. The Ohio state filings are at <http://www2.sos.state.oh.us>. The Committee name is Libertarian Party of Ohio.

An Amusing Coincidence

The above article on Ohio's delegation inflation was posted on independent Political Report on May 10. Less than a day later, at 10:29 AM on May 11, an Ohioan posted to independent Political Report:

"There is no loan...check the financial filings again."

We did.

He was telling the truth. There was no loan reported, just \$10,000 in unexplained income. We do not predict what you will find if you look at the key page when you read this. Over the past day, the loan entry mysteriously disappeared from the Ohio Secretary of State's web pages. We aren't sure who did it. As this is a Sunday, it seems unlikely that it was done by Ohio State employees. Unmistakably, it must have been done by someone with the needed password.

Fortunately, before the loan entry mysteriously vanished, we had generated a full-color image of the pages from the Secretary of State's web pages. You can now see the "before" and "after" images on page 14 of the electronic edition.

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Liberty for America**

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Liberty for America will be performing political acts, and other activities that the Federal government calls "Federal Election Activity" and hence FEC-reportable. We must therefore funnel dues to our PAC, "Liberty for America". Dues will not be used to support candidates.

Your Donations are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to request the occupation and employer of donors of \$200 or more in a year. Paid for by Liberty for America. Your donations may be used in relation to a Federal Election. We can only accept donations made by American citizens with their own money.

The LNC Talks We Summarize

The Libertarian National Committee has an internal discussion email list LNC-Discuss. We are forwarded a copy of its monthly digest, and extract from it some of the more enlightening conversation on how the national party is being run.

In response to a proposal from an LNC member that members would prefer that the LNC National Headquarters should communicate even less frequently with the membership, Paul Frankel answered:

"The Democrats and Republicans communicate frequently because it works. The lists get traded all over the place and you will not have an easy time unsubscribing once you get on them. Email or snail mail. Selling LP as being better because we communicate less would be cutting our own throat big time. We might get slightly more people on our list (who would still complain that we communicate too much no matter how little it is) but we would get a lot less contribution from them. Overall we would take a huge net loss. Not smart. Also some of us prefer MORE communication, I guess we would be out of luck. Actually we already are since I think we do way too little as it is. Junk mail (snail spam) is great! Use it to heat your house, or sell it to other people to heat theirs. And email spam is very quick to erase, one second or less per spam. I get over a thousand emails a day which is not a problem for me."

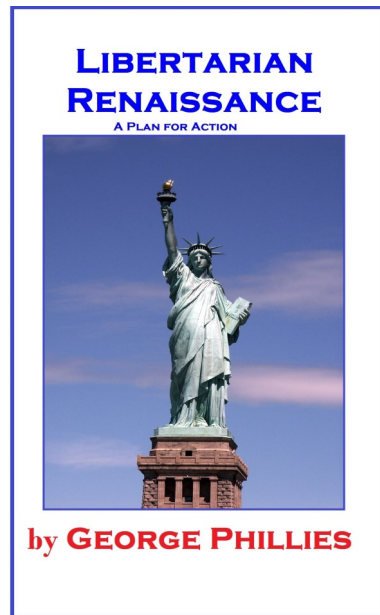
Lee Wrights on Adopting 2014 Goals: "I am sorry folks, but once again the LNC has it bass-ackwards! Goals? Now? We talked about this early in our term. We even had a meeting about it prior to one of our meetings in Virginia. Remember, the meeting where the "champion" of goals didn't even show up?"

Goals should be discussed and worked on at the "beginning" of an LNC term NOT when the term is coming to a close. This is not a project that can be done in a few weeks, people. Doing it this way, for all intents and purposes, only looks like we are putting on a show because it is election time. Maybe our members should set our goals for us at each national convention, I don't know. All I do know is, in the eight years I have served on this board, we TALK about goals, we NEVER set any goals, and I can't remember ever "achieving" any goals. Sad really.

This board needs new blood and new ideas badly."

