

Liberty for America

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Root Urges Supporting Republicans

In a widely condemned radio statement, LNC At-Large member Wayne Root said on the WLW Bill Cunningham show:

“I, I think the important thing now is to make sure Obama is not elected, and, and that means, in my mind, I mean I would, listen, I’d love if a Libertarian like Gary Johnson, the two-term governor of New Mexico, would actually get elected President, but I think we all know that’s not going to happen, so therefore it’s gotta be Romney, there’s no choice, ...” Root went on to predict what a Romney administration would do.

Other Libertarians were offended by Root remarks “the lesser of the two evils is certainly Romney but they’re both bad choices” and “it’s big government guys on both sides.” Those phrases spread the pernicious meme that there are only two political sides. Others view Root’s claim that Obama is a Marxist as being totally off the wall.

Floridians report that Root said in 2010: “You are comparing apples to oranges with Alex Snitker. Alex was a very good speaker and candidate. But he was running against a Tea Party hero in Marco Rubio. This is a textbook example of poor decisions made by LP candidates and the LP. We need to look at the candidates the GOP is running and rate them on Libertarian scale....like the one we all saw out of Texas last month.

There is good reason for a David Nolan to run against John McCain. That might make sense. There is ZERO reason for the LP to run a candidate against Marco Rubio. That could be why there were no LP candidates running against Rand Paul, or Ron Paul, or Sharon Angle.”

After the broadcast — which may be heard on the Internet; see independentpoliticalreport.com/2012/04/wayne-allyn-root-tells-radio-audience-to-vote-for-romney/ for the link — gained public attention, Root attempted to retract his previous statement.

LNS Regional Representative Stewart Flood has called for Root to resign as Chair of the Libertarian National Congressional Committee. A commenter on IndependentPoliticalReport.com quotes Flood as having said “I will, at this time, publicly call for his resignation from that committee. If he fails to resign, I will organize whatever action is required to remove him, even to the extent of asking for the LNC to disband the committee that we created and that I believe FEC regulations still consider a body under our jurisdiction.”

There are also calls for Root to be suspended from the LNC.

What Should the Libertarian Party Do?

As a candidate for our Party’s National Committee, as Treasurer, I think it important to speak to where our party is and where it is going.

Two years ago, I ran for National Chair as part of the New Path slate. We offered a clear set of proposals. Unfortunately, the delegates had other opinions, and the results are now apparent.

The Impending Crisis

Two years ago, ‘we face an existential crisis’ was James Oak-sun’s prophetic warning. How right he was! Party membership and income are still falling.

Membership? Some of us remember the start of 2004, when we had 19410 members. By the start of 2009, that was down to 15178 members. At the starts of the next three years, what had happened? In 2010, we were down to 14412 members. By the beginning of 2011, we were down to 13872 members, while in the beginning of 2012, we were down to *(continued, next page)*

In This Issue

We open this issue (article above) with my positive thoughts on how we can build a Libertarian future.

There are challenges. Mr. Root’s statements on Presidential choices (this page, left column) and the Republican Party have become a controversial. There are a series of proposed amendments to Party Bylaws (page five) that will have profound negative consequences for our party and should be rejected. The National Chair’s condemnation of a majority of the members of the LNC — the Gang of Ten — appears to merit propagation (page six). The Credentials Committee has apparently (page six) decided to stir up new difficulties on the Oregon matter by indicating that it will decide whether to accept the Oregon delegation or the Reeves faction delegation. The Libertarian Parties of Tennessee and Florida separately condemned the floor fee (page seven). Mary Ruwart asks of the floor fee: If \$94, why not \$9400? (page eight). The 2016 convention location is again up in the air. Olsen urged all conventions be on Memorial Day. The LNC met in Orlando and set a new record for Executive Sessions (page eight). There were issues with the LNC payment for Project Saratoga, and the LNC had to vote to tell staff how to fill out the check. (page nine) Johnson fundraising continues to crash, and his campaign debt is now at \$180,000 (page nine). We offer a draft resolution to the LNC: A motion to suspend Wayne Root from the LNC, for cause.

13492 members.

Comparing matching points in the election cycle, our total income for 2007 was \$1,454,411. Four years later, in 2011 Party income was down to \$1,428,232. That's right. Despite four years of inflation, not to mention for 2011 a substantial building fund drive that raised into six digits, party income has fallen.

We can still have a future, but we must change course now, or the good ship Liberty will surely ram one iceberg too many and founder.

