

Liberty for America

Journal of the
Libertarian Political Movement

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<http://LibertyForAmerica.com>

Liberty for America and its many fine friends Now Offer

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[Liberty for Maine Liberty4Maine.Org](http://Liberty4Maine.Org)
[Outright Libertarians OutRightUSA.org](http://OutRightUSA.org)

Your Monthly Step for Liberty

Now you have to find a path to reaching office. If the office is appointive, you need to find a vacancy or beat out an incumbent. You need to convince the people doing the appointments that you are a good person worthy of reward, as by doing positive things for your community and ingratiating yourself with the people doing the appointments. For example, if your community has a facebook page, make positive contributions to it. If it lacks a page, start one. A more demanding effort is an electronic newspaper covering community events, notably the board on which you want to sit. If the people doing the appointments are running for office, and no real libertarian is running against them, work on their campaigns. Your work will advance you toward your position, and not incidentally let you see how real politics is done.

Alvin See Reports on the "Visit Town Hall" Step

A visit to Westfield, MA city hall. The city hall is in an old school building. Carved in stone above the front doors is: State Normal School.

On the second floor, between the elevator and the City Clerk's office is a glass covered board with the names and regular meeting times for all the boards and commissions of the city. There are 24 of them.

Nearby is a bulletin board for postings for special meetings and other information from various boards and commissions. Special meetings are required by the State to have at least 48 hours

notice. A separate bulletin board near the City Council chambers lists meeting notices for the various committees of the City Council.

In Westfield, the City Council and Planning Board have their regular meetings telecast on the local cable public access channel. Westfield State College provides a volunteer person to operate the cameras.

Ladies of Liberty Alliance Forms

Many women involved in the liberty movement have experienced the frustrating feeling of isolation when they look around and realize they are just a needle of estrogen in a haystack of testosterone. The Ladies of Liberty Alliance is a brand new organization working to end that feeling of isolation forever!

This September 17th the LOLA ladies will unveil their first project at the Campaign for Liberty regional conference in Valley Forge, PA.

<http://www.campaignforliberty.com/event/2009northeast.php>

Sixteen bold, beautiful and brilliant women are spotlighted in the LOLA calendar, each representing an issues that is passionate to them with a focus on activism.

For a minimum donation of \$25, individuals can support this brand new organization and learn about some of the very active women in our movement. Donations will help the LOLA ladies provide an educational curriculum designed to empower women to be leaders in whatever capacity they desire: this means running for office, becoming an effective activist, planning rallies or becoming an expert presenter on a topic they feel passionately about.

LOLA: Conspiring to attract libertarian women into the movement One activist at a time www.ladiesoflibertyalliance.org
Allison Gibbs, Executive Director 404-786-7151
...Catherine Bleish

News from Liberty for Maine

We are still here. We did the table at Southern Maine Pride in late June... turnout was decent, a lot of WSPQs distributed, a lot of people sympathetic... EXCEPT on the health care issue, where 100% of the visitors were backers of "single payer uni-

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versal health care" ie socialized medicine. A deal killer for many. :(

The next steps will be continuing outreach and involvement with the "No on 1" referendum campaign we're having here... the religious right is trying to overturn the marriage equality law which is becoming effective next month, and there will be a statewide referendum in November. It is expected they will spend upwards of \$10mm to try to overturn it, outspending the equality forces at least 2:1 if not 3:1.

Hope you're enjoying your summer! Will be in touch as things unfold.

James Oaksun

Forming Your Own Liberty for Organization

Does your state have an active libertarian party organization? Are they doing real politics? Are they supporting local activists? Raising money? Recruiting candidates? Pursuing new members? Doing public outreach? Are they even answering to the members, publishing state committee minutes, revealing finances, or holding mandated State Convention? Can you answer YES to all those questions? If the answers were NO, was your state organization open to being helped? Or did it treat you as "Not Invented Here...It Can't Be Right"?

**Sample—This is your only issue of
Liberty for America**
For more issues, **subscribe!**
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To subscribe, send your email address to
phillies@4liberty.net .

