



In Memory
of John
Hospers.
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LP News

The Party of Principle™

July 2011

The Official Newspaper of the Libertarian Party

Volume 41, Issue 3

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LP Video Studio is Up and Running

by Arthur DiBianca

The Libertarian Party Headquarters is now producing videos at a rapid clip—some weeks releasing nearly one each business day. These videos are quickly uploaded to YouTube, and made available on our LP.org blog and Facebook page.

Several months ago, the LP asked our donors to provide funds for hiring video production personnel and procuring equipment. Our donors came through, and we hired experienced vid-

eographer Nigel Lyons. Nigel worked with Libertarian candidate Travis Irvine last year, making entertaining campaign videos (some of which ran on TV).

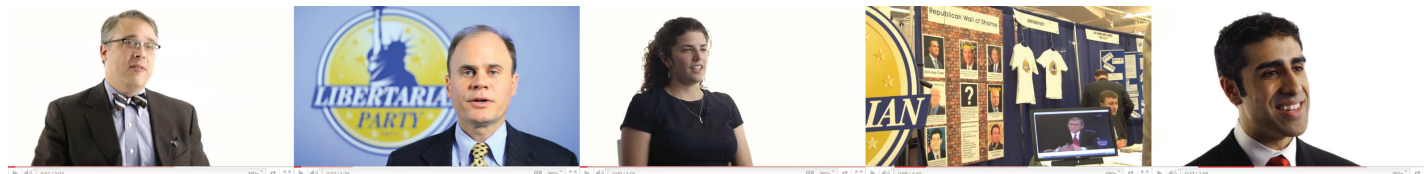
Nigel has set up a studio in the LP Headquarters in Washington, DC. He has already made lots of short videos with commentary from Libertarian volunteers on current issues. He has also produced some videos showing LP participation at events like CPAC and the Students for Liberty conference.

A picture of the studio is on the back page of this issue. Also, see the

story on page 5 by Arvin Vohra, one of our most active video commentators.

LP Executive Director Wes Benedict said, "While lots of people throughout the U.S. have produced videos on Libertarian topics, the videos we produce are branded with the LP logo and provide a link to our LP.org website. We're hopeful these videos will also inspire grassroots efforts to produce even more Libertarian videos—especially ones that link to our website!"

You can view all of our videos at <http://www.youtube.com/libertarianparty>.



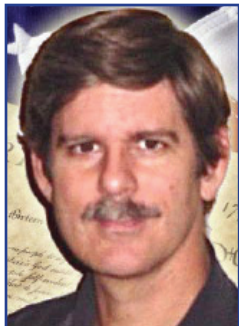
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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Best and Worst of Times

by Mark Hinkle



Dear LP members: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." So wrote Charles Dickens in *A Tale of Two Cities*.

"The best of times" is highlighted as follows:

A recent poll by CNN (for details, please see our blog at www.lp.org/blogs/daniel-wiener/poll-shows-america-is-becoming-more-libertarian) now shows that Americans are becoming more libertarian in their basic attitudes. This is very good news.

As we race towards the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Libertarian Party on December 11, it's good to know we've made a difference over the last 39 years of our existence.

As a party, we've accomplished what no other new political party has accomplished in my lifetime. We managed to get our presidential candidate on all 50 states (but not Barack Obama's "57 states") three times. This is especially significant due to the monumental hurdles placed on us by the Republicans and Democrats.

I hope we can achieve 50 states, plus DC and Guam, again in 2012—but once again, the Republicans and Democrats are placing significant obstacles in our way. Whether or not we can overcome these new batch of ballot access laws, depends on you.

We may overcome these challenges by petition drives and/or lawsuits. Both of which cost money and a lot of it.

"The worst of times" is that our fundraising to achieve these goals is lagging behind last year's fundraising pace. As you know, we don't get taxpayer money and, in

fact, would refuse it even if was offered. We don't accept stolen money on principle.

We can accomplish this goal with money, a dedicated and talented team in the LP DC office, the Libertarian National Committee, and our road warriors who collect petition signatures in all sorts of hostile weather all around the United States. We do have a very talented and capable LP office staff, a very experienced LNC, and a capable team of road warriors. What we don't have enough of is money. Cold hard cash.