What Needs Changing?

The National Committee is fixated on formal Bylaws and

We need a National Committee whose members are prepared to invest their time in forwarding the party's activities. Two decades ago, the LNC had a stack of working committees that were doing real politics. We now see a Bylaws proposal for a Style Committee.

We need a National Committee that talks about things under their control 'more radio ads', 'better brochures', 'active candidate recruitment by us', and less time setting grandiose goals '20,000 members' with no strategy for getting from here to there.

We need a National Committee that focusses on what is good for the party rather than recherche interpretations of parliamentary activity. All too often, I see defenses of some act based on 'I have the opinion of two certified parliamentarians...' rather than any consideration of the material effects of the act.

All this must change, or our party will continue to decline.

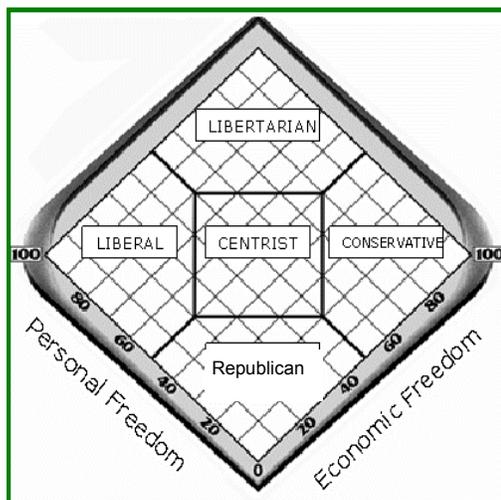
By the way, we have gone to a model in which the core central work is accomplished by dedicated paid staff rather than volunteers. Using paid staff is not a bad model, but it does mean we have high fixed costs. At some point, if membership and income shrink enough, the costs become unsustainable and operations crash.

What Do I Propose Changing?

First, I advocate a series of short-term steps to free resources for actions on which we can then capitalize. Simultaneously, we should be laying the foundation for efforts that will not pay off in the short term. We also need major changes in attitude, a national committee of doers rather than talkers.

Where do we begin? Our party has *Mission Critical Activities*. Do them or we die. Then we have *Important Activities*, things we really really should be doing. Finally we have *Worthwhile Activities* that would be meritorious to perform if the resources were there.

What are the **mission critical activities**?



A Redesigned Nolan Chart—matching contemporary American political reality.

Run the National Convention. That's the only explicit task the Bylaws assign to the LNC. The business meeting does the business of the entire membership, and the costs of the National Convention business meeting should be paid by the entire membership. Surrounding it, the Libertarian National Convention and Exposition should provide a maximum opportunity for outreach, training, and support.

Do Real Politics. Actions count. Words do not. Roberts' rules sophistry and Bylaws prettification are not action. There are lots of different ways to do real politics. We must be doing at least some of them.

Raise Money. You raise money effectively by telling people you are going to spend their money on doing politics, you spend the money the way you promised, and you remind them that you keep your promises.

Recruit and Retain Members. No members, no party. Membership retention is a key diagnostic. Here in Massachusetts the changes I helped bring in have pushed membership retention up to 80% each year. Our national party should do as well.

Back Office. The back office is a mission critical activity. We have nuts and bolts activities that we absolutely must do right.

What are the **important activities**?

Create 50 active state parties, not to mention affiliates in D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and wherever else the American flag flies over American citizens.

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Fifty State Presidential Ballot Access. Funding activities so that they succeed is a good idea. Underfunding efforts, so that they fail, is a bad idea.

Candidate Recruitment and Support. There are a half-million elective offices, and we need a candidate for each one — minus the offices we close down along the way.

Volunteer Mobilization. The LNC should persuade party supporters to do work for the party, and help them with support materials and training to be more effective.

Public Outreach. The LNC should invest heavily in advertising, press releases, earning media, lobbying, and everything else that puts our party's name before the public in a positive way.

Support Materials. Producing good support materials is an important positive step. Downloadables that local groups can use are particularly important.

Voter Base Development. We earn a voter base if we do the right political acts.

Grass Roots Organizing. By definition, the LNC cannot be the grass roots. We can supply organizers with tools to make their grass roots work effective. How? For starters, read Saul Alinsky's final book.

Worthwhile activities?

Cooperation. Cooperating with other libertarian groups is an

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

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important activity. We should be cooperating and supporting activities of other groups that take our positions, recognizing that we are constrained by tax laws and election codes.

