

Liberty for America

Journal of the
Libertarian Political Movement

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Volume 1 Number 8

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<http://LibertyForAmerica.com>

Editorial

Getting Off the Ground

Yes, our resources are limited. No, we cannot give every campaign the support we would like.

But why would people support a party that never runs candidates in their district?

Do you think our resources are going to grow if we run no candidates? If we do no politics?

How do we reach people with our message? We reach them best when they are listening--election season. And we reach them as much as we can by running candidates. The candidates may not be perfect. So long as they are not an embarrassment, so long as those candidates answer press inquiries and show up at candidate forums, those candidates will reach at least some of our potential voters.

Four years ago, the Democrats installed John Dean as their National Chair. His strategy was the 50 state strategy. He sent organizers to every state. He encouraged Democrats in the reddest of red districts to run for office, to put their party's message before the public. He was ridiculed in his own party, in fair part by people who had lost their Congressional majority for them, because he supported contesting absolutely pointless targets, like the US Senate seat in North Carolina and the State House of Representatives in Tennessee and Texas. Oh, the Democrats just won those, didn't they?

Dean's strategy worked.

It will take us longer, but it is a big piece of the right strategy. Not a complete strategy, but a big piece.

To put that strategy into effect, we need an effective National Party organization, an organization that focuses on candidate recruitment, candidate support, issues advocacy, ballot access, affinity groups, local organization, and effective volunteerism.

It doesn't appear that Libertarian National Committee, Inc. is ever going to be that national organization for our party. Look at their 2009 budget and ask yourself which of these they are doing.

The effort that is spent on fighting for control of the LNC would in my opinion be more effectively spent developing an effective Libertarian Centrist national political organization.

Having said that, I will not stand in the way of our party's radical wing, when it proposes to purge the LNC of the people who recruited Bob Barr as our Presidential candidate, drove Angela Keaton from the National Committee, and diverted Libertarian Party resources to support a Republican candidate for President. I wish them our radicals the best, but similar such plans have been floated for the past decade, and they have never come to fruition.

And if you are asking yourself who the people who gave us Bob Barr are, you have but to watch a tape

Sample—This is your only issue of
Liberty for America
For more issues, **subscribe!** **Subscriptions are free at no charge.** To subscribe, send your email address to phillies@4liberty.net.
Memberships in **Liberty for America**, the organization, are \$15 per year.
Checks, payable Liberty for America, to George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester 01609

of Barr's acceptance speech at the last National Convention.

Those people included:

Bill Redpath — recruited Barr
Rob Kampia — nominated Barr
Mike Ferguson — seconded the Barr nomination
Steve Dasbach — seconded the Barr nomination
Russ Verney — Barr campaign manager

Not to mention folks thanked by Barr in the course of his speech:

Stuart Flood
Steve Gordon
Mark Rutherford

and, lest we forget

Shane Cory.

Where Your Money Went LNC—October-November 2008

The Libertarian National Committee has made its FEC filing for the period October 16–November 24, 2008. For the period, they raised \$144,639 and spent \$141,096. The totals to date for the year are then \$1,570,548 in income and \$1,670,914 in expenditures. The difference between the two final numbers is explained by cash in hand, which went from \$113,159 at the start of the year to \$12,793 at the close of the reporting period.

Over the past 8 years LNC income for a Presidential election year has fallen by more than half, while at the same time fixed expenses such as office rent and web support have increased markedly. In 2004 for the same October–November period the LNC raised \$213,826 and spent \$263,271 out of year-to-date totals of \$1,956,113 in income and \$2,010,569 in spending. In 2000, for the October–November period the LNC raised more than twice as much as 2004, namely \$437,583 out of a year total-to-date of \$3,159,471.

The Libertarian National Congressional Committee, Inc., for this period raised \$4,561, and spent \$767 for compliance consulting and fundraising expenses.

And what did the LNC do with your money? For starters, they actually spent a little money on real politics, namely \$11,000 of non-candidate-specific radio ads. They paid staff, a net of \$18,401. For an organization that professes to believe that social security retirement is a scam that is sure not to pay, they spent very little money (\$1,241 for 401K and matching) on retirement benefits for their staff. There is money for a booth at a Conservative Leadership Conference. That group has now possibly become hard to reach; their web site is down.

They also spent money on:

- Employees \$29,938 including pay, retirement, unemployment, etc.
- Mailings \$21,779
- Politics \$18,675
- Office \$18,407, including rent, office equipment, and supplies.