That's where you, the members and donors of the Libertarian Party, come in. You're not only part of the team; you're the most important part of the team. You provide the funds that we use to build on our 39 years of achievement for the future.

Your funds are the fuel that keeps the Libertarian engine of liberty and freedom running. Without you, none of the past successes would have occurred and without your support now, our future is dim.

Given the trend of the American voter towards libertarianism, it would be sad indeed not to take advantage of this golden opportunity. Where voters can register as Libertarians, our numbers are up and every other political party is down.

People are hungry for an alternative. Perhaps even starving for an alternative.

But, will we be on the ballot?

Only you can answer that question. We can't guarantee success with your support, but we can guarantee failure without your support.

The choice is yours.

I am delighted to report that following the petition drive in Maryland and the subsequent lawsuit, the Maryland LP was successful in its recent drive to get ballot status. Your donations made that possible.

If you want to see more successes like that, please visit www.lp.org/contribute and vote with your hard earned cash.

Mark W.A. Hinkle

The following individuals became Lifetime Members of the Libertarian Party between April 1, 2011 and June 25, 2011.

Arnold Adicoff (CA)

David E. Blau (MA)

Robert Body (FL)

Matt Cerney (IL)

James Culbertson (WA)

Frank Iacono (NY)

Melanie H. Lyons (CA)

Christopher R. Maden (NH)

Guy C. McLendon (LA)

David Pizon (WI)

Diane Sawyer (CA)

Ralph Shuey (PA)

Daniel Stecewicz (NC)

Louis John Swallow (VA)

The Libertarian Party grants Lifetime Membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,000 during any twelve-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

LPNews

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The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

The Party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, and supporting Party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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ESSAYS OR
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Comments and Advice from Elected Libertarians

by Arthur DiBianca

So far this year we've seen about 10 Libertarians around the country run for nonpartisan elected offices and win. I asked them if they had any comments or advice to share with other Libertarians. Here are some comments from three of them.

Andrew Gray

Elected to Topeka, Kansas City Council on April 5

We were outspent 11 to 1...we received no endorsements and the status quo was working hard to keep the incumbent in office. It seems insurmountable odds but we realized what would make the difference. As Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Kansas I realized that real and viable change always begins on the local level. You may not be able to change what happens 1,500 miles away but you can start with your own backyard. To this end myself and five or six volunteers made a concerted effort to knock on every single door of about 9,000 voters. We knew if we could make that personal touch we could express how practical Libertarian values could be applied to their own "backyard." We showed we are a Party of individuals, but individuals united in a purpose.

There were two factors which we created a strong foundation for my getting elected. The first is the mantra that one should never confuse motion for action. Words are utterly meaningless if they aren't backed by action. This explains why the local LP group is so active and vocal in issues affecting this area. To make a difference one has to forgo the natural fear and get involved. This evolves to the second reason: I was a well-known Libertarian who got involved in local issues whether it be eminent domain abuses, the violation of property rights with mandated smoking bans, or keeping the right to open carry a firearm. We won some and we lost some, but the city leadership knew we were always there. After a while people began to realize that economic liberty and social freedom are interdependent on each other. You can't have one without the other because if you do it is still a form of tyranny. I would advise other candidates to never give up...never be afraid to give

the proverbial bloody nose or to receive one, because the established power is expecting you to shrug your shoulders and walk away. Why don't you prove them wrong?

Doug Marks

Elected to Carpentersville, Illinois Village Board of Trustees on April 5

In reality, I had no intention of running for a local office because I was worn out from the year-long push for Congress, but a couple of the local board members, one of whom I ran a slate with, pressed me into getting involved locally. They kept reminding me that this is where the rubber meets the road and the effect I can have locally can be profound, so after a few weeks I agreed to run.

Running at the local level was completely different than when I ran for Congress—the time window for exposure was only 90 days. It was a lot of leg work trying to connect with over 6,000 registered voters who routinely voted, but I truly enjoyed going door-to-door introducing myself, explaining my platform, and connecting with the people living in town. This was as grassroots as it gets. One of the real nice things about this election was that it was non-partisan. It was strictly about what I am going to try and accomplish vs. the other candidates, not about some party platform. This allowed me to get them to remove their partisan filter and see what I offered as an individual.