Join **Liberty for America** — \$15 per year.
Donate electronically at LibertyForAmerica.com
Checks, payable Liberty for America, to George
Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester 01609

Liberty for America will be performing political acts, like supporting voter registration, lining up volunteers, 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.

Required Federal Notices: 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. Federal law requires us to state 'your money may be used to support Federal candidates', but we promise that we won't do that with your dues.

If your state organization is broken and declines to be fixed, you need a Liberty for YOUR STATE organization. Liberty for YS is an organizational plan focused on doing real politics. Its message is simple: Stop complaining. Stop trying to pry an ineffective Libertarian establishment from their deathgrip on your state party. Ignore them. Go out, find libertarians who want to do real political work, and launch an organization that will do just that.

Do you want help? George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net 508 754 1859 will be happy to give you advice and contacts.

A New Libertarian Primer

Rob Power writes on the Outright Libertarians blog: Libertarian Primer for the Gay Community (and Everyone Else) now online

Just in time for Los Angeles Pride (where she will be present at our outreach booth), Elinor Brandt's new book, A Libertarian Primer for the Gay Community (and Everyone Else), is now available online. You may download it from <http://outrightusa.org/brandtprimer.pdf>

Roger Gary for National Treasurer

I am in the race to become the new National Treasurer in 2010. Therefore I am coming out from under the porch.

Over the next few days I will send out a brief resume. And then followed by a few things I would like to accomplish as a LNC member.

I certainly hope that we will have more people stepping up and running for more of the LNC positions. This dysfunctional group can't be tolerated anymore. And we don't want it to be functional if it is only going to be Republican Lite.

Yours in Liberty,
Roger Gary roger@rvgary.com 210-324-6856

Relevant Professional Experience:

BBA - Accounting - University of Texas at Austin
5 years Internal Revenue Service - Tax Examiner Austin Texas
Comptroller - RailTex, Inc. - San Antonio, Texas
General Manager Shortline Development - San Antonio, Texas
Chief Operating Office, Corporate Secretary, Board of Directors - Texas Southern Railroad - San Antonio, Texas
Chief Financial Officer - Amazon Forms One, Inc. - San Antonio, Texas
Board of Directors, Audit Committee - San Antonio River Authority (a State Agency)
Battalion Executive Officer, Adjutant, Intelligence Officer - Texas State Guard

Libertarian Experience:

Life Member of National and Texas parties since 1977.
Numerous party offices including Texas State Chairman 1984-

1988
Tied for Vice Chair, LNC first ballot - 1987
One term as alt regional rep LNC early 1980s
Currently on Texas State Libertarian Executive Committee
Elected to San Antonio River Authority (a state agency) 6 years.
15 years on Local Selective Service Board
Listed in Who's Who in American Politics and Who's Who in America.

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If you have any questions about this option, please contact Angela at 323-512-7095 or angela@antiwar.com.
...Angela Keaton

Alternative Organization: The Campaign4Liberty

Know what our competition is doing:

Jake Porter (J.D.Porter Consulting) reports on how the Campaign4Liberty handles its Local Organization. All Local Coordinators have agreed to the following terms on sign-up:

Requirements:

- * Recruit 1 Local leader per year
 - * Pay dues \$35
 - * Sign non-disclosure
 - * Perform 12 approved activities in a year.
- Approved activities include:
- o Phone surveying
 - o Hosting a community event

- o Hosting a candidate forum
- o Hosting a meet-your representative event
- o (Every month we roll out a new activity)

Expectations:

- * 5 hour/mo time commitment
- * Attend monthly Party meetings
- * Attend party conventions
- * Voter contact every month
- * Attend Campaign for Liberty training
- * Pick one issue-oriented campaign to get involved with
- * Re-ID from presidential campaign list
 - o Phone survey
 - o Door-to-door survey
 - o Mail survey
- * Recruit dues-paying members

That's a significant commitment of time and money, and an expectation that things happen.

E-mail: jake@jakeporter.org
www.jakeporter.org

St. Louis LNC Meeting

Your Editor attended an LNC Meeting, in St. Louis. The LNC Meeting, the open parts, were streamed electronically and can be seen on the Internet. I was there for much of two days. I have seldom seen a less effective use of the time of several dozen — counting the gallery — highly intelligent pro-liberty people, except perhaps at other LNC meetings.