Washington Lobbying. Lobbying is one of the few rational reasons for having some office in Washington, namely it lets us reach people in other parties to express our views. Under modern highly-polarized politics, Washington lobbying will be less effective than it was ten years ago.

More Libertarian PACs. Wes Benedict's new Texas PAC is a prime example of what the libertarian political movement needs. There need to be many more PACs. By definition the LNC cannot create independent PACs, but it can tell people how to perform

Pro-Liberty Affinity Groups. Every other party is surrounded by a cloud of special-interest groups, most nominally targeting a core issue, but most also strongly tied to a particular political party. Ask yourself how often the NRA or NARAL supports a Democrat or a Republican, respectively.

Changes in attitude? Two years ago, the LNC was deeply divided into two factions. Some of the names have changed, but the factions are still there.

How do we get there?

Step One — Quick fixes. Two years ago, the LNC was burning close to \$100,000 a year on IT activity. New Path, which had IT professionals as candidates, demonstrated that the spending levels were way too high. We should change.

Second, the Watergate location is way too expensive. There are many far more suitable locations, well outside Washington, such as southern New Hampshire, San Francisco Bay area, or Colorado where the Party was founded.

Third, make enough progress on clearing the brush that we can convince members and former members to vote with their wallets.

Fourth, and most important, take that money discussed above, and point it at doing real politics, notably advertising.

Step Two — Do Real Politics. How?

Outreach and Advertising. Voter recognition.

Step Three — Raise and Spend Money Well. For some years, Massachusetts has had effective budget allocation schemes. They assure that when money comes in the door it is immediately assigned to the activities that we want done, not left in a pot for special interests. That scheme says that most money is not set aside for overhead and fundraising costs, as was the case in 2010.

Core to the Massachusetts plan are financial reports that include concrete dollar amounts and specific items on which they were spent. Those reports should correspond, as party bylaws re-

quire, to the Federal Agency to which we make our financial reports — the FEC.

View money as something we must earn by achievement.

Every new donor is a new person committed to the party.

Look carefully at actual dollar costs for items, and see that the things those items support are properly costed against them.

Second, prudent financial reserves — have money in the bank, so that when special opportunities appear we can exploit them. Also, there are always possibilities for disruptions. A reasonable insurance is six months's net income as cash on hand.

The LNC's most specific mission is coming up in 2014. The National Convention business meeting...set aside the money to pay for it.

Third, don't waste money. Direct mail membership recruiting is the most important example. A decade ago, huge direct mail recruiting efforts directed almost exclusively to right-wing mailing lists almost drove our party into financial extinction.

Fourth, mobilize every libertarian as a libertarian volunteer. Some of us have money but not time, but far more have more time than money. Members should be viewed as potential activists, not just as wallets that walk.

Fifth, improve our marketing efforts. Republican religious extremists like Romney and Santorum are driving large segments of their traditional membership base out of their party. Those people are natural Libertarian recruits, but you won't find them at tea party rallies and Sarah Palin appearances. You won't find them through right wing hate radio, or listeners to Glenn Beck, Rush Limbaugh, and Michael Savage.

Sixth, restore the productivity of the LNC. That means shutting down parliamentary games. It means giving the LNC a subcommittee structure, so that when proposals come to the full committee they have already been vetted by people the LNC trusts. Look at the old LNC. A typical 1991 meeting had reports from

Executive Committee
Headquarters
Membership Committee
Affiliate Parties Committee.
Affiliate Campaigns Subcommittee
Audit
Management Committee
Outreach Committee
Convention Oversight Committee
Advertising/Publications Review Committee
Convention Committee
Appointments Bylaws and Rules Committee
Media Relations Committee
Internal Education Committee
Program Committee
LP News
Legal Action Committee
Budget

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.**

These were real committees with multiple members. As can be seen from their reports, they were actually doing substantial work between meetings. And they delivered reports in advance as opposed to having people sitting their reading their reports out loud.

Of course, the 1991 LNC actually spent considerable time in days gone by on the substantive conduct of its operations, as witness the following motion by Karen Allard as passed by the LNC by 1991:

Allard moved:

Whereas contributors above a designated amount are promised a lifetime membership, and

Whereas the LP is thereby obligated to provide certain benefits over the Member's or organization's lifetime whichever is less, and

Whereas these benefits constitute a long-term liability on the part of the Party,

Therefore be it resolved that the LP fund this long-term liability according to the following terms:

1. That ninety percent (90%) of all designated Life Memberships be deposited into a Perpetual Trust in the name of the LNC.