In this election there were three seats available with five candidates. Unlike many of the other candidates who relied on non-personal communication, my efforts were rewarded because I connected with the voters and won a seat on the village board, collecting the highest vote total of all the candidates elected.

If I were to give any advice on local elections, it would be to target the registered voters who routinely exercise their voting privileges. It can be done by obtaining the voters list with history from your local election clerk. This will save you from wasting a lot time, effort and advertising money for literature. I ran the whole campaign for just over \$1,000 which truly amazed me, and out of that only \$84 came out of my pocket.

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Ed Coleman's Libertarian Campaign for Indianapolis City-County Council

by George Edwards

Serious political campaigns require a lot of hard work. That's exactly what we are doing in Indianapolis to get Ed Coleman re-elected to the City-County council. One may come to the conclusion that getting re-elected would be easy in a district with no Democrat competition and a Republican opponent who doesn't have the best reputation with the town-folks. That would be an inaccurate assessment. However, with all of the obstacles that face our campaign we have a fighting chance.

Our campaign to get Ed Coleman re-elected has to first overcome the straight ticket voting option that allows voters to unthinkingly vote for only Republicans, Democrats, or Libertarians. Many Republicans must remember to vote Libertarian in at least the City-County council race. If anyone can overcome this obstacle it would be Ed Coleman himself, but we need a lot of support from people inside and outside of Indianapolis who believe that liberty is the best policy. Indeed, Ed's opponent believes that all he has to do is to place his name on the ballot to win. It's time to show him that this isn't the case.

The question must be asked; can Ed get Republicans to vote for him? The answer to that, of course, is YES! Many Republicans will vote against his opponent because he is part and parcel of the insider politics that Ed Coleman is fighting to end. Presently Ed Coleman is an at-large councilor but after switching parties he decided to run in his district against one Jack Sandlin, an unelected councilman appointed by party insiders after the seat was vacated, in order to concentrate his efforts in a single district rather than the entirety of Indianapolis.

Ed Coleman became a Libertarian when he was campaigning as a Republican for an at-large seat against Timothy McGuire, who now chairs the committee to re-elect Ed, and after becoming sick of being told how to vote on certain proposals. Ed is no longer told to rubber stamp proposals by party leaders and instead hosts a caucus, a discussion over upcoming proposals, before every council meeting that all voters are able to attend.

Ed has been attending as many events as possible from street fairs to pa-



Indianapolis Councilor Ed Coleman

rades and has been talking to voters at each event. The next step in the campaign process is to reach every voter directly at least once and to contact them indirectly through yardsigns, mailers, parades, booths, and Facebook. Because of the information barrier that a Libertarian has to overcome relative to a Republican or a Democrat this will be more costly than the campaigns where said parties only have to put their name on the ballot to gain a majority of their voters.

There will be derivative effects of a Libertarian win in the City-County council race which includes growing the Libertarian Party in Ed's district, in the city of Indianapolis, in the state of Indiana, and outward.

The second effect will be media attention that will be given to Ed Coleman and the Libertarian Party that will induce a realization, in the hearts of competing parties that the ideas of liberty and property rights are popular. No one likes it when property is stolen from them and it further irritates them when they don't even have a voice in the matter. Ed represents that voice for thousands of his constituents and for millions of people around the country as well.

I encourage those who read this to donate to support this effort to get Ed Coleman re-elected. Visit our website at www.EdColeman.org and get involved.

George Edwards is the Campaign Manager for Ed Coleman's campaign.

Libertarians at Rock Culture Con



by Cisse Spragins

Rock Culture Con is a rock concert, tattoo expo and fringe festival dedicated to bringing people in the rock industry together. This year, two events were held, one in Pensacola, Florida on March 12, and one in Kansas City, Missouri on April 23. All proceeds from the events go to charity, with this year's proceeds going to help build schools in Afghanistan.

"When the organizer contacted me about the event, it seemed like a great opportunity," said Sean O'Toole, chair of the Jackson County affiliate of the Missouri LP. "I thought it was great that he said he was a libertarian and he was only inviting the Libertarian Party. And he gave us a really low price on the booth."