Starchild answered: "You raise a valid point about discussing goals this late in the term. Speaking for myself, I weighed in because the topic was already being discussed (at the LNC meeting in Alexandria last weekend, and subsequently online), and I wanted to offer give my input in case we do adopt any goals. Arvin and others may be doing the same.

Since you were not in Alexandria, have you reviewed the recording of the meeting to see what was discussed? Of course not, because there is no recording available for you to review! So you'll just have to wait until the minutes come out and glean what information you can from them. I made a motion to ad-



Libertarian Renaissance

George Phillipies has created and published a new edition of the New Path Plan for saving our party.

Libertarian Renaissance is an update of the 2010 edition with new information.

The volume is available on

Amazon Kindle
[amazon.com/Libertarian-Renaissance-Essays-Liberty-ebook/dp/B00E1SVGAK](https://www.amazon.com/Libertarian-Renaissance-Essays-Liberty-ebook/dp/B00E1SVGAK) and

Smashwords
[smashwords.com/books/view/339159](https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/339159)

for ninety-nine cents.

dress that problem by requiring recordings of our meetings to be retained online and livestream video broadcast if possible, but unfortunately a majority of our fellow members voted it down."

The LNC discussed at length the Ohio situation. The Ohio candidates had the option of filing a write-in declaration as a backup, in case they were removed from the ballot by the Ohio Secretary of State. Several candidates, including Secretary of State candidate Kevin Knedler, had the foresight and wisdom to do so. Unfortunately, the candidate for Governor did not file, so after the forthcoming election the LP of Ohio will lose ballot access status.

Dianna Visek claimed "Our members don't even agree that we should behave as a bonafide political party." Lee Wrights answered "And how do you know this? Where is the data to support this assertion? Who did the survey from which you gleaned this nugget of information?"

Scott Lieberman added:

Mr Wrights:

Look at the definition of a political party, which I have posted on this list a number of times.

Then look at the amount of money and drama that the National Libertarian Party spends on activity which does not directly, or very closely, relate to getting Libertarians elected to public office.

As you have just seen in Ohio - the two major political parties play for keeps. If a third party doesn't spend every dollar they raise and every hour of paid and volunteer time they have access to trying to defeat Democrats and Republicans for elected public offices, then this organization is going to be a failure as a Political Party.

Some of our members do not care whether or not the Party ever elects Libertarians to public office. And to be clear: that is not the same as saying that those members do not want to see Libertarians elected to public office. It's just that those members feel that the Libertarian Party should be helping Cato and Reason and Heartland in their Missions, rather than concentrating on our Mission.

You don't need a survey to figure that out, but I would certainly love to see the results of a statistically valid survey of our entire membership on this topic. a poll on www.LP.org <<http://www.lp.org/>> is not statistically valid.

Scott Lieberman

There was a budget shortfall in February. The Executive Director as required by the LNC proposed budget cuts. His choices of cuts were rather remarkable:

“Dear LNC:

Attached (and also pasted below) are spending cut proposals I submitted to members of the LNC/LNC-EC at the LNC meeting last weekend in Alexandria.

None of my spending cut proposals were adopted by the LNC. Therefore, I am working hard instead, to increase revenue to close the gap, so that we can fund everything in the budget, including the three things I offered to cut in my report below.

One statement in my report has been misinterpreted and when I re-read it myself, I can see why it was misinterpreted. I wrote it quite poorly and in haste.

I wrote: "Avoid excessive spending by rolling out the /Libertarian Angels /concept and/or using more Piryx-style dedicated donation pages for certain efforts like the Alaska proposal."

The wording I used could easily be interpreted to say that I am against rolling out the /Libertarian Angels /concept.

However, that is not what I meant. What I meant was, "Avoid excessive spending on various new projects that we don't have enough funds for, or that are risky or unproven concepts, and instead, roll out a quick and simple version of the /Libertarian Angels /concept like that proposed by Chairman Neale whereby donors donate to projects they want to fund so that we can see which projects people want to fund and also collect the revenue specifically for them."

The text of my report is below.

