

# Liberty for America

Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement

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## Editorial

Greetings from Liberty for America, the Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement to first-time delegates to the Libertarian National Convention, from us and from your friends in Liberty for America. This special issue of Liberty for America magazine focuses on New Path, the full slate of candidates running for the LNC. We hope you all have a great convention!

## To First-Time Delegates at the Libertarian National Convention

Will this be your first national convention? Are you afraid that you will be surrounded by strangers, almost all of whom know each other? Don't worry, that's not going to happen. **A majority of your fellow delegates are in the same boat you are.** Don't feel shy. We are all your fellow Libertarians.

At the National Convention, there will be a Phillies/New Path Event in a hotel Presidential Suite. We'll be having receptions every evening of the convention, special events including meetings of the Outright Libertarians and the Libertarian Anti-Intervention Caucus, and — specifically for first-time delegates — a meet-and-greet session Friday evening. That session will be 8-10 PM Friday, so you can attend Bob Sullentrup's Friday Reception — a don't miss event hosted by a fine long-term Libertarian — drop by our suite to meet each other and us, and then drop back to the Reception or hang around.

**The same boat you are?** Treasurer candidate James Oaksun for the New Path team counted delegates at the 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010 (as of this writing) national conventions.

54% of the listed 2010 delegates were not delegates in 2004, 2006, or 2008. That's a normal state of affairs. In 2008, 62% of the delegates had not been delegates in 2004 or 2006. Of those 2008 first-time delegates, fewer than 25% are on the 2010 delegate roster. Marginally more than 10% of the 2010 delegates were at all three of the prior conventions. If you are a first time delegate, so are lots of other people.

If you are a bit stretched for cash, be sure to read Tom Knapp's blog <http://stl.onthecheap.info/>

And now some notes from the New Path candidates for the LNC.

## James Oaksun for LNC Treasurer



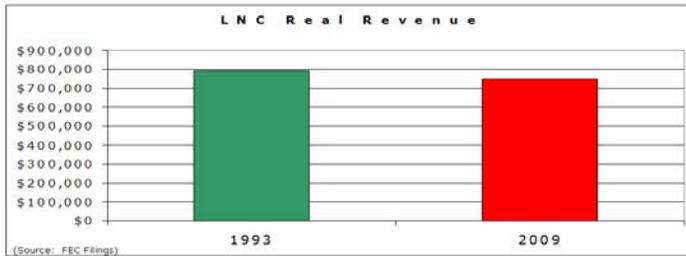
Join me as we take a walk down Memory Lane... back to 1993.

In 1993, your computer probably had **eight meg of RAM**. If you were living really large... you had a **hard drive of 250 meg!** And the World Wide Web? How many sites? Would you believe... **barely 100!**

Yes, life, technology and the world have moved on quite a ways since 1993. What about the Libertarian Party?

Well, I've prepared a chart I call "Rip Van Libertarian." The fact is, if you compare our yearly income for 2009 with our yearly income for 1993, on a constant dollar basis... **we're in exactly the same place! (Even a little worse off.)**

Are you Rip Van Libertarian?  
Did you fall asleep in 1993 and **Just Wake Up?**



Looking at the LNC's Financials... you'd guess you had!

LNC Revenues in real dollars, 1993—2009  
Where's the growth of the National Party?

Is it time for a New Path for the LP, a path leading to growth?

**You decide.** Visit [NewPathForTheLP.org](http://NewPathForTheLP.org)

Would any reasonable person consider that a good result? Does that merit a “well done” and a “keep up the good work”? Friends, the burden of proof is not on me. Rather, it is on the incumbent and everybody who has been at the table in a leadership role the last 5-10 years as our fortunes at the national level have disintegrated.

That’s why I have joined forces with George Phillies and a great team of people who want to put the LP onto a New Path. I’m running for national Treasurer, and I hope you not only take some time to look at my website at [JamesOaksun.com](http://JamesOaksun.com), but also to read and reflect on our team’s operating plan, which you can find in full at our website [NewPathForTheLP.org](http://NewPathForTheLP.org).

Here are a couple specific things I’ll be bringing to the table as your new treasurer:

First, we’re going to toss out the current budget and start over from zero. We’re going to make a master list of all the highest value things we ought to be doing, **and start doing them.** We’re a political party, and we are here to do the work of politics. Everything else is secondary. We’re going to make sure that every dollar we receive from our members is directed toward the highest value added activity possible. **That’s what you expect, and that’s what the New Path team and I will deliver.**

We’re also going to start building and communicating a **compelling vision** for what we can become as an organization. After some years of progress in the mid to late 90s, we’re right back to where we were in 1993. **That’s unacceptable.** We see all sorts of activity going on around us in support of liberty. Why isn’t the LP at the forefront of it? What possible defense or explanation could any of the current leadership provide, in the face of this substantial underperformance, that would merit their continuance in office?