I looked at the banners we had and thought, nothing here is really going to work. So I asked a graphic designer who is employed by my business and does some freelance design work for us to come up with

something appropriate. I don't think we'll use it at our next tea party event, but I really like the way it turned out! We also plan to use it at other events we do, such as HempFest and PrideFest. The colorful banner (shown) features, among other things, an image of Lady Liberty as depicted by famous tattoo artist Sailor Jerry.

Hundreds of people attended the all-day event. In addition to edgy rock bands and tattoo artists, features included a troop of roller derby women with "painted on" shirts, and all manner of exhibits, including an impressive bong selection from a glass blower in the booth next to the LP. Booth volunteers included 2010 U.S. Senate candidate Jonathan Dine, pink-haired firebrand activist and KC 2011 city council candidate Tracy Ward, and her husband Kriss. Gabe Grider, a local activist, and Jeff Caldwell, a Kansas LP 2010 state rep candidate, also helped out. "It was a very libertarian crowd with 72% scoring libertarian on the Quiz, with a bit of a left bias as would be expected," said O'Toole. "We had some great conversations. Definitely worthwhile."

Regulate Marijuana Like Wine

by Judge Jim Gray

In my public discussions about our nation's failed and hopeless policy of marijuana prohibition, I often say that California's Proposition 19 actually won the election last November, but we will simply be delaying implementation for two years.

I say that for two reasons. First, Prop. 19 was so successful in legitimizing the discussion about the failure of marijuana prohibition statewide, nationwide, and even worldwide, that people for the first time have actually started to think about

this as a legitimate issue. And that is really all we need, because what we are doing today simply doesn't stand the light of day.

Second, in some of my debates on Prop. 19, numbers of people, including several chiefs of police, stated publicly that they had no problem treating marijuana like alcohol, but they did not like some specific provisions of Prop. 19 and therefore opposed it. Many voters felt exactly the same way.

So since last November, quite a few people involved in marijuana drug law reform have been working to craft a new initiative for the November 2012 ballot that

Libertarian State Leadership Alliance "Special Meeting" to be held in Columbus, Ohio

by Kevin Knedler

Friday, August 19, will be the date of the LSLA "Special Meeting." The event will be held downtown at the Columbus, Ohio Hyatt Hotel on North High Street. This event is open to any Libertarian in a leadership position at the state or local level.

Because the original LSLA February event in Washington State was cancelled, many state chairs inquired about an alternative event to get the LSLA "back on track." After an online vote of approval by over 50% of the state chairs, it was decided to hold the event in Columbus, Ohio, one day ahead of the LNC meeting, also held at the downtown Hyatt.

Coordinating the event will be Ohio LP host and State Chair Kevin Knedler, Indiana LP State Chair Sam Goldstein, and Illinois LP State Chair Lupe Diaz.

This will be a one-day event and heavily focused on three areas:

- Short meeting to elect new LSLA officers and change by-law to allow for a Vice-Chair position
- Focus on building a state and local organization
- Focus on building leadership and leadership qualities

Speakers will be from present and former leadership of the state parties and

LNC. The meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. sharp on Friday, August 19. There will be a lunch break and box lunches will be brought in for those that register by August 1. Registration cost will be \$35 per person.

Although we finish at 5:30 that day, there will be a free socializer at 6:00 p.m. with the LNC and LP national staff members. It will conclude at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, the LNC will be meeting and one of the highlights will be the decision on the 2014 national convention. Saturday night the LNC, some LSLA attendees, and members of the Ohio LP will be attending a AAA baseball game between the Columbus Clippers (Indians) and the Buffalo Bisons (NY Mets).

The LNC will wrap up its meeting at the Hyatt on Sunday, August 21.

For more information and registration, please go to the web site for LSLA: <http://LSLA.org/>

Conference Details:

- Date: Friday, August 19th, 2011
- Place: Downtown Columbus Hyatt, Columbus, Ohio
- Time 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Cost: \$35 per person

addresses those past concerns. It is entitled the "Regulate Marijuana Like Wine Act of 2012." You can see the full text of its provisions for yourself at www.RegulateMarijuanaLikeWine.com, but its basic provisions are as follows:

All California laws that prohibit marijuana possession, use, sales, distribution, cultivation, etc. by people who are 21 years of age and older would be repealed, except for those pertaining to driving a motor vehicle under the influence of marijuana; using or being impaired by marijuana in public or in the workplace; the use, possession, sales, etc. of marijuana by people un-

der the age of 21; providing, transferring or selling marijuana to a person under the age of 21; or any laws or regulations regarding medical marijuana as set forth by Proposition 215 and its related statutes. All of those laws and regulations would expressly remain in effect.