As one example, Mr. Starr made the highly sensible suggestion that the committee should revisit its strategic plan, work through the 20 strategies, and vote up or down which should be retained. Heaven only knows, if they did this for long enough, they might consider trying to do some of them. The committee spent a good fraction of an hour discussing this question. The discussion was entirely spent in parliamentary wrangling. The substantial content of the discussion was nonexistent. One strategy was mentioned, but that was somewhat incidental to a more general question as to whether there were 20 or 21 strategies.

The Lead From The Front leadership level “we should do X” of the committee is rather limited.

There was a shift in voting blocks. It appears to me that several former supporters of the current LNC administration have drifted to the opposition. The, the vote on viewing the Haugh complaint was 8-8, forcing Chairman Redpath to vote.

Long-time activist Gary Roger is running for Treasurer.

Mary Ruwart gave a truly excellent report on membership renewal rates. The numbers are sufficiently important as to be worth revisiting. For the past seven months, the party budget had projected for 6282 renewals and 2034 new donors. The National Party actually had only 4101 renewals but 2631 new

donors. The reason for the numbers are the renewal rates. Renewal rates have gone to that other place in a hand basket. About 50% of long-time members are renewing, where “long-time” refers to people who have already renewed once. About 1/3 of new members — people who joined last year and are renewing for the first time — are renewing. There are some points where those numbers could mean slightly different things. Also, there were no explicit numbers for life members.

Having said that, if you project 6700 members in seven months out to a full year, you get something around eleven and a half thousand people joining or renewing this year. Add life members, and you get an estimated party membership at the end of the year of around 13,000. There are several bits of imprecision, for example, there are monthly donors, changes in the number of life memberships, points where numbers quoted for donors and for members might entangle, but at current rates you are looking at 12-14,000 members, not 17,000.

You can also approach an estimate by looking at the renewal rates. 2631 new members in seven months translates to four and a half thousand new members this year. A third of them will renew for the first time, for another fifteen hundred members. At the second and each subsequent renewal, the party loses half the people who might renew, which is a well-known geometric series; the total is around fifteen hundred members who have belonged for more than two years. Adding in life members, and you find that the current rates imply a long-term party membership around 9000.

I used closing comments to point out to the committee that those rates predict what our membership will be at the end of this year. Needless to say, 13,000 members at the end of this year, with a trend taking us toward 9,000 total members in the long term, are not positive outcomes for the organization that purports to lead America’s third political party.

On a slightly more positive note, 97% of the new members were from the web. Under 4% of the new members were from direct mail campaigns.

Money : I gather that the LNC ran a surplus for the first five months of the year. Despite the late date — weeks after the end of June — the June income and outgo numbers were not reported. They have crashed; if you extrapolate current income, which was not mentioned during the meeting but which is now available, to year’s end, total LNC income for the year would be under one million dollars.

Other Bits

Mr. Karlan had a motion on Mr. LaBianca. There had been a motion to strike this section of the agenda, on the grounds that Mr. LaBianca was not there to defend himself and had not been informed of charges against him; that motion failed. Karlan refused to say in advance what his motion would be. He made his motion, which was a motion of commendation. There followed a half hour or so of discussion, at the end of which the

motion was withdrawn. Nothing was accomplished.

There was a motion on the Wrights and Haugh issues in the agenda. There was a motion to strike the motion. The motion to strike passed 9-8 with the chair voting to strike. It appeared to me that the people voting to strike were Sink-Burris, Mattson, Hinkle, Sullentrup, Jingoian, Starr, Flood, Karlan, and in the end Redpath. Voting against the motion to strike were Fox, Rob Latham (alternate for Tony Ryan), Ruwart, Lark, Wrights, Colley, Dixon, and Hawkrige. This was a part of a longer discussion of the agenda, a discussion that went on for the better part of half an hour.

This sort of event went on for most of the meeting. In essence, the LNC is so locked in parliamentarianism that it gets very little done. Instead of arguing about actions, it argues about the parliamentary way to argue about actions.