I would say, they can offer none. Which is why over the last three months, they **Have** offered none.

**It’s time for them to go,** and for new leadership to come in.

In St. Louis, we’re going to hoist up a sign over the Party. What that sign says, is up to the delegates. Is the sign going to say: “Meet the new boss, Same as the old boss”? I hope not. The stakes are too high, and time is of the essence.

My fervent hope, is that the delegates join me and George and our whole team in hoisting up a different sign. The one that says: **“Under New Management.”**

I humbly ask for your support for Treasurer, and I encourage you to support the entire New Path team.

James Oaksun  
[www.JamesOaksun.com](http://www.JamesOaksun.com)  
[James@JamesOaksun.com](mailto:James@JamesOaksun.com)

**Rob Power for LNC Secretary**

Past Experience: Campaigned for Harry Browne in 1996 at the age of 20 and joined Libertarian Party in January of 1997. Served as Vice-Chair of LP San Francisco 2002-2004, National Chair of Outright Libertarians, 2004-2010, Treasurer of Liberty for Massachusetts 2005-2007, Executive Committee Member of LP California 2008-2009, and Chair of LP San Francisco 2008-2010.

Rob Power writes: I have witnessed a severe swing rightward in



the LP in the years following Harry Browne's first campaign for President in 1996. At that time, I was newly "out" as a gay man at the University of Tennessee (BS Aerospace Engineering 1998, MS Industrial Engineering, MBA 2000), so I was very nervous when I attended

Browne's campaign appearance in Murfreesboro, TN and asked him point-blank what his position was on allowing gays to marry, adopt children, and serve in the military. I was surprised at how supportive he was of all three ideas. His trueness as a Libertarian -- not only fiscally conservative, but also socially progressive -- was what sold me on the Libertarian Party.

Unfortunately, since even before Harry Browne's passing, I've seen the LP lurch rightward on so many issues in an effort to pander to Republicans. Our recent national nominees have an audience limited to right-wing talk radio, our Party's official talking points are limited to fiscal issues, and our Platform is being chipped away, bit by bit, to make it less socially progressive at every convention. And how about the new LP slogan that has infected state LPs across the country and threatens to take hold at the national level? "Socially tolerant?" Really?

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Would you join a political party that merely tolerates you? Or would you look for one that welcomes you?

If the LP were a ship, it would be so heavy on its starboard that it would have long since capsized. I will use my vote on the LNC to halt that lurch rightward and balance the LP to make it attractive to more than just social conservatives. It's a sad commentary on the LP's lack of progress in the past 14 years that my goal for moving the Party forward is to restore it to what it was in 1996 when I first met Harry Browne.

I'm proud to be running with a group of people who have what it takes to fix what's broken about the LNC. Transparency. Accountability. Fiscal soundness. Supportive of the state and local parties instead of dismissive of them. These are the traits the next LNC needs if we are to reverse the decline of our Party. We have specific proposals to solve these problems:

First, limit Executive Sessions to only those issues where it is legally necessary (hiring/firing staff, lawsuits where the LNC is named, etc.). Abuse of Executive Sessions to decide on courses of action that are known to be unpopular with Libertarians watching the meeting in-person or online has been a worsening problem in recent years. It needs to stop.

Second, if we cannot find staff who can balance outreach efforts to both Left and Right, then our only option is using separate budget line items for outreach to the Left and for outreach to the Right, to ensure that Party resources (i.e., YOUR dues and donations) are not spent disproportionately on outreach to

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Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester 01609.  
Membership lets you call yourself a member.

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.

conservatives.

Third, still on the topic of budget, slash the LNC's fixed costs. I'm tired of receiving yellow envelopes in the mail telling me that if I don't send a check, the LP's lights will be shut off. That is a ridiculous state for the LNC's finances to be in. A yellow envelope should say "send your check, or we won't be able to get ballot access in this particularly tough state," or "send your check, or we won't be able to run this fantastic ad we've created." But begging people for emergency donations to keep the electricity from being cut off sends a strong signal that the LP is not a serious party, led by serious people. The LNC's current financial mess is inexcusable, and we will restore fiscal sanity via reducing spending to levels that actually make sense given the current economic climate.