The proposed initiative then breaks down what we now call marijuana into two classifications. The first is marijuana with a THC or "potency" level of 0.1 percent or higher, which would be governed by regulations, taxes and fees that use the

continued on page 15...

Getting Seen: The LP's New Focus on Video

by Arvin Vohra

A decade ago, it was very difficult for the Libertarian Party to present video messages to a large number of viewers. Video production was more expensive, and television advertising rates were often prohibitive. Today, however, thanks to Facebook, YouTube, and LP videographer Nigel Lyons, regular production and distribution of videos is feasible for us.

Traditional media was all about buying power—whoever could buy the most ads was able to transmit their message the most. Online social media, however, is about how interesting the message is—the better the content of the video, the more people share it. Nigel and I have begun experimenting to determine what works the best for internet video. If you visit the LP Facebook page, you have probably seen some of the short, issue-based videos featuring me, candidate Mark Grannis, and others. Every time one of those videos goes out, within 24 hours we can see how often people are sharing it on Facebook. As we try different styles and content over the next months, we will be able to refine our methods and use the power of social media to grow our reach.

The short, “talking heads”-type videos are only the beginning of the process. Each week, Libertarians are coming up with great video ideas, and we are planning them out as fast as we can. If you keep monitoring the LP Facebook page or the LP.org blog, you should be seeing a variety of interesting videos in the coming months.

Additionally, as traditional media advertising rates continue to fall, we will be putting more ads on television as well. But the great thing is that before we spend a cent on TV ads, we will already know what ads work. We already have statistics from Facebook and YouTube about how often our videos are shared, and the sample size is huge. We may not have the budget to blanket the airwaves with our ads, but we can put out a smaller number of more interesting ads, and still have a powerful impact.

Arvin Vohra was a 2010 Libertarian candidate for Maryland House of Delegates.



Libertarian Party interns Scott Herrmann, Ryan Sabot, Michael Snook, and Jose Nino.

Meet the Summer 2011 LP Interns

by Arthur DiBianca

Each summer, the LP invites current and recent students to intern with us at LP Headquarters. Interns learn about our political and operational processes, and help us with a variety of creative and administrative tasks. Four interns have been accepted into the program this summer. We invited them to introduce themselves to you.

Scott Herrmann

My name is Scott Herrmann and I am a summer intern at the LP. I hail from Raleigh, North Carolina and I am an undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where I am studying philosophy. At UNCW, I am involved with the UNCW Libertarians club, and also with the campaign of Joshua Fulton, a local politician who is running for City Council. My interests include social media and videography, and I hope to assist the LP in using these media to help spread the Libertarian message.

Ryan Sabot

My name is Ryan Sabot and I am

attending American University, pursuing a double major in political science and international studies. I have long been interested in politics and swayed between both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party before finding out that I really didn't fully agree with either party's philosophies. I liked how the Democratic Party was rather socially liberal, but I thought that some subjects, such as same-sex marriage and abortion, shouldn't even be touched upon by the government. I liked the Republican Party's economic policies to an extent, such as their belief in lowering taxes, but I thought that the only way for government to actually spend less would be for it to drastically reduce its size. The Libertarian Party seemed to combine the “best of both worlds,” and as I continued to learn more about the party and its beliefs I realized how well it fit me. I see an extremely bright future for the party and I am excited to be working with it.

Michael Snook

My name is Michael Snook and I am 25 years old. I am originally from Detroit, Michigan but have been liv-

ing out on the East Coast for about a year now. I graduated from Northern Michigan University in 2009, where I majored in both English literature and political science. I enjoy reading anything political (I am a bit of news junkie), and of course fighting for the cause of liberty.

Jose Nino

My name is Jose Nino and I am a summer intern for the Libertarian Party. I reside in Dallas, Texas and I am currently attending the University of Texas at Austin, where I am double majoring in government and history. At UT, I will be president of Libertarian Longhorns/Young Americans for Liberty this upcoming semester. I also volunteer with other organizations, such as the Travis County Libertarian Party and Texans for Accountable Government. My interests include historical analysis and social media, and I look forward to using my expertise to help the LP spread the message of liberty.