2. That ninety percent (90%) of the earnings on said Trust be distributed to the General Fund each quarter.

3. That the Fund be administered by a Board of Trustees comprised of three Trustees, each serving for a six year term.

4. That, whether in case of end of term, resignation, or other vacancy, the Chair of the LNC shall appoint the Trustees and the appointment shall be ratified by two thirds (2/3) vote of the LNC during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

5. That the terms of office of each Trustee be staggered in such a manner that one Trustee is appointed every two years.

6. That the Senior Trustee shall preside over meetings of the Board of Trustees.

7. That a Trustee may be removed from office by two thirds (2/3) vote of the LNC, but only by cause related to management of the Fund.

Upon adoption of this resolution the Chair shall be charged with nominating one Trustee for a two (2) year term, one Trustee for a (4) year term, and one Trustee for a six (6) year term. The announcement of nomination shall be at least thirty (30) days in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting.

That's how a serious LNC protects the moneys entrusted to it by the members. Well, that was how a serious LNC in days gone by protected the moneys entrusted to it by its life members. Those moneys are now gone.

However, we can bring that past back to life.

The Distant Prospect

Where do we want to go?

To bring the libertarian future to the United States, we need to become the majority party, with regular control of Congress, the White House, state legislatures, and state houses across America. We don't need to reach a one-party state like Massachusetts -- that would be bad for us as well as for our country. We do need to be the political movement that sets the agenda, our libertarian agenda in which private Americans are able to choose their own futures.

Clearly, we are not going to become the majority party overnight. We are not going to become the majority party during the terms of office of the next National Committee. However, we should never lose sight of the ultimate objective, for if we do we will wander lost in political fever-swamps.

What do we need to reach the Libertarian political majority?

On one hand, there are the factors that will define us as the majority party. On the other hand, there are the social structures and groups of people that will win us our majorities. Finally, there are the methods and tools that will start moving us in the right directions.

Your National Committee is not an electoral majority. It is not by itself the social groups and individuals who will win us majority status. What today's LNC can and must do is to start putting in place those methods and tools. That's right, the LNC can lay the foundation for the great political engine that will move us from small minority to political majority.

Let's go back to those needs.

First, what are the factors that will define us as the political majority? They include:

- *an incumbent pool
- *strong candidates for every office at every level
- *a large, supportive voter base
- *concrete libertarian policies that actually work and are seen as working.

Second, which social structures will create and sustain our libertarian majority?

*Effective political party groups:

National Party

State Parties

Local political groups

*Libertarian affinity groups

*Libertarian think tanks

*Libertarian political consulting and polling houses

*Libertarian main-stream media

*Libertarian litigators and journalists

Finally, what are the tools and methods the National Committee can start creating *now*. That's how we'll begin this very long march. We start taking small steps that get us moving in

the right direction. I've already talked about some of those tools and methods. They include

*Activist support

*Volunteer mobilization

*Candidate recruitment, support, and training

*Group formation and development

*Vibrant, active parties in every state, D.C., Puerto Rico, and wherever else our flag flies

*Outreach and Advertising

*Web and internet mobilization

*Literature and web templates

*Sound resource management

*Effective fundraising

That's why I am running for LNC Treasurer.

I hope that you will support me.

Of course, there is an alternative here. The alternative is represented by much of what I cover in these pages, namely every sort of nonsense instead of real politics.

Bylaws Changes Endanger Our Party

A series of proposed Bylaws changes endanger our Party's future. The National Convention should reject them.

The LNC would now be elected by *e-mail ballot* of the entire membership. Because the incumbents control the mailing list and the newsletter -- on the rare occasions that they publish one -- it would become almost entirely impossible for any insurgent slate to advance. Not to mention, of course, that the third of the American people who really do not use email will be excluded from participating in our party's governance.

Another Bylaws change would eliminate 'state delegations' unless 90% of seats at the previous NatCon had been full. Perhaps someone remembers if this has *ever* happened...not in the last dozen years is the best I can say. Instead, under the new rule anyone who is a member of the National party can walk in and become a delegate. Officers of state parties, if they are members of their state party and not the national party, would not be eligible to be delegates.