- Information Technology \$17,977
- Consultants \$12,690
- Legal expenses \$7,564
- Staff Travel \$4,320
- Moving money around \$3042
- D&O Insurance 821

- Employees \$29,938
- Employee Net Pay 18401 (9 employees)
- Social Security Company and Employee 3133
- Federal Unemployment and withholding 2798
- Employee Health Insurance 2403
- 401k Contributions and Match 1241
- Medicare Company+Employee 744
- VA Withholding 739
- DC withholding unemployment 200
- SC Withholding 147
- NC Withholding 132

- Consultants \$12,690
- TeleFundraising Consultant 3915
- FEC Filing and Amendments 2000
- Noncandidate editing 1025
- Writing for Non Candidate Mailing 5750

- D&O Insurance 821

- Staff Travel \$4,320

- Office \$18,407
 - Rent 9903
 - Cardstock equipment and supplies 1955
 - Postage Meter Lease and Postage 1412
 - Copier Lease and Maintenance 1274
 - Postage meter 1000
 - Office Supplies 839
 - Calendars 745
 - Parking Space Rent 480
 - Video Equipment 328
 - Shipping 214
 - Payroll Processing 167

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Quickbooks software maint. and supplies 90

Information Technology \$17,977
Web and email hosting services 7199
Website Management 4155
Phone and Data services 2609
Email server hosting 2296
Website Hosting Service 1298
Cable Services 330
PC Remote Access 90

Mailings \$21,779
Noncandidate mailing 21597
Noncandidate printing 182

Politics \$18,675
Party Radio Ad Non Candidate Specific 11000
LNC-LNCC Outreach Event 2888 Hyatt Ho-
tels International 200 West Madison St Chicago IL
60606
CLC Vegas Sponsorship 2500
Ballot Access Petitioning 1019
LP Promotional Materials 770
Outreach Booth materials 243
LP Branding Project Google AdWords 255

Legal expenses \$7,564
Legal Services 3655
MA Ballot Access Lawsuit 2112
Connecticut Ballot Access 1172
Pennsylvania Ballot Access 625

Money moving \$3042
Credit Card Processing Fees 2412
Credit Card Finance Charge 494
Bank Service Charges 136

New Hampshire Lawsuit Continues

Readers may recall from last October that the LNC-funded lawsuit against the New Hampshire Secretary of State had actually been filed and served. No further news has been heard of this until recently.

It now transpires that the lawsuit is advancing, and a trial date in 2010 has been set. Your correspondent was in touch with the LPNH State Chair, who was completely unaware that the litigation was advancing. I have also spoken to several LPNH State Com-

mittee members, who had not themselves seen the suit, and who assure me that the LPNH had not been asked for permission to continue the suit after the election was over.

A trial date has been set. The core issue is identified on the court filings as whether or not Bob Barr has a right to be the sole Libertarian candidate on the ballot in New Hampshire in 2008. Recalling that Barr was not on the New Hampshire ballot in 2008 as a Libertarian, and indeed that in 2008 it was legally impossible to run in New Hampshire other than as a Republican, Democratic or Independent candidate, the anomalous nature of the suit becomes clear.

**An Alternative
Strategic Approach:
The LP is dead. Long live the LP!**
From George Donnelly georgedonnelly.com

The Libertarian Party has lost its way. We who seek a more libertarian, transparent, and effective LP need to work together today to build a replacement LP so we can sweep internal elections next year and quickly put the LP back on track as a force for mobilizing opposition to expanding government power.

On the Edge of Bankruptcy

We libertarians are faced with an LP that is on the edge of philosophical, financial and organizational bankruptcy. The ruling clique is happy to waste precious resources on personality conflicts, purposeless meetings, administrivia, the alienation of the libertarian left and other counterproductive nonsense.

At the Worst Possible Time

This crisis comes at the worst possible time, when

**Welcome to
Liberty for America!**

A magazine. A web site. An organization.
Liberty for America has had several inquiries on launching **Liberty for America** Chapters across America. A draft set of state/regional By-Laws appears on the **LibertyforAmerica.Com** web site.

the assault on our liberties is just seriously getting started. We missed the golden opportunity for liberty in 2008, but with the new administration, the threats - and opportunities - are greater than ever. We must have an effective liberty-advocating political party - NOW.

What's the Plan & How do we Implement it?

Those determined to forge a more libertarian, transparent, and effective LP are simultaneously faced with two non-trivial questions:

1. What's our plan for building this new and improved LP?
2. How will we build a coalition inside the LP to implement our plan?