Mr. Starr moved the highly sensible suggestion that the LNC should discuss its strategic plan and the 20 or 21 strategies and at the end vote them up or down. The motion was seconded. There followed a half hour of debate as to how the strategies should be debated or whatever. In the end, Mr. Karlan had made a motion to strike from the LNC Policy Manual — a record of LNC motions — Article 4, Section 4

“Section 4: STRATEGIC PLAN

The LNC shall review the Strategic Plan annually, to set metrics and monitors for future years, and amend, as needed, those parts of the Plan that are the responsibility of the LNC or staff. Amendments to the Goals or Strategies in the Strategic Plan may be made by a two-thirds vote of the LNC.

Amendments to Tactics, metrics and monitors may be made by a simple majority at a single meeting.

Within the Strategic Plan document, an appendix shall maintain a record of when all such changes were made.

A Strategy can be deleted by a one-third vote of the LNC”

In essence deleting the requirement that the LNC occasionally look at the strategic plan that it spent a year developing. Mr. Karlan’s motion passed. There was no actual discussion of any strategy. The motion leaves the 2001 Strategic Plan in place. Someone else can look up whether the 1998-2000 Bergland strategic plan, under which we are soon to take control of Congress, is still in place.

There was a motion to distribute quarterly financial reports to delegates who are sustaining members and any other sustaining member who so requests. Jingoian objected that the report would reach the internet, and people would see how we are spending our money...we will get fewer donations.

It seems to me that there is a message in Jingoian’s final re-

marks.

Hawkridge asked how we could support transparency in government if we oppose it for ourselves.

The APRC came with a motion directing it to propose revised language dealing with its function. One LNC member came to the interpretation that the motion was allowing the APRC to revise the policy manual. Instead of simply asking that chair for a ruling as to what the motion meant, an amendment to the motion was inserted. Several members demonstrated how much time can be consumed in saying that the motion was dilatory and a waste of time. In the end the motion passed 9-8 with Redpath voting in favor.

The Secretary reported on speakers for the next National Convention. In addition to Gary Nolan and Bob Barr, N. Boortz and a Jefferson Davis were signed. Davis claims to be a relative by descent of Jefferson Davis. He appears to be the same Jefferson Davis who writes for the far right "Southern Party". His connections with our Party and movement appear to be dubious.

Red alert level issue: the Bylaws committee proposed a series of changes in the Bylaws including omitting a bunch of issues 'because they are in Roberts'.

Addendum I had previously noted that Mr. Wrights' membership on the LNC was saved by a single vote on the Executive Committee. If he had not been saved, the LNC would at that time have had the option of appointing a new member to the LNC. They voted — prior to the Judicial Committee ruling — to do so, re-appointing Mr. Wrights.

The Barr Campaign: Racism Outs Itself...

As most of us probably know by now, Senator Jesse Helms passed away this July 4th... Senator Helms was a significant figure in American history, and one of our more "colorful" Senators - One who was never afraid to say what he believed.

Unfortunately, what he believed was not always the best of his fellow man. Helms was notorious for his prejudices against blacks, and later in life his bias against GBLT individuals. His was one of the uglier faces of the Conservative movement....

One of the early accusations made against Bob Barr, and his campaign was that it may well have been racist - Not only was his campaign manager Richard Viguerie associated with Helms, as well as George Wallace, Sun Young Moon, Oliver North and other problematic folks, but Barr himself had addressed a convention of the "Council Of Conservative Citizens" - a group best described as an upscale version of the KKK.

Barr denied knowing what the group was about, but his excuse

seems thin at best...

Fast Forward to this past weekend....

Barr's press release about Jesse Helms:

I was deeply saddened to hear of Sen. Helms' passing and want his family to know they are in my heart and prayers at this time. Sen. Helms was one of the finest, most courageous and deeply principled men to ever serve in the United States Congress. As President's Reagan's right hand and ally, he helped bring down Communism so that nations might grow and flourish in freedom. He was a stalwart ally of freedom fighters around the globe, knowing that we are all diminished if we allow fascism to flourish. He was also the consummate gentleman, revered by colleagues, staff and friends for his unfailing kindness, good humor, generosity and patriotism.