Fourth, get back to doing real politics. Once we're off the treadmill of constant fundraising to cover expensive fixed costs to do fundraising to cover expensive fixed costs, to do fundraising, etc..., we can get back to the work that justifies the LP's existence: recruiting candidates, supporting state and local activists, advertising to the public, getting 50-state ballot access and building active parties in every state, D.C., and Puerto Rico, and finally creating libertarian affinity groups and think tanks.

These are the things you can count on me to vote for as an LNC member, and provided that all of the other folks I'm running with are elected, we'll finally have the right LNC to accomplish these basic functions of a political party.

## Carolyn Marbray for Vice Chair



I believe that the party leadership must:

- Support our activists, candidates and affiliates.

- Build strong coalitions with like-minded groups outside the party, and develop and support Libertarian think tanks.

- Maintain open, transparent records so members can see where their money goes.

- Make sure our money goes toward real politics instead of bureaucracy.

- Take a hard, business-like look at where we can reduce our fixed expenses so we can mobilize more of our money for activism and party growth.

- Focus less on what separates us and more on our common goals and the core ideals of the Libertarian Party.

In short, we need a new generation of leadership that understands that it exists to serve the party, not the other way around. I want to be part of this new generation of leadership, and I want to help our party and our movement to thrive. I look forward to seeing you in St. Louis, and thanks for your support.

This is such an exciting time to be a Libertarian. The coming

decades will bring tremendous opportunities to the party as Americans grow more and more disillusioned with bank bail-outs, the flagrant destruction of the right to marry for an entire group of Americans, attacks on our second amendment rights and never-ending wars, among others.. To reach out to these people and help our activists make real changes in policy, the party needs a new generation of leadership, one that welcomes and supports all Libertarians.

We still have a lot of the same problems we've always had as a third party. Lack of ballot access, media "black out," absurd representation of our ideas, mission creep... It's time for new solutions to our old problems. Those new solutions start with leaving behind the old paradigm and focusing on new technologies and new ideas to build membership, activism and fund raising.

We need to focus less on what separates us and more on our common goals. A rising tide raises all ships, and the LNC leadership needs to be that rising tide.

Above all, we as the LNC leadership need to remember: We're there to take obstacles out of the way of our activists and candidates, not to put up more obstacles. We need to support our activists, who are the lifeblood of our party, and to support the candidates who give us visibility and help grow our party.

## George Phillies for LNC Chair And the New Path Slate

I'm George Phillies, candidate for National Chair of our Libertarian Party. If you're a first time delegate, you probably haven't met me. You might have caught my concession speech at the 2008 convention, the one with the line 'the enemy is not in this room'.

I could start off telling you that our national party faces a few challenges. You can read about them on the web at [NewPath-ForTheLP.org](http://NewPath-ForTheLP.org).

*Let me instead look talk about the good news facing our party..*

We have enormous opportunities just waiting for us to reach out and take them. The American people are disgusted with the two major parties. They even want to throw out their own Congressman. While I was editing this issue, multiterm Senator Bennett of Utah was denied re-nomination by his own party. Only the top two candidates at the Utah Republican state convention went on to the primary, and Bennett finished third. In Massachusetts, just in January a Democrat lost for U.S. Senate.

In issue after issue, huge numbers of Americans stand behind our positions. Whether it is big government loots the taxpayer and enriches its cronies, foreign wars are bad for America, Uncle Sam should stay out of your bedroom, private life, and medicine cabinet, or all Americans should be equal before the

law, Americans especially younger Americans are solidly on our side. Americans have realized the truth: the government mostly exists to empty our wallets and fund cronies of Congress, while people in desperate conditions see pennies.

That's why I'm running for National Chair. We need to put our National Party on the right path to push ahead to victory. The Chair is one member of the National Committee. To be effective, a chair needs to be part of a strong effective majority on the National Committee. That's why my friends and I recruited the New Path team.

What am I offering you? It's a solid, detailed program, available for you to read in advance. So far as I am concerned, "program" is where we start, and I welcome your suggestions and improvements to get us a better program. Is it a perfect plan? Surely not! Ask my opponents for their plans, make the comparison, and see whose plan you prefer.

*The New Path Officer  
Team (Left to Right)  
Rob Power,  
Carolyn Marbry,  
George Phillies, and  
James Oaksun.*



Some people ask about my management experience. I'm a physics professor. That's like being CEO of a totally independent division of a large company. No one tells me what my research should be, but I have to raise the money, hire and direct a staff that has sometimes been larger than the LNC staff, train, supervise, motivate, and if needed fire people, and get the product out the door, without which there would be no more money to support more research.

I'm not running to be the party mouthpiece. That's why we have candidates. That's why if we can raise the resources we will someday have press spokesmen and lobbyists. I view myself as one player, admittedly an important player, on a much larger team, a team on which I want to include you and every other libertarian activist across America.