=====

Expense Reduction Details for LNC EC 2014-03-01 Alexandria, VA
From the Policy Manual, Section 3.04 DONOR & VENDOR RELATIONS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The Executive Director shall promptly report to the Executive Committee if cumulative revenue as of the end of the month is less than 90% of the accepted budget and submit detailed plans for appropriate expense reductions for the remainder of the budget period./

Below is our performance to date: [For brevity we show only the January-February total].

Revenue—\$189,457
Budgeted—\$215,800
Difference—(\$26,343)
Per cent of budget—67.8%

Since we're less than 90% of the accepted budget, below I'm submitting detailed plans for appropriate expense reductions. These are not actual expense reductions. Actual expense reductions require action by the LNC. These are just detailed plans for appropriate expense reductions in order for the Executive Director to comply with the Policy Manual.

Possible Expense Reductions

AL ballot access \$12,500
IL ballot access \$65,000
Member communications \$8,000

Below are actual recommendations from the Executive Director for increasing revenue, and for avoiding some expenses:

?LP Staff & LNC have to raise about \$5,000 per day. A day spent on a project that doesn't bring in any revenue is \$5,000 lost in opportunity costs. Avoid projects that take a lot of time but provide little benefit. We should do our best to provide the best customer service we can, but spending lots of time kowtowing to complaints from the smallest donors or non-donors hurts revenue and also hurts customer service to other customers. We've failed to get some fundraising emails and letters out due to time constraints.

?Avoid excessive spending by rolling out the Libertarian Angels concept and/or using more Piryx-style dedicated donation pages for certain efforts like the Alaska proposal.

Prioritize projects. Use the tools that have a great proven track record before inventing new tools.

Respectfully submitted,
Wes Benedict
Executive Director

It seems that the LP News that was received in early March was delivered to the printers on January 31. It was mailed on February 19. It took 3-5 weeks to reach its destination.

Scott Lieberman goes on time and again about electing people to non-partisan boards with elections. In one March missive to the LNC on NatCon, he wrote:

Of the 10 speakers currently listed for the 2014 Libertarian Na-

tional Convention, only 1.5 of them are elected officials or directly concerned with candidate elections for public office. Those 1.5 are Gary Johnson and Judge Gray (Judge Gray only had to enter judicial retention elections, thus the ?). <http://lpcon2014.org/speakers/>

And of course, ZERO of the currently listed speakers are incumbent elected Libertarians. If we want our political party to elect Libertarians, then I would think that we would want the majority of the speakers at our conventions to be elected Libertarians, former elected Libertarians, or people who can teach us the technical aspects of winning elections.

I have no problem with having a few "movement" speakers, but when they constitute the overwhelming majority of the speakers, we send a message to our members that the Party is not serious about getting our members elected to public office.

The Convention Management Committee might reply that "we will have a panel of elected Libertarians", or that the LSLA will have an elected officials panel the day before the Convention. Those possible options don't change the fact that it looks like the Convention Management Committee is giving philosophical speakers the spotlight at the expense of those LP members who are doing the hard work of actually implementing liberty on City Councils and Water Boards.

Well over half of the speakers at the Republican and Democrat National Conventions were current or former elected officials: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_Republican_National_Convention#Speakers

Scott Lieberman

He received a response from Geoff Neale:

"Mr. Lieberman,
Since you shared your letter with us, I hope you will do the same, and share my response with those same friends.

I am under the impression that the intention of the CMC is to run a successful convention, which will be judged first by whether or not it loses money, and second by how many people show up. As such, who is chosen to speak is a simple matter of ROI. Do you have any evidence to show the LNC that focusing on minor elected officials will improve our attendance? Will having a water policy panel of elected water board officials like the one scheduled for the California convention incent libertarians from across the country to come to Columbus? I would dearly like some supporting facts that I can use to measure whether or not the CMC should schedule only elected libertarians. Do you have them?

Okay, what about personal experience? How many state or national conventions have you been actively involved in? What is the basis of your perspective? Well?