And Richard Viguerie's:

Without Senator Jesse Helms, there may not have been a New Right. It was the New Right that energized and led the conservative movement in the 1970s and 1980s and our beloved leader was Senator Helms. Without the New Right, there would not have been a strong, vibrant, and effective conservative movement. Without a strong, vibrant, and effective conservative movement, there would not have been a President Ronald Reagan. And without a President Reagan, the Soviet Union would have lasted many more years and socialism would still dominate and impoverish the people of most countries. It's the free market views, policies, and leadership of President Reagan, Jesse Helms, and Milton Friedman that have led the world to experience the greatest movement out of poverty in history. Jesse Helms was a conservative Horatio at the Bridge—leading conservatives in the 1970s to successfully oppose most liberal legislation and then in the 1980s to go on the offensive in Congress. His retirement from Congress was an enormous loss for the conservative movement. His departure from the Senate left a massive vacuum that has not been filled to this day. His death has saddened all of us who worked closely with him over the decades. All of us extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Dot, and his family."

I understand and certainly accept that one normally does not speak ill of the dead, it is possible to speak kindly without holding the deceased up as a moral hero.... Contrast the above statements with that of Gov. Mike Easley, chairman of the national Democratic Party, who once called Helms the "'Prince of Darkness'"

Whether you liked his politics or not, he was a national force able to deliver for his constituents, We last appeared together when the Navy named a submarine after North Carolina at his request. He certainly didn't shy from controversy and you always knew what his positions were. Whether we were working together to stop international drug trafficking or opposing each other on the campaign trail, he was always a gentleman to me."

Kind, but you certainly don't get the feeling that Mike wants to be like Jesse... On the other hand, do the kind of statements made by Barr and Viguerie sound more like "the kindness the situation requires" or "I want to be like him..."???

Seems to me like racism outs itself when you least expect it... (I'd also mention homophobia and religious bigotry, but we already know about that part...)

...Arthur Torrey

Duesgate — the Attempt to Drop Lee Wrights from the LNC

To fill in the rest of the timeline, read muddythoughts.blogspot.com/2009/05/timeline-of-duesgate.html I'll give part of Mike Seebeck's timeline, edited slightly for length, starting on IncomeTax Day

April 15, 2009:

Lark weighs in, backing the interpretation of Starr, Sullentrup, Redpath, and Kraus. Lark would support reappointing Wrights and that a Bylaws change to address the situation would be in order. Knapp and Seebeck explain the correct Bylaws reasoning, including the necessary differentiation between membership in the LP and membership on the LNC. (Sources: <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/applicants-sought-for-lnc-vacancy/#comment-55007>, <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/applicants-sought-for-lnc-vacancy/#comment-55041>, <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/applicants-sought-for-lnc-vacancy/#comment-55081>, <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/applicants-sought-for-lnc-vacancy/#comment-55138>)

April 17, 2009:

Porter moved to retain Wrights on the LNC and restore his access as a member, backed by Ryan, Fox, Hawkridge, and Ruwart. Redpath rules the motion out of order. Ruwart appeals the ruling of the Chair. (Source: <http://www.thedailyliberty.com/story/2009/4/17/212215/732>)

April 18, 2009:

Wright appeals to the Judicial Committee. (Source: <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/removal-of-lee-wright-from-libertarian-national-committee-appealed-to-judicial-committee/>)

April 19, 2009:

According to Eades, Flood defends Sullentrup and Redpath. (Source: <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/removal-of-lee-wright-from-libertarian-national-committee-appealed-to-judicial-committee/#comment-56259>)

April 21, 2009:

Starr issues a detailed memo. According to the memo, Haugh paid Wrights' sustaining membership dues in April 2008; FEC regulations prohibit contributions to a party on behalf of another. Starr claims he didn't know when Sullentrup was first aware of the membership lapse, meaning that he didn't tell Sullentrup, confirming Kraus by implication. Starr also claims he asked Kraus to detail Wrights's past dues record; he tries to claim that Wrights had dues lapse previously, and therefore he

was not actually elected as LNC Vice Chair. (Source: <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/2009-04-21-lee-wright.pdf>, and <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/lnc-memo-wright-was-not-member-when-elected/>)