If you are interested in an internship with the LP, please send your resume and cover letter to interns@lp.org.

Have You Been Affected by the Patriot Act? Facebook Fans Respond

by Wes Benedict

Radio talk show host Sue Wylie, with News Talk 590 AM WVLK in Lexington, Kentucky, recently had me as a guest on her show in response to a recent Libertarian Party press release calling for repeal of the Patriot Act.

The theme “If you’re not doing anything wrong, what do you have to worry about?” popped up. For that reason I thought it would be interesting to reprint Harry Browne’s 2002 article, “If you aren’t guilty, what are you afraid of?” (Found on page 7.)

Ms. Wylie was clearly sympathetic to the Patriot Act, claiming she had not experienced any inconveniences, and asked me and the callers to point out any losses of freedoms or inconveniences we had experienced.

I pointed out a few obvious items like the TSA and warrantless wiretaps. But, not feeling like I had enough examples to share, I sought feedback from our Facebook fan page, asking “Have you lost any freedoms since 9/11? How has the Patriot Act and war on terror affected your daily life?”

Here are some responses our Facebook fans gave us:

Vince - I can’t go to Mexico or Canada without a passport. I can’t get on a plane without taking my shoes off. I have to arrive at the terminal over 2 hours early just to catch my flight. They took the lockers out of the mall so I have to carry my coat in the winter!

Bobby - Anxiety problems since I served in Afghanistan, and the government managed to learn everything about everyone (not terrorists) since the patriot act started.

Reid - By being afraid to answer questions like this because of government monitoring of free speech via warrantless wiretaps. Once you give authority for one perceived threat to security, you open it to all others. People willing to accept this should heed the words of Martin Niemöller (1892–1984)—the famous quote as to “First they came...”—which concludes with that statement that by the time they came for me, there was no one left to stand up against it.

Leviathan - NY state troopers, county sheriffs and municipal police departments



have been given access to every single piece of information about you and their cars are equipped with plate scanners. Just driving casually by a LE officer will bring up your personal information on their computers. This is allowed because of the Patriot Act and is supposed to keep us safe, instead it’s allowed the police to harass and detain people with impunity even when they aren’t doing anything wrong.

Logan - The obvious ones aside, I’m ashamed of my fellow American citizens becoming so emotionally charged that they no longer respect each other or foreigners, their rights, and their liberty. Our constitution wasn’t written only to apply to Americans, it is a document meant to enforce the natural rights of man, a pre-existing condition.

John - I’ve lost loved ones in the war on terror. That’s the worst thing I’ve lost since 9/11.

Jessica - It’s become nearly impossible to join the mile high club post-9/11.

Daniel - The terrorists won the war on terror. The US is no longer a free country. There is no right enumerated in the US Constitution that has not been seriously curtailed. Your 4th amendment right no longer exists at an Airport, and try complaining about it and see how far your 1st Amendment right to free speech gets you. Thanks Bush and Obama. I fear you and your government more than I ever feared UBL!

Thomas - every citizens has been forced to sacrifice since 9-11, not only personal freedom but government services as our money was being spent on war....it seems awfully coincidental that the government was looking for a way to completely eliminate any sort of privacy or rights for drug

users and then all of a sudden the create the Patriot Act saying it will only apply to terrorists and terrorism, but lo and behold most of the information and arrests that have occurred because of the Patriot Act, were, hush my mouth, illegal drug cases.... imagine that.

Christopher - F.E.A.R = False Evidence Appearing Real

Ray - we may never know cuz most of the time we are totally unaware when our information is searched in cyberspace.

Bill - The biggest change I see is that whenever you try to question your government or their motivations, you are ostracized and told that you’re unpatriotic. After Bin Laden’s capture, I questioned the disposal of the body. A legitimate question, I think. And my own wife asked me whose side I was on! Brainwashing sucks.

Philip - Aside from my money and dignity... I’m prohibited from photographing bridges and alike. Annoying, as my photographic style would often incorporate these types of things.