Needed: a Good Reason to Participate

But we need a large and diverse group of experienced LPers in order to answer question one. Many of those with real libertarian political experience may be burnt out on the LP. They need a very good reason to invest their time and energy in a collaborative and messy process of designing a new LP. What can we offer them to overcome any apathy or objections?

The Guarantee of a Vigorous Effort to Implement the Plan

By promising our LP Brain Trust ahead of time that something will actually come of their participation, we have a chance at arousing significant interest. We can guarantee that this will not be another pointless discussion of abstract principles, but a concerted and results-oriented effort to enact the plan we come up with.

In other words, we are not talking about something we will propose to the LNC, but something that will replace the LNC.

A Constitutional Convention for the LP

I'm proposing we construct a process by which we design a new LP; and, as a side effect of this collaborative and consensus-building process, we will gain the coalition necessary to enact our plan. Think

of it as a constitutional convention for the LP.

Not a New Party, but a New LP

This is not about forming a new party, but about designing and implementing a replacement LP - a more responsive, effective and libertarian one. The process of doing just this - and providing effective leadership via the new entity - will both demonstrate our qualifications to run the LP AND build a coalition that can sweep internal party offices next year.
Channel Energy into Building Now

Instead of more proposals and discussions and ranting and frustrations in advance of the 2010 convention, we need to take all that energy and use it to build - now - the party we want. Imagine that we are in charge of the LNC. What would we do to reinvent it? That's what we need to start doing now.

What would a Shadow LP Look Like?

What might this shadow LP look like? I expect it would be:

- * small, with a national committee of no more than nine people;
- * transparent in its operations, including online meetings;
- * run by a small (volunteer for now) staff;
- * able to take donation pledges, but not yet actually receive any funds;
- * representing all libertarians, not just the right or the left, the radical or the reformer;
- * conducting itself in a bottom-up, not top-down manner;
- * unafraid to advocate for libertarian positions, such as the abolition of taxes and an end to the prohibition on (some) drugs;
- * outwardly-focused; and
- * charged with a specific mission and goals, short-, medium- and long-term.

How do we Build the Coalition?

Once formed, what might this shadow LP do in order to build support amongst a majority of LPers? What could we do through it in order to convincingly demonstrate our coalition's determination and ability to

focus significant resources on important, popular goals? Here are some ideas:

- * Prepare projects that can be implemented immediately once we take office.

- * Recruit donation pledges - contingent upon our success in internal elections - that can be tapped immediately after next year's convention.

- * Prepare a libertarian media campaign, complete with materials - video, audio, print - and the (pledged) financing to implement it.

- * Establish a project now to support 2009 LP candidates and their local parties with legal, petitioning, IT, fundraising, public-speaking and other advice and support.

- * Identify a Libertarian political program for 2009, and attack those points ruthlessly in the media all year long.

- * Create a website and media campaign to educate the public on libertarianism.

- * Make preparations to have a party convention (like the Demopublicans do) in 2012 and get it aired on C-SPAN (or better).

- * Ally and actively cooperate with other libertarian groups, such as the Downsizer Dispatch, Freedom Ballot Access, and the Campaign for Liberty.

How do we Bootstrap it?

In order to stand up our shadow LP, we might take the following first steps:

- * Identify up to 9 key individuals who are willing to serve on the shadow LNC. They should be well-known, be well-respected, represent diverse interests and be willing to work hard. Ideally they would also be prepared to run for LNC seats at the 2010 convention. Officers can be elected amongst them as needed.

- * Set up a web presence and other IT resources for the entity. Set up a Facebook group and other social media presence.

- * Define the entity's vision, mission, values, strategies, goals and action plans.

- * Issue a press release. Look for supporters.

- * Decide what services the entity will offer, appoint an unpaid (for now) executive director and get to work.

- * Establish a fundraising committee to solicit do-

nation pledges.

- * Select a first project and get it moving. Find volunteers to work on it.

- * Review the LP bylaws. Take what works, leave what doesn't. Add what's missing.

- * Select a second project and get it moving. Find volunteers to work on it.

- * Review the LP platform. Take what works, leave what doesn't. Add what's missing.

- * Select a third project and get it moving. Find volunteers to work on it.

- * Organize as needed to gain a majority at the 2010 convention. Form precise plans for implementing our new LP there.

Timeline: NOW

We need to set our sights on 2010, NOT 2012. There's nothing like pressure and deadlines to bring out our best work. We need to get started on this now, with the goal of replacing the national LP with our new one at the 2010 convention. That's 16 months from now.