Can you please provide me with the name of one elected Libertarian whose name recognition and reputation for inspirational speaking will increase the attendance? I am sure there will be a

number of both candidates and elected officials speaking at the convention, but we have not yet promoted them. I have no evidence that promoting minor elected officials affects attendance, but I do know that people are positive about the speakers on the schedule so far. Perhaps if those elected officials were Senators, or Governors, or Representatives it would. Sell me.

I do not say this to denigrate the fine individuals who have gotten elected and are now serving, but you raised the fact that the majority of speakers at the Democratic and Republican national conventions are elected officials. Yes they are, and they represent a microscopic percentage of their respective party's elected officials. They are not chosen to speak because they are elected ; they are chosen because they are dynamic and inspirational speakers. If we have such people, then by all means we should schedule them. Please enlighten us with a list of dynamic and inspirational elected libertarians that are either NOT going to be delegates, or will pay all of their own expenses. Oh, be sure to tell them that they will be forbidden from running for any LNC position.

If we do it your way, will you personally cover any shortfall due to low attendance?

Since you're such an expert, why haven't you volunteered to be on the CMC or the COC (or any other LNC committee for that matter)?

In closing, I might be more receptive to your opinion if it was not for the perception I have that all you do is whine and moan about what other people are doing, while doing nothing of value to the LNC, or the Libertarian Party, or to the liberty movement in general. Heck, you wait until this late to voice your opinion that we should be focusing on elected officials as speakers? Did it take this long for you to come to this opinion, or have you just been waiting to criticize the work of others, while doing no work that anyone can criticize? Never mind ? I know the answer to that question.

Geoffrey Neale

Chair
Libertarian National Committee
PS: Attendance at the National Convention is not mandatory.

Scott Lieberman continued to push for floor fees: "As I have demonstrated in the past, the Green Party believes in TANSTAAFL, but we don't - at least regarding our 2014 Convention: https://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/175/shop/shop.jsp?storefront_KEY=40

Unless someone can find the secret code that permits Green delegates to avoid having to pay it, it sure looks like they are charging a mandatory \$100 registration fee for all Delegates.

And they are charging that fee even though they are holding their Convention at a Starchild-friendly venue: <http://2014greenpartyconvention.org/directions>

Scott Lieberman

Doug Craig proposed going back to the Unified Membership Plan. Brett Pojunis disagreed, writing "I disagree that we should bring U.M.P. back. I was not involved at the time U.M.P. was going on, however, it sounds like a welfare program for the states. Let the states sink or swim and make them more independent of the National party."

Mark Hinkle claimed "Brett, Under UMP, the national LP membership grew from about 15K to almost 35K.

Think of it as a division of labor rather than a welfare system. The LNC can send out membership solicitations far less expensively than either states or local affiliates.

The economics of the first two UMP's would need to change, but the concept worked to grow the LP substantially.

And when it ended, membership dropped back down to 15K.

Them's the facts.....Mark Hinkle,"

Readers may wish to check those facts. Changes in Party membership were rather more correlated with membership recruitment via the money-losing Project Archimedes than they were correlated with UMP. Brett Pojunis then responded:

"Hi Mark,

I am all for growing the National Membership, I think everyone knows that. However, we are doing great in Nevada and I don't want anything to come up that is going to hurt our growth here. I am open to ideas that makes sense."

Doug Craig responded: "the problem is...the money leaves your state and never comes back....and it puts everyone on the same team...yes Georgia is having a good year again...and more then likely we will have our fourth candidate get a million votes. ..I just want to see more sharing on the funds...and more growth...and the UMP did both....right now it is more like the federal government...money leaves but never comes back....Doug Craig"

Pojunis answered "Mr. Craig, I can tell you that is something we do not want. National, in my opinion, does not spend effectively and is petrified to try new things. Thus, the National party will continue to "survive" and it is up to states like GA and AR to get things going locally. So if this is a case where money goes up and doesn't come down there is a real problem."