Yet another Bylaws change would require delegates from states with Libertarian Party registration to have registered Libertarian. This rule, which would cause us locally yet more difficulties with ballot access, should be recognized as another covert attack on the Massachusetts Libertarian political movement. For example, under this rule our Massachusetts US Senate candidate Joe Kennedy would not have been eligible to be a convention delegate.

Finally, look askance at proposals for a Style Committee. There are few things more dangerous than a committee authorized to make innocent stylistic changes in Party Bylaws. A change here, a comma there, and pretty soon you can end up with significant alterations in how we do business.

On these, Wes Wagner comments: The recent attempt to make

membership (which requires dues paying), floor fees, etc... mandatory is just a symptom of the failed management of the national party. Now that they cannot get people to provide resources voluntarily, they are moving towards taxation and human farming to keep their quasi-government running. Further they know their enterprise is at risk of open rebellion, hence the tone of the bylaws proposals. They have gone so far down these paths of ideology, the concept of a voluntary society is now foreign to them and they are arguing implicitly that the libertarian ideology is a failure by trying to restructure the organization to not model its ideals.

Thus these proposals should: be no surprise; a reason for the complete removal of incumbent leadership as they have admitted failure.

Hinkle Condemns LNC Gang of Ten

In a message sent to the Oregon NatCon delegation and forwarded to us by a delegate, LNC Chair Mark Hinkle condemned the actions of the LNC's Gang of Ten (here, 11):

“As you may know, the LP's web site use to list all of the names of the folks who were seeking our nomination for President. You may also know, I ran a poll on our web site where over 3,415 (so far) voted 93% to list those candidates (with various degrees of restrictions) and only 7% said keep them all off.

“The LNC voted to remove the list of candidates from the web page.

“Here's how they voted: “Voting to REMOVE Libertarian Presidential Candidates' Names and Contact Information from the National LP Website:

Mark Rutherford
Wayne Allyn Root
Alicia Mattson
Rebecca Sink-Burris
Kevin Knedler
Scott Lieberman
Randy Eshelman
Andy Wolf
Norman Olsen
Audrey Capozzi
Dianna Visek

“Voting to KEEP Libertarian Presidential Candidates' Names and Contact Information at the National LP Website:

Mark Hinkle
Mary Ruwart
Jim Lark
William Redpath
Vicki Kirkland
Daniel Wiener

“You might want to keep this in mind when you come to the LP national convention and wonder who to vote for, or against.

“I think I and the second group are clearly far more in touch with our members wishes than the Rutherford/Root/Mattson team.

“Clearly, those voting to remove the names don't "represent" our members.

FYI.....Mark Hinkle, Chair Libertarian Party

Credentials Committee Obstructs Oregon Delegation

We have heard from multiple sources that the Party affiliate chaired by Wes Wagner and its opponents chaired by Mr. Reeves both managed to submit delegate lists to the LNC Credentials Committee. How did this happen?

Return to March 14, when a message apparently from Emily Salvette to the State Chairs read:

“Dear State Chairs:

We are less than three weeks away from the delegate list submission deadline (April 3) and we still don't have any entries for 20 states: AK, CT, DC, DE, HI, IA, LA, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, NH, NM, OR, SD, WA, WI, WV and WY. These states must enter at least one name, street address & voter status by April 3. Additionally, would these states go in and select a voter status (delegate or alternate) for their entry: AL, CA, GA, KS, KY, MD, ME, MS, MT, SC, TN, UT, VT. Please provide a street address and voter status for your entry, NC.

I thought it might help to answer some Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I log into the Credentialing database?

Contact Ben Bachrach (benbachrach@gmail.com) to get a user id and password. Log in at <http://www.qsdmbb.com/lpdNet/switchboardLpd.php>

I'm in, what do I do now?

Go to the help menu and download the Delegation Chair Instructions to find out how to add delegates.”

Those were the instructions, except for people from Oregon. The very day this announcement was made, State Chair Wagner wrote Ben Bachrach, saying:

“ Ben,

Could I please get our Username and password? We will have finalized our delegate list on 3/28/12 and I can get everything entered then.

Wes Wagner
Chairperson, Libertarian Party of Oregon”

to which the response as forwarded to us was

“On Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 4:27 PM, Ben Bachrach wrote:
I have been advised that Oregon should submit their delegates to me as an Excel file.. Please use the attached file to send me your list of delegates”

That is, the Credentials Committee seems to have created special rules for submitting delegation lists, lists that were different for Oregon than for other states. An explanation was requested:

Wes Wagner to "Ben Bachrach" and Cc to Emily Salvette
Monday, March 19, 2012, 8:57 PM

I have a question. Why are we being asked to fill out a spreadsheet instead of being given credentials to enter our delegates like other states?