Reinvent the Party

To recap, I'm suggesting reinventing our party now ourselves with the ultimate goal of replacing the current LP with our shadow LP at the convention next year. We can fix all the things that are wrong with the party now. This is constructive forward movement that will kick off a campaign for internal party offices. We will grab the initiative with this and put the incumbents on the defensive, effectively turning the tables as they are now. We can show the membership at large that our effort is capable of constructive action. It gets us out of what-if and rant mode and into let's-do and right-now mode.

Anyone interested in collaborating with me on this?
George Donnelly.me@georgedonnelly.com

Need Collaborators for A Liberty Media Rapid Response Team

I'm forming the Liberty Media Rapid Response Team. Our mission is to instantly deploy single-

issue, activist-supported, and related media campaigns using both old and new media to get our liberty message out there. I'm the same guy that did 93days.com and libertarianpartycandidates.us.

If you're interesting in doing media stuff - writing, graphic design, web design, videography, photography, LTE writing, press releases, etc - in support of liberty, please join the team by joining our Yahoo Group at: groups.yahoo.com/group/limerrte

If you have any trouble joining, email me@georgedonnelly.com and I will send you an invite.

Serious people only! Don't join unless you're willing to at least occasionally invest some time in media campaigns in support of liberty activists, issues, etc. Ideas welcome. Whining, negative talk and people who refuse on principle to work harmoniously with others not welcome.

Other Third Parties

There is now a national Conservative Party, not to be confused with the Conservative Parties in New York, New Jersey, or Massachusetts. <http://www.votewithease.com> suggests that they are a Christian Right Party, less aggressively theocratic than the Constitution Party.

The Modern Whig Party reports that it has more than 10,000 members. Your Editor contacted them about their plans. National Chair Mike Lebowitz answered with interesting information:

Some months ago, we sent an email to our members laying out the basic framework for our long term strategy. As we continue to gain more and more veteran political operatives and elected officials within our advisory group, general changes to our strategy have certainly occurred. As such, I have no issues with our strategy being publicized. Most of these ideas are not new, and if another organization can pull these ideas off, then that would be excellent news for the entire third party movement as a whole.

Again, the email pasted below is very basic, a bit

outdated and much too wordy for the casual member. However, the nuances and nitty gritty tactics, preparation, and implementation plans rest with our leadership and inner circle. Since we are operating gradually and methodically, much of our growth is expected to be implemented in phases that generally are unveiled in a coordinated and organized manner.

Thanks again for your interest. While you will invariably not agree with everything we stand for, we certainly would appreciate your feedback. None of us pretends to know everything, and we are always looking for advice, criticism and feedback.

Best regards,
Mike Lebowitz, National Chairman
The Modern Whig Party www.modernwhig.org

The Modern Whig Plans:

Now to the fun part -- Strategy. We have a plan to succeed and build this organization into a vehicle that can make a real difference based on our ideals and mindset. Since we have the benefit of essentially starting from scratch, we plan on doing things completely different than that of the established third parties, as well as the kooky fringe groups. The reason is that all these groups have failed to reach the mainstream and are marginalized. This means that regardless of how great their message or candidate is, the reality is that the current third parties will not win national office or truly shape the field. Some people look to Ron Paul as a hero of the Libertarians, but notice that he still is registered as a Republican. We plan on making our own path and will avoid the temptation of "preaching to the choir" and "believing our own propaganda." Point is that our membership base of moderate, independent-minded voters -- to include relatively large amounts of service members/veterans -- affords us a credible and compelling mainstream base to work from that most other groups lack.

Here is what we propose for the 2010 election cycle for Congress... We are currently accepting nominations (you can nominate yourself) for a total of three national candidate positions. One of our members will run as a Republican. One will run as a Democrat. And the final may run as a Modern Whig. The

reason we will put two of our candidates on the Dem/GOP tickets is because the reality is that the overall mainstream voting bloc is not ready to take that plunge and actually vote for a third party. Let's not delude ourselves into thinking otherwise. Again, this is going to be a gradual process. But if we can get a member elected based on the Modern Whig Party ideals, then we can start opening the floodgates to ultimately create a Modern Whig voting bloc within the government and start really influencing public discourse.

You may ask, why only three candidates. It is fine if every one of our members seeks office. We have no issues with that. However, our campaign strategy is going to be a military style "guerrilla information campaign." What this means is that it is more efficient in terms of support, resources and energy to refrain from dividing our support but instead focus on three candidates. And with a Dem, GOP and Whig, it will demonstrate our independent, middle-of-the-road bi or tri-partisan mentality. Certainly it is envisioned that two of the three candidates will be OIF/OEF veterans as well which makes this all the more compelling.