## Knapp Endorses Phillies for Chair

Tom Knapp of Missouri writes:

In endorsing George Phillies for chair of the Libertarian National Committee, I should probably first explain why I did not support his campaign for the Libertarian Party's 2008 presidential nomination.

Ideologically speaking, George and I are very different creatures. I'm a radical libertarian. He's a moderate libertarian. We disagree in significant respects on important issues, and I believe the party's presidential candidate should be a bold standard-bearer for my take on most issues.

Furthermore, I viewed the party's nomination contest as a two-way race between its "right/conservative" faction (Bob Barr and Wayne Allyn Root) and its "left/libertarian" faction (Steve Kubby, Mary Ruwart and Mike Gravel) in which no significant "movement to the center" -- i.e., Phillies or Mike Jingoian -- was either likely or desirable.

So, for both ideological and tactical reasons, I just couldn't support George.

However, his presidential campaign was confirmatory evidence of the wisdom of supporting him for chair, as I did in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006, and as I do this year.

From a technical standpoint, George ran the best of the 2008 pre-nomination presidential campaigns -- and I say that as the manager of one of his opponents.

He produced and distributed real campaign literature.

He produced and aired well-made radio campaign ads. He produced television ads for airing in the general election campaign if he was nominated -- and not just for himself, but for other candidates to insert their own "paid for by" blurbs in, free of charge. He pushed those video ads over the Internet, and also served up nearly 3.6 million text ads through Google.

He conducted an active and well-crafted internal campaign of delegate contact, appearances at state conventions, etc.

With the New Hampshire Libertarian Party's nomination in hand, he did the work to get his name on the ballot.

George is a can-do kind of guy.

Throughout the entire time that I've known him -- more than a decade now -- he's been a doer, not just a talker.

When he concluded that the LP suffered from systemic problems in the manner in which it is organized, he didn't just complain. He conceived and fully explained (in Stand Up for Liberty) an alternative organizational strategy and went to work to implement it.

When he felt that the national LP was doing a poor job on ballot access, he didn't just complain. He founded a real PAC (Freedom Ballot Access) which raised and spent real money to put real third party candidates on real ballots (disclosure: I sit on the board of Freedom Ballot Access).

He's also been a mentor to numerous Libertarians, encouraging them to become involved in party work and helping them to do successful nuts and bolts politics.

I was one of those young Libertarians in 2000, when I worked with him on Don Gorman's presidential campaign and on his own first campaign for chair, and ran for LNC as part of his local-organization-oriented "Clean Slate."

I remain grateful to George for everything that I learned from him back then, and have learned from him since. I welcome the opportunity to work with him to this very day, and was thrilled to be able to assist in some voter database work for Joe Kennedy's US Senate campaign under his supervision in late 2009 and early 2010.

Finally, George is a partisan Libertarian who understands that the Libertarian Party is, and should be, "a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements."

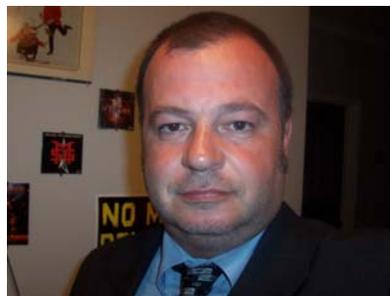
This is something which should be a hard line that no candidate for chair dare cross. Instead, it's become a "gray zone" in which one of his opponents actively attempts to blur the distinction between libertarianism and conservatism, while another comes to the race directly from an active role in the most recent Republican presidential primary contests.

I'll be the last person to tell you that George Phillies is perfect. I've had significant ideological, political and personal disagreements with him in the past, and I expect that I will in the future as well.

For the office of chair, however, I'm looking for a candidate who will exercise fiscal and managerial prudence, address and mend the party's structural/organizational flaws, and put our party's feet on a path to success through practical politics and positive public engagement. That man is George Phillies. I hope you'll join me in supporting his candidacy.

...Tom Knapp

## Thomas B. Hill for LNC At-Large Member



Current Chair, Libertarian Party of Cabarrus County  
Precinct Captain (P01-B02), LP Cabarrus  
Libertarian Candidate, US House (NC - 8)  
<http://thomasbhill2010.com>  
At-large Member, Libertarian Party of NC

Region 8 Coordinator, Campaign For Liberty

### Past LP Activism

LP Member Since 1998  
Co-Founder of the LP of Cabarrus County, which currently boasts three elected (non-partisan) Libertarians  
Libertarian Candidate, Cabarrus County Commission 2002 & 2004  
Libertarian Candidate, Cabarrus County Board of Education (non-partisan) 2006 & 2008

Past Chair, Libertarian Party of North Carolina  
Past Political Director, LPNC  
Aide de Camp, Dr. Mary Ruwart For President 2008

I have participated in two ballot access petition signature drives. I have personally gathered hundreds of signatures. I recently completed a petition drive to gather signatures in lieu of paying a \$1,740 filing fee for my Congressional campaign.