Dennis -TSA. TSA. TSA..... There is way more to the Patriot Act than just the TSA. It permanently suspends the Constitution. I say permanently because I see no end to the Act. Congress just keeps extending it and now wants to make the extension for ten years. Some (or perhaps all) of us will never see the end of it. The Act makes the president a military dictator at will. They have also repealed the Posse Comitatus Act back in 2007. The military will now start acting as super police with no Constitutional restrictions. They have already started stopping people and searching their cars on public streets. This too is coming to your neighborhood. Warrantless Home searches will be next. No Constitution

means no second amendment; troops will be searching homes and taking firearms. If that all sounds crazy to you, then you have not been paying attention. They are already doing it. Ask the folks in New Orleans about it. 80 year old women were beaten in their homes and arrested by military because they refused to give up their weapons and right to self-defense (important in New Orleans). I’m sorry, but the TSA is just the tip of a huge iceberg.

Jason - I don’t even bother to cross the border to Canada anymore and I used to go to Montreal frequently. It’s too much hassle and worry to re-enter the United States. :(

Larry - I’m a retired Banker and I can tell you this is a 16 leg monster! The reporting requirements alone represent an invasion to personal liberty not to mention the huge costs involved for administrative requirements!

Kathy - Americans used to roar like lions for liberty, now they bleat like sheep for security.

Rand - You don’t get it, do you Lee [earlier commenter]? Every little restriction on your ability to peacefully live your life without some govt bureaucrat telling you what to do is a loss of freedom. If I used to be able to buy a ticket and just walk up to the gate, but now, because of govt mandates, now have to leave any potential weapons at home, present all the contents of my pockets, wallets, and carry-ons for inspection, and have my person scanned and groped before they’ll even let me near my gate, that’s a loss of freedom. If I have to accept ObamaCare when there are private alternatives that will do the job better, that’s a loss of my freedom. Any govt mandate of my peaceful behavior, from mandatory seatbelt use to drug use laws to my inability to buy insurance across state lines represents a loss of my freedom. When you’re not educated (by design) to know what freedom is, it’s easy to say that you haven’t lost any freedoms. I can remember life in the 1950s, and I can tell you that Americans have suffered a huge loss in their freedoms. Most of us are like the frogs swimming in the pot of heated water. Unless we retain the long-term memory so that we can remember what it was like, we happily swim around in the gradually-warming water, until the water starts boiling and we suddenly realize our freedom is dead.

'If You Aren't Guilty, What Are You Afraid Of?'

by Harry Browne

Originally published in 2002

The Homeland Security bill is now law—following in the footsteps of all the new government intrusions of the past 14 months. And as concerns are raised about the new powers of the government, we continue to hear the familiar refrain, “If you aren’t guilty, you have nothing to fear. These restrictions are necessary to catch terrorists, but they won’t hurt innocent people.”

Sure.

The well-known phrase, “I’m from the government and I’m here to help you,” could easily be reworded to read, “I’m from Congress and this program will turn out exactly as we promise it will.”

Government has failed to educate our children properly, it has made a mess of our health-care system, it can’t balance its budget, it can’t keep its spending in line, it can’t keep drugs out of its own prisons—but we’re assured that it will run a squeaky-clean homeland security program.

It’s bad enough that government wastes so much of our money, but it’s even worse that almost anyone could wind up in prison—even someone who has committed no act of violence against anyone else. Look at the hundreds of thousands of pot-smokers who took seriously the statement that “a woman [or man] has a right to control his own body.”

The guilty and the innocent

Why should we think the so-called War on Terrorism will be conducted with more regard for individual rights than anything the government has done up to now?

And yet, no matter how bad the government’s record, whenever Congress passes a new piece of draconian legislation, we’re assured that only the guilty will be hurt by these laws.

If only that were so. The truth is that innocence is no protection against government agencies that have the power to do what they think best—or against a government agent hoping for promotion and willing to do whatever he has to do in order to get it.

In fact, it is almost always the innocent—not the guilty—who suffer most from government’s intrusions.

Tell the most unprejudiced businessman he has nothing to fear from the piles of forms he must file to prove he doesn’t discriminate.

Tell a homeowner he has nothing to fear when his property is seized by the government in a mistaken—or contrived—drug raid.

Tell a taxpayer he has nothing to fear when the IRS drags him into a “taxpayer compliance” audit that eats up a week of his life, costs him thousands of dollars in accounting fees, and threatens him with unbearable penalties.