Sincerely,
Wes Wagner”

The answer received by Wagner reads

“From: Emily Salvette
Hi Wes,

It's because we've received 2 lists from Oregon. The credentials committee will need to study the situation and rule on which list to accept and seat prior to the convention. We haven't started that process yet. We'll keep you and the other Oregon contingent informed as we proceed.

Thanks for your patience,
Emily”

Readers will note that the answer makes no sense; indeed it does not appear that it could possibly be true. The answer was sent to Wagner *before he had submitted a delegate list*, but it says that two lists were submitted. Apparently the claim of two lists was in error. The question remains: Why was any attention paid to the Reeves list?

Wagner promptly sent a warning email to the full LNC:

FYI,

The credentials committee appears to be equivocating between delegate lists sent by organizations that were not ruled to be the LPO by the LP Judicial Committee, and the organization that was ruled to be the official affiliate.

Considering that most of our 15 delegates would be spending in excess of \$2000 to attend the convention, and who knows what was said to the other alleged delegates, this situation has the opportunity to create a large amount of ill will for all involved and should be remedied ASAP.

Sincerely,
Wes Wagner
Chairperson, Libertarian Party of Oregon

Finally, there was a motion from Doug Craig, seconded by

Mary Ruwart, directing the credentials committee to obey the findings of the Judicial Committee. The motion was blocked by Chairman Hinkle who we are told wrote:

Mary,

I spoke to Emily Salvette this morning. The Credentials Committee has received two list of delegates from the LPO (Oregon). The deadline, as I understand it, is April 3rd. Nothing is going to be decided by the Credentials Committee before the deadline. They will review the requests and make a decision after April 3rd. The LNC needs to do nothing for the time being.

And that is where the matter lies as of this writing.

LPTN Denies Validity of Floor Fee

Resolved by the State Convention of the Libertarian Party of Tennessee, on March 24th, 2012:

Whereas the advertisements and information for the 2012 National Libertarian Party Convention indicate that a convention fee will be required for a delegate to vote on the floor of the convention, and

Whereas the 2012 National Libertarian Party Convention is a presidential nominating convention, and

Whereas the Voting Rights Act of 1965 precludes the imposition of a poll tax for participation in the voting process, and

Whereas the U. S. Supreme Court decision *Morse v. Republican Party of Virginia* (94-203), 517 U.S. 186 (1996) determined that the poll tax provision of the Voting Rights Act did apply to the imposition of a fee at a nominating convention, and

Whereas Article 11 of the Libertarian Party's Bylaws specify the rules for the national convention of the Libertarian Party, and

Whereas Article 11 of the Libertarian Party Bylaws does not specify any fee as a requirement for the seating of delegates and provides the delegates to the national convention are to be selected solely by the affiliate parties;

the Libertarian Party of Tennessee disputes the legitimacy and legality of a convention fee being required of a duly selected delegate to the National Libertarian Convention and demands the repeal of the imposition of any delegate fee for participating in party business at the Libertarian National Convention.

The response from LNC Regional Alternate Scott Lieberman was reported to us as “Most groups “request” or “suggest”, or even “urge”, when they pass a Resolution. The Libertarian Party of Tennessee “demands” that we repeal any “delegate fee.” This resolution reminds me of Mr. Wes Wagner’s flaming middle finger.” The LNC has not acted to endorse or reject Mr. Lieberman’s opinion.

LPF Condemns Floor Fee

The resolution, passed by the Libertarian Party of Florida Executive Committee on 3/18/2012, reportedly “condemns” the decision of the LNC to not reverse the Convention Oversight Committee decision to charge all 2012 LP Convention Delegates a mandatory Registration Fee.

Ruwart: If \$94, Why Not \$9400?

Mary Ruwart raises a fundamental question about the floor fee and how it is set:

Our affiliates want to be the sole selectors of who the delegates will be; they don’t want National to be able to impose any other restrictions. That’s why the bylaws read as they do, that the delegates are selected by the affiliates.