### Why I'm Running

Overall morale seems to be at an all time low as far as our national party is concerned. Mean spirited personal attacks, purges and witch hunts have become common place on the current LNC. While our companions in the overall liberty movement (Campaign For Liberty, Young Americans For Liberty, etc.) grow and prosper, the LP loses revenue and members while the LNC destroys itself from within.

I pledge to not engage in petty bickering and personal attacks. I will put the business of the LP membership above any personal agenda. I am willing to work with anyone duly elected by my fellow delegates.

I am concerned by the influence of social conservatives from inside of the LP. The continued shift towards the right quadrant of the Nolan Chart has alienated members concerned about issues such as the War on Drugs, the environment, and same sex marriage.

Our friends in the LGBT community have been alienated by the dominant social conservative faction. Some of my gay friends feel unwelcome in the LP. This intolerant attitude has no place in the "party of principle". In the words of my friend Tony Wall, "I'm straight but not narrow". I am ashamed to think any fellow heterosexual would treat our LGBT members as anything but respected equals. The LP should embrace and respect every member of the LP, so far as they live by the non-aggression principle.

The LP is spending too much money on our office in DC. All options to reduce this drain of precious resources should be on the table. Our budget is not substantial enough to justify the amount we expend on the DC office.

I want the LP to be at the front of the liberty movement. We should be attracting and maintaining members of the Ron Paul Revolution. The LP should be conducting outreach at every Campaign For Liberty conference around the country. We should have LP representatives at every Young Americans For Liberty and Students For Liberty event possible. Our platform and principles provide the perfect home for these creative and energetic liberty activists.

As we get closer to St. Louis, I will address other issues important to me. In the meantime, please visit <http://newpathforthehelp.org>.

## Who Is the New Path Slate?

For Regional Representative:

Rachel Hawkrige, Washington State Chair, for a region including WA, OR, ID, FL, MA, HI

James Remmert, author, thinker, former Associate General Counsel for one of America's largest companies, for a region covering the Rocky Mountains

A candidate for the Great Plains is being determined

For Regional Alternate: Jake Porter (full time student, businessman with profitable new company), for a region covering the Great Plains

For the South (in flux, thanks in part to the Nashville flood), but including Brad Ploeger of Georgia.

For At-Large:

Thomas B. Hill, North Carolina

Charles Wilhoit, Tennessee

And others to be announced.

For National Officer:

George Phillies of Massachusetts for Chair

Carolyn Marbry of southern California for Vice Chair

Rob Power, MBA, of San Francisco for Secretary

James Oaksun, MBA, of Maine for Treasurer

Please also note these fine libertarians who are our friends, and who we support, but who are not part of the New Path Slate:

Mary Ruwart of Texas for At-Large

Lee Wrights of Texas for At-Large

Vicki Kirkland of Florida for Regional Alternate

Carl Vassar of Connecticut for Regional Representative

## Keaton, Porter, Antman Endorse Marbry

**Angela Keaton:** "Small business woman, civil libertarian, homeschooling mother and patriot; Carolyn Marbry brings a fresh face and real world experience to political arm of the liberty movement."

**Jake Porter:** "In the summer of 2007, I started working directly with Carolyn Marbry to assist one of the contenders for the Libertarian Party's Presidential nomination. Within the first few weeks of working with Carolyn, I discovered that not only did she have the management skills necessary to be successful in politics, but that she also possessed the leadership skills necessary to make sure we were getting the right things done. Carolyn Marbry is intelligent, hard working, motivated, and courageous enough to speak her mind even when faced with strong opposition. The Libertarian National Committee could really

benefit by having Carolyn serve as a member.

"I urge all Libertarian Party delegates to join me in supporting Carolyn Marbry for LNC Vice-Chair."

**Less Antman:** "The very type of respectful persuaders I want to see in leadership positions in the LP are people like Carolyn Marbry. "

## Hawkridge Endorses Phillies

Washington State Chair Rachel Hawkridge writes:

We desperately need a National Chair who focuses on supporting activism, recruiting candidates, and raising money. We desperately need a National Chair who focuses on administration, not someone who will continue factional conflicts.