Bill Redpath noted that there are states where the LNC spends on ballot access for state parties. Sam Goldstein responded: "Well, the LPIN has not gotten a nickel for our ballot access race since 1994. Therefore Hoosier Libertarians are very reluctant to send money to national to be used for ballot access in states that don't even have a functional LP. "

Brett Pojunis responded "There are many states who do not benefit from National, Nevada certainly being one of them. So in this case how would money go up and then come back down to the states?"

Doug Craig remarked " Bill...yes just like in the federal government ...some states do get money...and usually it is the same ones over and over....when is the last Georgia got some of our money back?..We sure could use some to help with our candidates. ..since we are one of the few to have multiple candidates get a million vote and we have some of the worse ballot access...Doug Craig" and furthermore "Brett...the money national gets is from the work the states are doing....many people do not know that state lp and national are separate...Georgia people believe that when they send money to national..that some will come back to help the state....if a welfare program is happening it is national that is receiving the welfare...each state should get a portion sent back to it every year...and they can decide how it should be spent....Doug Craig"

The Alaska State Chair sent LPN (LP National) a missive criticizing how the LNC spends money on ballot access rather than candidate support. As forwarded to us, his sensible remarks read:

"Subject: ALASKA
Geoff and Norm,

After considerable consideration and thought it is evident that Alaska is not going to receive any financial assistance from the National LP. Never the less, I feel that I should address what I consider as systemic problems with the LPN in its current strategic mode. It is my determination that the vast amount of funds collected nationally is directed at ballot access and not at assisting affiliates and their candidates. This speaks directly to an immaturity on the part of the LPN and directly reflects the results, which is no current libertarian legislators.

In my humble opinion after 42 years we should certainly be much farther down the road than we are. It is either the "message" or the "apparatus." I believe our message is the best political message of any political party, so I must call in question the "apparatus. "

At this stage, I believe that 50% funds should be directed at ballot access and 50% should be directed at affiliates and candidate support. In this regard, the main mission of the national is to solicit affiliates in competing for these funds based on sound, practical opportunities to "elect" libertarians. I certainly understand that states like Alaska have a clear advantage given this emphasis, but I ask you, if Alaska had a serious pool of libertarian legislators in place, would that not affect the entire libertarian movement?

Attempting to "float all boats" at the same time is socialist doctrine. This is the mistake of utilizing most funds simply for ballot access. So, given the climate of reality, I respectfully withdraw my request for affiliate funding as I understand that it is an endeavor in futility.

I do request that the LPN direct funds at procuring a current national database which they will provide to the chairs of each state. Both Mark Fish and myself have never received any assistance with a national database. This seems to be the least the national could do to assist affiliates.

If not this, then I must seriously question what the function of the LPN truly is.

Cordially,
Michael Chambers
Chair-ALP"

Continued on Page 11 of the Electronic Edition at
LibertyForAmerica.com

Geoff Neale goes on about the LNC soliciting money or giving money to state parties:

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Because Volunteerism is the backbone of political action
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tarian Political Movement

I am prepared to (circle all that apply) :

Help organize state
or regional groups

Help organize affinity groups

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Make public statements;
internet, newspapers, talk
radio

Provide web support or advice

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activist volunteer

Provide writing/editing support

Run for office

I have special skills or suggestions, namely:

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c/o George Phillis
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609

Payment may be made by check payable "Liberty for
America". Pay electronically via Click and Pledge [https://
co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=67896](https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=67896)

Our Web Pages

Liberty for America <http://www.LibertyForAmerica.com>
complete with Liberty for America back issues, policy
statements, press releases, and draft state by-laws.

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Liberty for America has a Federal PAC —we actually support
real Libertarians when they run for Federal office.

Help Alabama Ballot Access!
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Packing the Convention
An Amusing Coincidence
The LNC Talks...We Summarize

First Class Mail

Liberty for America
c/o George Phillies
48 Hancock Hill Drive
Worcester MA 01609

Dear LNC members: I don't know whether to laugh or cry. Is it unreasonable to expect the board of a political party to understand the regulations we are required by law to operate under? Why do people keep on bringing up things like "collecting dues" for state affiliates? It is illegal. National party committees may not solicit, receive, direct, transfer, or spend nonfederal funds. Any request or service where money is earmarked for an affiliate is not allowed. The above is from the FEC site. We can send Federal funds (which is EVERY dollar we receive) to our affiliates, but we cannot do it as an agent for the affiliates. So we cannot say "join your state party here?", because those revenues are NOT Federal funds.