April 23, 2009:

Party membership launches dual petitions to Judicial Committee appealing the actions of the involved Party Officers. The petitions reach the minimum threshold on April 29 and are submitted to the Judicial Committee. The donation form on lp.org is changed to reflect Starr's claims. (Source: <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/removal-of-lee-wright-from-libertarian-national-committee-appealed-to-judicial-committee/#comment-57963>) Wrights publishes an article written by Seebeck debunking Starr's FEC claims. (Source: <http://www.libertyforall.net/?p=2441#more-2441>) Wrights publishes an article written by Haugh in which Haugh explains that improper record keeping is the cause of the mess, and that in fact the 2008 dues payment on Wrights' behalf by Haugh was in fact repaying Wrights for a debt owed. (Source: <http://www.libertyforall.net/?p=2433>)

April 24, 2009:

Redpath issues an email giving his side of the story. He claims he felt he didn't need to tell Wrights about the expiration since Wrights did not deserve the courtesy, because Wrights has been "rude" to LNC members and on the APRC email list (later debunked by Ruwart). Alleged rudeness to LNC members included the aforementioned commentaries written by Haugh. Redpath makes the same Bylaws allegations as Starr and Sullentrup. (Source: Bill Redpath email)

April 25, 2009

Starr's FEC claims are further debunked by Michigan campaign finance attorney Leonard Schwartz. (Source: <http://www.libertyforall.net/?p=2441#comment-204534>) Wrights speaks at LPTN convention and tells his side of the story. (Source: <http://knappster.blogspot.com/2009/04/speechifying-r-lee-wright-in-knoxville.html>)

April 26, 2009:

Wright's ex-wife weighs in and informs that she had his mail and that no renewal notices ever came in the mail. (Source: <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/petitions-of-denver-libertarian-national-convention-delegates-and-sustaining-members-against-the-removal-of-lee-wright-from-the-lnc/#comment-58437>)

April 27, 2009:

Hawkridge informs Starr via email that she talked with the FEC and they don't care who the credit for the contribution goes to, so long as it is properly recorded. FEC says it was NOT an illegal contribution by Haugh on behalf of Wrights. This completely repudiates Starr's FEC claims. (Source: Anonymous from LNC email list, below)

April 28, 2009:

Starr returns Hawkridge's call and denies any efforts to go through past records go and issue refunds, in direct contradiction to what he had claimed in his FEC memo that he was required to do. (Source: Anonymous from LNC email list)

April 29, 2009

Ruwart debunks Redpath's APRC email list claim of April 24

and offers comprehensive evidence to counter Redpath's claim. (Source: Anonymous from LNC email list, via Phillies).

April 30, 2009

The Judicial Committee releases a statement that a LNC member can only be removed by consecutive absences or for cause by 2/3 vote of the LNC, and that Wrights is in fact still a member of the LNC. This confirms the interpretations of Seebeck and Knapp. (Source: <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/04/statement-from-the-lp-judicial-committee-regarding-wright/>) Wrights publishes an article by Seebeck that purports to expose the full plan by Redpath, Starr, Carling, Sullentrup, Kraus, et al. to purge "undesirables" from the LP. (Source: <http://www.libertyforall.net/?p=2473>.)

May 2, 2009

The LNC votes 10-5 to sustain the ruling of the Chair regarding the Porter motion being ruled out of order. Voting to sustain: Jingoian, Starr, Sullentrup, Dixon, Colley, Mattson, Sink-Burris, Flood, Lark, Karlan. Voting to overrule: Ruwart, Ryan, Hinkle, Fox, Hawkrige. Not voting: Redpath. (Source: Anonymous from LNC email list, below.) The LNC votes 12-0 to reappoint Wrights to the LNC, with Starr, Mattson, Sink-Burris, and Karlan not voting. Wrights name, picture, and contact info are restored to the LP.org website. This vote also has the unintended impact of validating Sullentrup's actions. (Source: Anonymous from LNC email list.)