The tactic is as follows... The best way for our three candidates to distinguish themselves from the other candidates in the primary and general election is to highlight their credentials under the backdrop of a national following. This is where we absolutely need the assistance of our membership. At coordinated and specific times, party leadership will craft an email about the candidate and send this email text to our members along with the email address of a targeted news editor, reporter or establishment party official. Since all of the work already has been done, the member simply does nothing but forward that email message to the targeted individual.

The theory is that if a thousand or so of our members inundate a targeted individual's inbox, that person will take notice in the candidate featured in the subject line. This means that the candidate will receive media coverage and will stand out from his or her competition. This targeted "guerrilla information campaign" could then level the playing field with better financed opponents. And if we have a compelling candidate to begin with, i.e., Iraq/Afghanistan

veteran, advocacy, good political ideas, existing national following, then we can have a real shot. This strategy is a basic outline of how we plan on proceeding in terms of candidates. The executive committee is in agreement that we must tread carefully or else risk being marginalized. In other words, we must be realistic and we must get this right. There are a lot of kooky parties out there (some invoking the Whig name) mixed in with the marginalized third parties, and we do not want to be lumped in with them. In the short term, the priority continues to be passing the word of the organization and getting the infrastructure organized so that we can make our move pursuant to the outline above. We may also test our targeted campaign on various local newspapers as well.

As always, we welcome all comments, feedback, suggestions, constructive criticism, etc. Our strategy is open for revision and improvement. Please feel free to pass this message on or post it anywhere you wish. Thanks again to all our members.

... the Modern Whig Party Executive Committee

News from Non-Centrist Libertarians

Long-time Libertarian Mike Blessing has been elected National Vice Chair of the Boston Tea party. He joins their new National Chair, Douglass Gaking. The Boston Tea Party recently announced that it has 13 state affiliates (up from 1 at the start of the year), with fourteen more forming, and nearly 900 members. This year the BTP endorsed about three dozen candidates, two of whom won their elections.

The Boston Tea Party itself, and BTP Founder and Presidential Candidate Tom Knapp have called for amending the 14th amendment to permit a radical economic change: Repudiation of the National Debt.

2008 Vice Presidential candidate Wayne Root has announced he is running for the Party's Presidential nomination in 2012. He promptly called for closing the Federal Reserve, the central bank of the United States, and seemed to indicate in his speech to the LNC that he views the legalization of drugs as a helpful campaign issue for Libertarians.

Support Liberty For America!

Mail form to Liberty for America c/o George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive,
Worcester MA 01609 or email to phillies@4liberty.net

Join!

Sign me up as a member of *Liberty for America*.

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Address _____

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Phone _____

Email _____

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Subscriptions to Liberty for America, the Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement, are *free*. Send your email address to phillies@4liberty.net and prepare to be sent monthly PDFs containing our newsletter.

Donate!

Your generous donation will be used to advance the Libertarian political movement.

Your donation:

\$200	\$100	\$50
\$2300	\$1000	\$500
Other _____		

Monthly Pledge Request

We will soon be implementing a monthly pledge program through DonorTown Square. Please indicate how much you would be willing to give as a monthly pledge: \$ _____

Donations are not tax deductible and will not be used to advocate the election of particular candidates to public office.

Political Action Committee Coming Soon!
The Liberty for America PAC will soon be open to do the things that LfA does not, namely supporting candidates.

Volunteer!

Because Volunteerism is the backbone of political action
I Want to Volunteer to Help the
Libertarian Political Movement

I am prepared to (circle all that apply) :

Help organize state
or regional groups

Help organize affinity groups

Provide art/graphics support

Make public statements;
internet, newspapers, talk
radio

Provide web support or advice

Help with fundraising

Become a political
activist volunteer

Provide writing/editing support

Run for office

I have special skills or suggestions, namely:

To Send Money:

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

Payment may be made by check payable "Liberty for America". Expect credit card donation arrangements soon.

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.

Liberty for America

**Liberty for America is
not currently a political party.
But you can join — \$15 per year.**

**Liberty for America does not currently
run or endorse candidates for Federal or non-Federal office.**

In this issue: Getting off the ground...Where Your money Went: LNC October-November 2008, New Hampshire Lawsuit Continues...An Alternative Strategic Approach...Need Collaborators for a Liberty media Response Team...Other Third Parties...News from Non-Centrist Libertarians...

**Liberty for America is preparing to offer
positive political alternatives
not available elsewhere.**

Address Corrections Requested

**Liberty for America
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Worcester MA 01609**