Is there any chance we could try to concentrate on ideas that are legal?

Geoff

and

<http://www.fec.gov/pages/brochures/fecfecsa.shtml>

We need to understand and comply with FEC Regulations. We do not need to know every single word of the FEC regulations. The above link provides a high enough conceptual overview to start with. It does not delve into every situation or circumstance, but neither do the specific books of regulations. Particular "interpretations" of just how far we can go are best left to experts, and we have one on retainer. I am happy to forward requests to our expert, as long as we're not asking questions we've already been given answers to.

That being said, the LNC has no need to know every arcane detail of financial reporting, but staff does. We have the services of an expert specifically to ensure that our reporting is made in accordance with the regulations, and I am confident that we are materially in compliance with those regulations - now.

What the LNC and every affiliate needs to know is that the LNC is constrained in what it can do. "National party committees, however, may not solicit, receive, direct, transfer, or spend nonfederal funds."

This means that we cannot raise funds on behalf of anything other than federal activities. We cannot ask for money for our affiliates, because our affiliates by definition are not federal committees, even though they may engage in federal activity. That means we cannot solicit anything on behalf of our affiliates or their candidates, except for federal candidates (Congress & President).

There are several very specific exclusions not noted on the above site:

We can exercise 1st Amendment rights associated with freedom of the press. Our publications and communications, including emails, LP News, lp.org, etc can provide information regarding our affiliates and their candidates, so long as those communications do not rise to the level of soliciting. In other

words, we cannot say "Sally Smith is running a great campaign - send her money", but we can say "Sally Smith is running a great campaign - here's her website".

We can engage in general activities that are more general, such as get-out-the-vote, registration drives, ballot access, organizational and candidate training, etc.

We specifically are allowed to send unlimited amounts of funds directly to our affiliates. We just can't solicit them. We can send Idaho as much money as we want, but we cannot say please send us money to give to Idaho. We can fund Sally Smith's campaign, but we cannot ask for money for Sally Smith's campaign.

I hope this helps.

Geoffrey Neale

Readers will not see several issues with Neale's remarks. First, State Parties that have filed with the FEC and are maintaining Federal Political Party PACs are indeed Federal Committees. Indeed, the cash transfer limits that the FEC establishes specifically treat transfers between the National Committee and the Federal PAC of a state political party. That limit is infinity. It is entirely legal for the LNC to transfer money to State parties if the money goes into their Federal PAC.

Furthermore, state parties must spend Federal money on Federal Election Activity, which is not the same as running candidates for Federal office. For example, in any election in which there are candidates for Federal office, **even if none of them are Libertarian**, there are a range of activities that are Federal election activities, such as registering people to vote within 120 days of that election.

Brett Pojunis suggested that he might be endorsing candidates of other parties.

LNC,

I have been solicited for a few endorsements and I wanted to know if there are channels I need to go through?

As the Party cannot endorse candidates from other parties I am under the impression individuals can, and I intend to. What do I need to do in this case.

This is for Non-Partisan and Partisan races where we do not have a Libertarian Candidate.

Best,
Brett H. Pojunis

Starchild wrote:

Brett,

I'm not aware of any such channels, or anything stopping you from making non-Libertarian endorsements as long as you

make it clear you're not speaking for the party. I've made such endorsements before, and feel it is completely appropriate to publicly support whoever the most pro-freedom candidate is in a race even if that person is not a Libertarian, if they appear to be more *libertarian* than the other candidates.

If you put an endorsement in writing, I think a generally accepted way to handle such things is to put an asterisk after your title, and then footnote it with something along the lines of:
*Title(s) included for identification purposes only - personal views expressed may not reflect the positions of the Libertarian Party.