May 8, 2009

The Judicial Committee issues a statement on the Wrights appeal in which says the Committee lacks jurisdiction to decide if a lapse in sustaining membership constitutes a resignation as claimed by Sullentrup, by a 4-3 vote (Bennett, Hacker, Sarwark, Stevens no, Cobb, Nolan, Nicks yes). It also agreed by a 6-1 vote (Bennett, Cobb, Hacker, Nicks, Nolan, Sarwark yes, Stevens no) that they do have jurisdiction to interpret the question of whether a dues lapse is a "for cause" removal under the Bylaws. The Committee then voted 5-2 (Bennett, Cobb, Nicks, Nolan, Sarwark yes, Hacker and Stevens no) to accept the Wrights appeal on that one question, with responses or briefs sent to the Committee NLT 5PM PDT May 15. (Source: Judicial Committee statement) The Judicial Committee voted 6-1 (Bennett, Cobb, Hacker, Nicks, Nolan, Sarwark yes, Stevens no) that it has jurisdiction, but by 5-2 vote (Bennett, Cobb, Hacker, Nolan, Stevens no, Nicks and Sarwark yes) to decline to accept the delegate petition because the appeal is moot.

May 9, 2009

Seebeck issues a statement to the Judicial Committee explaining that the Committee's decision on the delegates appeal is in error because the Committee is required per the Bylaws to accept the delegates appeal, and that the issue is not moot because the relief requested included not only reinstatement instead of reappointment but also overturning the actions of the Secretary and subsequent reappointment as invalid. (Source: email statement) The Judicial Committee agrees to consider the Seebeck statement within 10 days. (Source, email statement)

May 17, 2009

The Judicial Committee receives a brief from eight members of the LNC regarding the case. (Source: [http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/2009-05-17-response-to-the-appeal-of-r-lee-](http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/2009-05-17-response-to-the-appeal-of-r-lee-wrights.pdf)

[wrights.pdf](http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/2009-05-17-response-to-the-appeal-of-r-lee-wrights.pdf)) Seebeck issues an amicus curiae brief to the Judicial Committee in support of Wrights. (Source: email statement)

May 18, 2009

The Judicial Committee, without stating a reason why, responds to the Seebeck statement regarding the delegate petition by declining to reconsider their decision. This violates the Bylaws, and Seebeck requests an explanation. (Source: email statement)

May 20, 2009

Judicial Committee Chair Bennett publishes the hearing rules and schedule for the Wrights hearing, scheduled for May 22, 6PM. (Source: email statement)

May 22, 2009

Lark submits a brief to the Judicial Committee regarding the case. (Source: <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2009/05/memo-to-libertarian-party-judicial-committee/>) The Judicial Committee hears the appeal. Presenting for Wrights are Ruwart, Seebeck, and Wrights. Presenting for the LNC is Mattson. Present are the Judicial Committee, Wall, Starr, Jingoian, Karlan, Hawkrige, Phillies, Keaton, Porter, Fox, Haugh, and possibly a couple of others. Decision is to be made within 30 days.

June 22, 2009

The Judicial Committee issues its opinion, ruling 4-3 that A) Wrights had standing to appeal, B) that twelve calendar months is twelve calendar months and not 365 days, C) there is no specific enforcement language in the Bylaws regarding membership lapses, D) the Secretary and Chair cannot act outside the LNC to remove a member without following the Bylaws, and E) the suspension is reversed. Voting in favor were Sarwark (author), Bennett, Cobb, and Nicks. Nolan dissented, claiming that a membership eligibility was not a "for cause" question. Hacker dissented separately, claiming that by making a "for cause" question out of membership eligibility, it could set up the inaction of the LNC on the question (which is true, but the ramifications of that are not in scope of the issue at hand). Stevens also dissented separately, also claiming that a membership eligibility was not a "for cause" question, agreeing with the position presented by Mattson in the hearing, in a more technical manner than Nolan.

Stevens also still claims no jurisdiction by the Judicial Committee, although that matter had been settled on May 8 (see above and below).

The net result is that Wrights is reinstated to the LNC as if the whole situation had never happened, and the subsequent removal and reappointment are null. This also sets the precedent that removal of a LNC member is a duty of the member of the LNC itself, as was argued by the Wrights team in the hearing.

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