We desperately need a National Chair who welcomes all into the party - Radicals, Reformers, Minarchists, Anarchists, Centrists, Pagans, Christians, sex workers in fabulous costumes and professional business people in three-piece suits -- but who insists that it is libertarians who will guide our party's direction.

I am endorsing and supporting the one man who will focus on these goals - and who is committed to supporting candidates. Candidate support should be our primary mission. No longer will our budget allot zero for candidate support.

My candidate sees the value and necessity of educational outreach, not to mention collaboration with outside groups when we agree on issues.

That's why I endorse and support Dr. George Phillies for National Chair. Please join me.

## Keaton Endorses Phillies for Chair

Dear Rads!

*How've you been? I'm doing well. Been doing some serious thinking about the events of 2008. Hard thinking. Know many of you have been. The distance has given me some perspective. And while I am thrilled with the addition of Wes Benedict as Executive Director and the emergence of Rachel Hawkridge as the conscience of the LNC, that's not enough to reverse over a decade of damage from poor financial choices, ideological drift and endless drama.*

What would I do? I would go for something completely different. As someone who is for open borders, armed kids and ending the Fed yesterday, this is why I would urge George Phillies, raging moderate, to run for Chair:

First, Libertarian Party members saw a new side to George during the various scandals of 2007-2009. Out with the timid physics professor in the taupe cardigan and in with an intellec-

tual power house who can go head to head in debates with policy wonks on the drug war, civil liberties and that most difficult to master of subjects, foreign policy. The Chair is a spokesperson who must be fast on his feet. George has proven he keeps his knowledge current.

Second, with George, members know exactly what they will get for their money-and yes, they do expect something. George can produce a news letter and a good bumper sticker which is more than they are getting for their 25\$ in several affiliates. They know the books will be well kept. Hence, more willingness to donate. People want to give money to libertarian causes but they won't shell out endlessly for vanity ballot access campaigns and imaginary college libertarian programs. We will give to libertarians who are making honest activist efforts at any level.

Third, delegates know George is a long time party activist. His libertarian credentials go back over twenty years. "Show me your creds" is a test that some big but relatively new names fail. The LP needs more stability and consistency; fewer gimmicks and short cuts.

Fourth, many radicals (from left-libs to paleos-yes, it's true) resent the gay and race baiting that has become all too common in the LP. Supporting uninhibited free speech doesn't mean encouraging the worst aspects of human nature. The libertarian movement has and always will have a quiet but sizable gay and bisexual contingent. Sure, some of us are willing to cut Ron Paul some slack, but that's an earned privilege. For me, I am tired of being told that queer concerns have to wait until someone else's pet issue is solved.

Finally, tonight the LP could have been a player. Did you hear the God King's speech? 30,000 more troops. Would it have been great if we had a chair who understands principle of non intervention? George does. Don't we deserve someone who stands up for libertarian principles on the most important issue of the day?

George is libertarian enough for this radical and certainly better than the pretenders who came sniffing around during the last presidential election cycle. He can count, too. Ideological coherence and administrative competence? That's what I want. That's what he offers. George, if you are reading this, run for chair. For real, this time. Not as the aforementioned cardigan wearing professor but as the leader you proved yourself to be in Denver.

## Ruwart Condemns Starr, Urges His Defeat

As also seen on LibertyForAll.net and IndependentPoliticalReport.com. by Mary J. Ruwart

This term, LNC Treasurer Aaron Starr instigated attacks on At-Large reps that consumed more LNC time than any other single

activity. I urge delegates to say “No!” to such divisive behavior by refusing to return him to the LNC in any capacity.

It saddens me to write these words, as I once had great respect for Mr. Starr and even supported his bid for Treasurer in 2004. However, serving with him on the last LNC has greatly changed my perspective.

In the LNC’s first full-length meeting (September, 2008), Aaron Starr accused At-Large Rep Angela Keaton of blogging confidential information from our Executive Session. We spent almost half of our meeting time deciding whether or not violations occurred and what, if anything, should be done about it. While such leaks can create liability for the LNC, nothing that Ms. Keaton blogged even approached that level. Most of the LNC— including myself, I regret to say—took Mr. Starr’s concerns more seriously than they warranted.

Prior to our second meeting, “The Discipline of Angela Keaton” appeared on the draft agenda. Ms. Keaton asked that she be given a copy of what was to be presented to the LNC; a bit wiser now, I supported her request. When the information was not forthcoming, I moved that this item be dropped from the agenda on the grounds that Ms. Keaton had no time to prepare her defense. However, my motion was voted down. The LNC thus spent a great deal of its December 2008 meeting listening to Stewart Flood, Mr. Starr’s collaborator, making a number of accusations against Ms. Keaton, most of which were utterly groundless and easily seen as such. No action was taken against her.