Love & Liberty,
(((starchild)))

Lee Wrights offered a contrary position:

YOU need to decide which team you want to play on and then stick to it! Endorsing candidates that are NOT Libertarian is your own business, of course. But, if you are going to do that, you should go ahead and resign your LP position. We have enough folks making us look bad without LNC members helping them along. I have NEVER heard of national committee members from ANY party endorsing candidates from other parties.

You want to help Republicans, JOIN them! You want to help Democrats, JOIN them! Do NOT make the rest of us look bad by endorsing these candidates while you hold high LP positions. This is ridiculous!
Lee Wrights
LNC Vice Chair

Scott Lieberman remarked:

"Nationwide, there are 145 Libertarians holding elected offices: 46 partisan offices, and 99 nonpartisan offices."

Does the Vice-Chair really think that an LNC member endorsing a few non-Libertarians in partisan races is going to make us look any worse than the above numbers already make us look?

Personally, I would not endorse a non-Libertarian partisan candidate unless it was a family member or a long-time personal friend.

I have no idea what my fellow Regional Representative from Nevada has been doing behind the scenes. But - if it results in more elected Libertarians in Nevada in 3 or 4 years, and part of the reason for that is that he endorsed a few non-Libertarians, I am willing to "forgive him."

As a total theoretical - let's say that the price for getting rid of straight ticket voting in a state is that the State Chair of the LP has to personally endorse a few Republican State Legislative candidates in races that don't have Libertarians. Would I take that deal? I probably would. Of course - deals like that can probably not be an explicit quid pro quo for legal reasons.

When your political party has never even come close to electing someone to Federal office in 42 years of existence, I am willing to cut our State Chairs some slack in terms of how they increase the number of elected Libertarians over the long term.
Scott Lieberman

Mark Hinkle provides truly useful historical data on this issue:

"Lee,

Many years ago, we did have a California regional representative on the LNC that did endorse a republican: Tom Campbell was running for U.S. Senate and I believe we did have a LP candidate.

The LPC voted to remove that representative from the LNC.

But, that's the only one I know of and it didn't end well for her.

FYI.....Mark Hinkle,

Finally, there was another discussion between Scott Lieberman and Geoff Neale:

On Behalf Of Scott L.

The e-mail below is another example of why I keep complimenting the Chair on his internal political skills.

What better way to help your re-election campaign for LNC Chair than to send out the announcement below just 11 weeks before the Libertarian National Convention? J (1)

The part about the Chair and his spouse donating \$10,000 to the 1/12 of a Building Fund is a particularly skillful addition.

I wonder if the 2014-16 LNC will direct the Executive Director to re-instate the LNC Give or Get Program, with our members receiving quarterly updates of the Give or Get chart/spreadsheet?

Scott Lieberman

1. Just to make it totally clear - I am not implying that the announcement below violates our Bylaws or Policy Manual. In fact, if I was the LNC Chair I would likely send out a similar e-mail if I had spearheaded a project like that.

Lieberman was referring so far as we can tell to a letter to building donors that read:

"Thank you for supporting our David F. Nolan Memorial Headquarters Office Fund.

I'm happy to report that the Libertarian National Committee has authorized the purchase of a specific office in Alexandria, Virginia, and we've signed agreements with the seller!

It's a modern, recently renovated, all-brick end unit of a town house style building, and it's only three blocks away from a

major Metro subway stop. The purchase price is \$825,000.

I am very happy about our choice. Our current estimate is that we'll save over \$6,200 per month after the move.

We currently have \$333,500 in our Nolan Memorial Office Fund, plus \$61,255 in pledges to the fund. But those are pledges, not money in the bank.

Our mortgage down payment is \$325,000.

Estimates of other upcoming expenditures:

- * \$7,500 in closing costs
- * \$30,000 for renovations, modifications, and permits
- * \$15,000 for furniture
- * \$20,000 for moving expenses

That's about \$397,500 in cash we need to have available in the next few months. But we only have \$333,500. We're \$64,000 short.