From the standpoint of affiliates who fear that National will start trying to dominate the affiliates (much like the states have become dominated by the federal government), the registration fee seems like a way for National to deny affiliates representation. If you interpret our bylaws as allowing a floor fee, then why not make it \$940 instead of \$94? Why not make it \$9400 and let only those who will “pay to play” vote? A fee that determines whether or not a person can vote is called a “poll tax.” This is why the bylaws specify that only the affiliates pick the delegates. If National can add additional barriers, National makes the final decision, not the affiliates.

2016 Convention Site Up in Air

During its last meeting, the LNC chose the Westin Bonaventure as the convention hotel, for the weekend of May 12-15. Voting “aye”: Capozzi, Flood, Mattson, Redpath, Root, Rutherford, Sink-Burris, Wiener, Wolf. Voting “nay”: Craig, Hinkle, Kirkland, Olsen, Ruwart, Visek

Then the hotel failed to honor its offer. There was a proposal to move the convention date back several weeks to April 28-May 1. There followed an astonishing amount of debate, including LNC members trying to convince the LNC member from one state that he did not understand his own state’s election laws and its practical consequences, and other LNC members trying to convince a different LNC member from a northern state noted for its snow that winter driving on date certain is not pointlessly hazardous.

That motion failed 9-9: Voting "aye": Knedler, Mattson, Pojunis, Redpath, Root, Rutherford, Sink-Burris, Wiener, Wolf. Voting "nay": Craig, Flood, Hinkle, Karlan, Kirkland, Lark, Olsen, Ruwart, Visek

There was also a motion with a complicated set of conditions for staying in LA, followed by

“In the event that no alternate site is recommended that meets the above criteria, the LNC authorizes the Chair to enter into a contract for the 2016 Libertarian National Convention at the Rosen Center in Orlando Florida in the date range of May 26-May 31, 2016.”

Voting on that motion is advancing.

Olsen: All Conventions on Memorial Day

We are supplied with the following sage words of wisdom, said to be originally from Norm Olsen.:

“We need to stop "catering to the alumni" and start "building the bench". We need to have all of our conventions on Memorial Day weekend so that the new activists can attend our conventions at minimum expense in terms of actual expense, lost work, used vacation days, missed classes, and lost study time immediately before finals.

This has been clear to me for some time, and is now perfectly crystal clear. There does not need to be any more debate:

ALL NATIONAL CONVENTIONS SHALL BE HELD ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.”

LNC Meets in Orlando

Randy Eshelman having resigned from the LNC, the LNC elected a new At-Large representative. The vote was 10 for Brett Pojunis and 6 for Wes Benedict.

The LNC met in Executive session from 10:55 to 12:22, 1:34 to 2, 4:15 to 4:30, and 5:05 to 6:35.

The LNC encumbered for ballot access: \$60,000 for Illinois, \$14,000 for Kentucky, \$10,000 for Oklahoma, and \$20,000 for West Virginia. The vote was 16-1, Norm Olsen opposing.

The LNC voted 15-1 that the Libertarian National Committee authorize and direct any officer to execute the informed consent letter drafted by Tyler Smith. After debate, voting on the main motion was as follows: Voting “aye”: Blau (for Kirkland), Capozzi, Flood, Knedler, Lark, Mattson, Olsen, Pojunis, Redpath, Root, Rutherford, Sink-Burris, Visek, Wiener, Wolf.

Voting “nay”: Ruwart Abstentions: Craig, Hinkle

Ms. Visek moved and the LNC voted 14-2: Ordered, that the LNC directs the Chair and Staff to cause the books and FEC reports to be corrected within seven days to reflect that no receivable was ever due from Aaron Starr.

Following debate, voting on the main motion was:
Voting “aye”: Capozzi, Flood, Knedler, Lark, Mattson, Olsen, Pojunis, Redpath, Root, Rutherford, Sink-Burris, Visek, Wiener, Wolf
Voting “nay”: Hinkle, Kirkland
Abstentions: Craig, Ruwart

The LNC voted 16-1 to create another building committee.
Voting “aye”: Blau (for Kirkland), Capozzi, Flood, Hinkle, Knedler, Lark, Lieberman (for Craig), Mattson, Redpath, Root, Rutherford, Ruwart, Sink-Burris, Visek, Wiener, Wolf.
Voting “nay”: Olsen

The LNC took up the floor fee. Mr. Olsen moved with regard to the 2012 convention in Las Vegas:

- 1) The \$94 mandatory floor fee shall be made optional;
- 2) All members who have paid the floor fee shall be offered a refund; and
- 3) All members who have purchased a package or made a voluntary contribution have a visual recognition added to their convention badge.