However, Ms. Keaton decided she had had enough and resigned her position. Alicia Matteson took her place and has voted in lock-step with Mr. Starr every since. Did Mr. Starr instigate these attacks to get his confederate a seat at the LNC table?

Next, Mr. Starr went after At-Large Rep Lee Wrights. Mr. Wrights was undergoing a divorce and was not at his place of residence to receive his dues renewal notices; according to his ex-wife, none were received. Even though the entire LNC gave current e-mail addresses to Mr. Kraus, HQ’s files were not updated. Consequently, Mr. Wrights did not receive a renewal notice via e-mail either. In April, 2009, when Mr. Wrights’ dues were a week late, Mr. Starr convinced Chairman Redpath and Secretary Sullentrup to send Lee Wrights a notice that he was no longer on the LNC, since LP membership is a requirement for election to that body. At the same time that Mr. Wrights received his dismissal e-mail, the LNC received one directing them to select his replacement.

Most LNC members were enraged by the treatment of Mr. Wrights, as well they should be. Each LNC member pays thousands of dollars each year in travel expenses to serve on that body. To thwart the will of the delegates by disenfranchising a member for being a week late with a \$25 dues payment is ludicrous. A simple phone call to Mr. Wrights would have re-

solved the issue.

Instead, the LNC spent an inordinate amount of time dealing with the fallout, primarily because Mr. Starr would not back down. He continued his attack on Mr. Wrights with a memo to the LNC containing Mr. Wrights’ confidential donation history. Although Mr. Starr routinely labels anything containing his financial reports “confidential,” he neglected to do so for this memo. Anything not labeled this way invariably ended up on Independent Political Review, as Mr. Starr’s memo did shortly after it went to the LNC.

In this memo, Mr. Starr claimed that Mr. Wrights had not paid his dues in 2004 and therefore was never legitimately elected as LNC Vice-Chair in that year. Had Mr. Starr checked with Mr. Wrights, he would have learned that Mrs. Wrights had paid her husband’s dues, and had been credited with his membership. To the best of Mr. Wrights’ knowledge, the records had never been updated, in spite of his repeated requests.

Later investigation of UMP records revealed that Mr. Wrights’ records at one time did show him as paying his dues for 2004; these records had been altered either inadvertently or on purpose. However, Mr. Starr has not issued an apology to Mr. Wrights or a retraction for his accusation that Mr. Wrights was never elected LNC Vice-Chair in 2004. A less dedicated activist than Mr. Wrights might be tempted to sue our Treasurer for this slander, creating a legal liability for the LP.

Our Treasurer also claimed that Sean Haugh’s payment of Lee Wrights’ dues in 2008 was an “illegal contribution,” even though the LP has accepted gift memberships for years, just as HQ accepted Mr. Haugh’s check. Our FEC consultant, who was cited in Mr. Starr’s report, had evidently been given misinformation by Mr. Starr and did not support the designation of “illegal contribution” when questioned further. However, Mr. Starr has not retracted his statements, giving Mr. Haugh possible grounds for legal action.

Mr. Wrights’ case eventually was taken to the Judicial Committee, where Ms. Matteson made the case originally put forward by Mr. Starr. Not surprisingly, the Committee found that the LNC officers had acted improperly in dismissing Mr. Wrights from the LNC. Although Mr. Starr labels all of his budget-related material “confidential,” he continues to thwart attempts to make sure that donor information is similarly protected. Do we want a Treasurer who feels free to “leak” donor information that he is privy to when he wants to malign someone and refuses to clear the air when what he puts out is erroneous?

The attacks orchestrated by Mr. Starr against At-Large Reps Keaton and Wrights consumed more of the LNC’s time than any other single item. This LNC did do one thing right, however. It hired Wes Benedict as our Executive Director (ED). Mr. Starr, however, did everything he could to stop it. The LNC didn’t have the money to hire an ED. However, Mr. Benedict offered to take the lowest ED salary we’ve paid in recent his-

tory and receive bonuses only if stiff fund-raising goals were met. Mr. Benedict was also, in my opinion, the best candidate for the job and the only applicant that had actually been an ED in a major state party (Texas), turning it from sluggish to superstar. Given the precipitous decline of membership and fund-raising the LP is experiencing, we desperately needed the kind of results that Mr. Benedict had delivered in the past.

Mr. Starr, however, opposed Mr. Benedict's appointment and tried to promote another well-known individual for ED, even though that person had not yet applied for the position, did not have experience as an ED, and was unlikely to match Mr. Benedict's offer. Mr. Benedict had been waiting for months for the LNC to act and intended to go back into business if we continued to drag our feet. Mr. Starr, who had given little assistance to the ED Search Committee, attempted to override its choice with this stalling tactic.