If all of the pledges come in, we'll have \$394,755, still \$2,745 short. But we can't count on all of the pledges coming in. (And several thousand dollars of the pledges are for future years.)

We need to bring in \$64,000 in the next couple of months.

One of our pledges is for \$32,400 from a previously reliable major donor, so we're counting on that coming in.

Please help me collect the other \$31,600 ASAP.

Our National Chair, Geoff Neale, will be in Alexandria on April 25 to sign the final closing documents. I'd like to be able to tell our chairman we have all the money in the bank we need.

By the way, Geoff and Nancy Neale donated \$10,000 to the Office Fund last month.

Thanks again for your past support. If you can make another donation today, I sure would appreciate it.

Wes Benedict"

Readers will note that the LNC bought the building but has serious cash shortages to pay for the move. On the other hand, it is widely believed that the LNC already owns furniture, so the proposal that the LNC should buy \$15,000 in furniture might perhaps be postponed. Your editor moved a large house filled with furniture, filing cabinets, etc. for well under \$10,000.

The reference to the National Chair as a major donor appears to me to be highly appropriate.

Geoff Neale responded:

Mr. Lieberman,

Wes Benedict crafted the email, and asked me if I objected to

referring to the "Neale team" donation to the Office Acquisition Fund.

I told him I had no objection, but I did warn him that there will be those that will see it as a ploy for me to boost my re-election. Actually, I think the term I used to describe those people was "ass-wipes". Perhaps one or two people will remember that I originally pledged \$15,000 in 2011, when I was not even on the LNC, but had to reduce my pledge to \$10,000 when my job situation changed. My commitment to long-term financial stability of the LP was in no way, shape or form related to any desire to be LNC Chair.

I also think that fundraising is always boosted when the members see the board putting their money where their mouth is. There's still time for LNC members to enhance their donations.

If you wish to see this as a self-serving action, go ahead. You've already contributed far too much to my reputation, earned or not.

he truth is that this job pays way too little, provides far too few benefits, and costs way too much both in personal and professional time to seek re-election for my own perceived advantages. If I do decide to run for Chair again, and I have not decided, it will be because I feel that there is more that can be accomplished by my doing so, and for no other reason.

When asked whether or not I will run for re-election, I usually respond -"Do I get to find out who's on the LNC first?" The Chair never gets to know the team ahead of time, do they? Except for regional representatives from California.

Personally, I am opposed to the "Give or Get" program, but not the concept. I see it as coercive. The best way to accomplish this is NOT through intimidation and humiliation, but by getting the delegates to agree that having donors on the board is what they want, and then charging an up-front fee to be on the LNC. Good luck with that. I will not author such a motion, or endorse it, or support it, unless and until the majority of the delegates want it. Until then, I will not tell good people like Arvin Vohra that he has not done enough, and needs to do more. I will also not send the message to large donors like Bill Redpath that both give and work their ass off that they MUST do both. I only single these two out because they are both great examples of board members exercising leadership, regardless of the role they fill or the way they fill it. Others who work, or give, or both, have not been excluded because of a slight - I know who you are, and I thank you.

Have you ever considered that what you attribute to "political skills" is just who I really am? That it's not driven by machinations, but by what I think is right? Do you really think my personal and professional life is that different than my "public persona"? Just ask anyone who knows me well.

Geoff

Editor: There is only one Geoff Neale.

From the Ohio Secretary of State, showing the loan:

Cover Page Report Details

http://www2.sos.state.oh.us/pls/cfqry/f?p=119:48:208898141581891::NO:RP:P48_REPOR...

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Name	Non Individual	Address	City	State	Zip	Report Type	Year	Date Incurred	Prior Amount	Amount Incurred	Outstanding Balance	Payment Amount	Payment Date	Employee/Occupation	Committee Name
STARR, AARON	-	2130 POSADO DR.	OXNARD	CA	93030	POST-GENERAL	2013	10/25/2013	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	-	-	LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF OHIO

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and after our article on packing the convention appeared on IPR, the page suddenly read:

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