Secretary Mattson moved to amend the motion as follows:

With regard to the 2012 convention in Las Vegas:

- 1) **The \$94 mandatory floor fee shall be made optional; The \$94 cost of the business session shall be made optional in all packages;**
- 2) All members who have paid the floor fee shall be offered a refund; and
- 3) All members who have purchased a package or made a voluntary contribution have a visual recognition added to their convention badge.

Following debate, the amendment passed 13-4:

Voting “aye”: Capozzi, Flood, Hinkle, Knedler, Lark, Mattson, Redpath, Root, Rutherford, Sink-Burris, Visek, Wiener, Wolf Voting “nay”: Craig, Kirkland, Olsen, Ruwart

The main motion failed 5-12. Voting “aye”: Craig, Kirkland, Lark, Olsen, Ruwart Voting “nay”: Capozzi, Flood, Hinkle, Knedler, Mattson, Redpath, Root, Rutherford, Sink-Burris, Visek, Wiener, Wolf .

Dan Karlan resigned as chair of the New Visions Committee.

Project Saratoga Payment

The LNC had voted to order and direct that payment be made for Project Saratoga development. The chair had ruled the motion out of order. No one had used the mail ballot process to appeal the decision of the chair, so the matter was to have been settled at this meeting.

Apparently Saratoga was discussed in Executive session, because the draft minutes as supplied to us record “...Following yesterday’s executive session, it seemed the LSLA IT project (dubbed Saratoga) funding check would be provided as previously directed by the LNC. When the LSLA officers received the check, though, it came with a request to sign a vendor contract that would have made the LNC the owner of the developed software and would have forbidden the LSLA from sharing the data in it with either the data hosting center or the state affiliates. Additionally, the check itself contained a legal agreement unacceptable to the LSLA, and not directed by the LNC, which agreement had not been vetted by the LNC’s legal

counsel, nor had the LSLA had opportunity to seek counsel about it.”

Alicia Mattson moved to direct staff to immediately issue a replacement check with no conditions on it.

The vote was 12-5 in favor. A check was issued during the meeting. Voting “aye”: Capozzi, Knedler, Lieberman (for Craig), Mattson, Olsen, Redpath, Root, Rutherford, Sink-Burris, Visek, Wiener, Wolf. Voting “nay”: Flood, Hinkle, Kirkland, Lark, Ruwart

Johnson Spending 2012

Continuing our coverage in the last issue, in February 2012 the Johnson campaign raised \$41,879 and spent \$40,917 of it. That total marks a major decrease in campaign income. In January, Johnson raised \$65,592. February is a shorter month than January, but in February Johnson raised less than 2/3 as much. Unfortunately, in the same period, the campaign’s debts increased from \$150,792 to \$181,335.

Draft Resolution for the LNC

Here is our advice to the LNC. Whether the resolution (mail ballot) passes or fails is not central. The recorded vote on the matter will separate the sheep from the goats, in time for the delegates to act.

Whereas LNC At-Large Representative Wayne Root has publicly urged that Libertarians should vote for Mitt Romney and disparaged the electoral prospects of Gary Johnson,

And Whereas LNC At-Large Representative Wayne Root had urged that Florida Libertarians should not run a candidate against Republican Senate candidate Marco Rubio,

And Whereas At-Large Representative Wayne Root had spoken favorably of the tragic circumstance that Republicans such as Sharon Angle had no Libertarian opponent,

And whereas these acts of disloyalty to our party are directly contrary to the party objective of establishing a political party separate and distinct from all other political parties and weaken membership support for our august Party,

And whereas the LNC finds that the above reasons are sufficient cause to justify suspending a member from the LNC, therefore

Be it resolved, that Wayne Root is hereby suspended from the Libertarian National Committee.”

Liberty for America

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Root Urges Supporting Republicans

What Should the Libertarian Party Do?

Bylaws Changes Endanger Our Party

Hinkle Condemns LNC Gang of Ten

Credentials Committee Obstructs Oregon Delegation

LPTN Denies Validity of Floor Fee — LPF Condemns Floor Fee

Ruwart: If \$94, Why Not \$9400?

2016 Convention Site Up in Air — Olsen: All Conventions on Memorial Day

LNC Meets in Orlando — Project Saratoga Payment

Johnson Spending 2012

Draft Resolution for the LNC

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