In spite of Mr. Starr's resistance, Chairman Redpath appointed Mr. Benedict as ED. However, Mr. Starr just wouldn't quit. At Mr. Benedict's first LNC meeting in June, 2009, Mr. Starr attempted to renegotiate Mr. Benedict's newly-signed contract! Not only was this highly inappropriate, but in certain corporate cultures could actually have created legal liabilities for us.

When he is not attacking At-Large LNC members, pushing us to the edge of legal liability, or trying to create a hostile working environment for our new ED, Mr. Starr performs his duties as LNC Treasurer. Although content to publicize an erroneous donor record for Mr. Wrights and let it stand, our Treasurer refused to give LNC members copies of the 2009 budget detail prior to presenting it at the December 2008 LNC meeting. Consequently, what he presented had several errors. Even after the LNC passed the budget, Mr. Starr refused my requests for copies of the budget detail on the grounds that I was a security risk (!) and that he had proprietary formulas that he didn't want to share. When I appealed to the Chair, who asked Mr. Starr to honor my request, the insubordinate Mr. Starr simply refused!

When my persistence paid off and I finally received the budget details without the formulas, I discovered several anomalies. Our renewal rates were far below what Mr. Starr had assumed, so our budget was based on overly optimistic projections. I don't expect our Treasurer to be perfect, but this is precisely why budget detail should be shared. LNC members can crank the numbers themselves and catch anything that may have been missed before adopting a budget. A more serious problem, however, was that our direct mail pieces to rented lists (i.e., "cold" prospecting) had such a low rate of return that it was almost impossible to cover costs, even over a ten year period. Real rates of attrition caused a loss of the new members long before they had time to contribute enough to make the mailing profitable. However, the budget we had passed set aside funds for this money-losing proposition, while setting aside nothing for ballot access or candidate support.

There was a silver lining to this cloud, however. When evaluating the numbers, I discovered that direct mail to "warm"

prospects (those who had asked HQ for more information or had taken our on-line survey) was immediately profitable. Our strategy, therefore, should be to increase the interactivity of our web site. Since most of our new members in 2009 came through the website, such a strategy should increase new members substantially. I don't fault Mr. Starr for not discovering this on his own. However, Mr. Starr continued to advocate direct mail to rented lists (i.e., "cold" prospecting) over the last year, in spite of my frequent posts reminding him that his recommendations would only put the LP in debt. This seems at odds with our Treasurer's fiduciary responsibility to the Party.

I could go on, but enough has probably been said already. It troubles me to speak out against Mr. Starr, but I can't sit back and let him continue to harm the LP either. As your At-Large Rep, I feel it is my duty to inform you of what goes on "behind the scenes." I leave it to the delegates in St. Louis to decide if Mr. Starr should be returned to the LNC.

## Starr Endorses Root, Hinkle for National Chair

...as forwarded to this Newsletter

Aaron Starr writes: Mark Hinkle is a dear friend of mine and close ally. Our relationship extends back over 20 years. He has stayed the night at my home and I at his. I convinced him to run for Chair in California back in 1997 (his arm still hurts from the twisting) and I organized a sufficient number of delegates to replace the incumbent. Hinkle served for two consecutive two-year terms. I served with him on the board. I immediately followed him as state chair for three consecutive two-year terms.

For the most part, Hinkle sees the LP the same as I do. We are extremely compatible. It's odd to suggest that he is afraid of me or that anyone else is afraid of me. Have you seen a picture of me? I'm your typical, mild-mannered accountant (though some might say better looking than your typical accountant. )

I'm glad to say that Hinkle simply happens to agree with me much of the time, as many people do, especially when it comes to the need for the party to emphasize professional management. If Wayne Root were not running, Mark Hinkle would be my first choice. I know of plenty of people who will be voting for Root first and Hinkle second. And I also know quite a few people who will be voting for Hinkle first and Root second.

Either choice, the party will continue to move forward in a direction I approve of and I'm pretty convinced that one of these two will win the chairmanship.

## Other Candidates

Chair: John Jay Myers, Ernie Hancock, Mark Hinkle, Wayne Root  
Vice Chair: Mark Rutherford  
Secretary: none  
Treasurer: Aaron Starr  
At-Large candidates: (this list is probably not complete, and includes some editorial best guesses. Expect changes.): M Carling, Alicia Mattson, Pat Dixon, Bill Redpath, Rebecca Sink-Burris, and David Nolan.

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