Being innocent doesn’t allow you

to ignore the government’s demands for reports—or to say “No, thanks” when a government agent wants to search your records, your place of business, or your home—or to refuse to observe regulations that were aimed at the guilty, not you.

How laws go wrong

How many times have we seen the following pattern?

The press and politicians demand that something be done about violent crime, terrorist acts, drug dealing, gun deaths, tax evasion, or whatever is the Urgent Concern Of The Month.

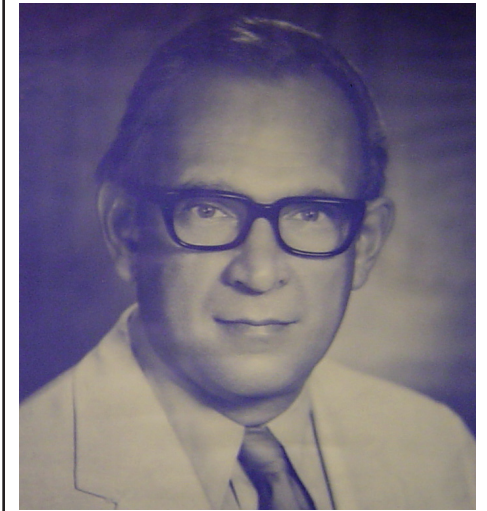
A tough new take-no-prisoners law or policy is put into place.

The guilty make it their business to understand whatever new policy might affect them—and they take steps to sidestep the inspections and background checks, and to keep their property out of reach of asset forfeiture laws. The innocent know little about such laws—having been told they have nothing to fear—and are surprised and helpless when some zealous law-enforcement agency, looking to pad its arrest and prosecution records, moves in on them.

After the dust settles, the initial “problem” continues unabated, because the guilty have slipped through the net. But the innocent are left burdened with new chores, expenses, and dangers. If

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John Hospers, First Libertarian Presidential Nominee, Dies at 93



by Wes Benedict

On June 12, 2011, John Hospers, the Libertarian Party’s first presidential nominee in 1972, died in Los Angeles, California at the age of 93.

Hospers became the Libertarian Party’s first nominee for U.S. President at its first national convention in Colorado on June 18, 1972. Hospers and his running mate, Tonie Nathan, each received one electoral vote in the 1972 election from Roger MacBride, a renegade elector in Virginia.

Hospers was born and raised in Pella, a town near the Iowa state capital, Des Moines, inhabited chiefly by descendants of émigrés from Holland in the early nineteenth century. He became a professor of philosophy and taught at several universities, including the University of Southern California.

While teaching at Brooklyn College in 1960 he became acquainted with Ayn Rand, with whom he met at regular intervals to discuss various aspects of philosophy and world affairs. He wrote about his friendship with her in various articles, available now on his website: JohnHospers.com.

In 1971, Hospers wrote the book *Libertarianism - A Political Philosophy for Tomorrow*, which described the libertarian political and economic philosophy.

Libertarian Party Chair Mark Hinkle said, “I’ve been involved with the Libertarian Party since voting for John Hospers for president in 1972. Dr. Hospers was very influential in the formative days of our party, and we will miss him.”

Why Run as a Third-Party Candidate?

by Julie Fox

The question of why I choose to run as a third-party candidate is one that comes up often in political discussions. Running in partisan races as a third-party candidate is anything but easy. Some consider it a waste of time. Some will try to convince you to run as a major-party candidate. I have been asked to run as a Republican and also as a Democrat. A number of my fellow Campaign for Liberty members have asked me why I don’t run as a Republican, as many of them have. A couple of Libertarian friends have asked my advice on running as a Republican.

In the 18 years that I have been involved in politics, I have run for public of-

fice four times, twice in local non-partisan races and twice in statewide partisan races as a Libertarian. I have never run as a major-party candidate and it is highly unlikely that I ever will. Why I choose not to do so is something I have considered and explained to others extensively. I am happy to have the opportunity to put those thoughts on paper today.

So why run as a third-party candidate when it is such an uphill battle?

The main factor in my decision to run as a third-party candidate is my sense of political identity. I am 100% Libertarian. I am not conservative or liberal by any definition, and therefore I shouldn’t—and don’t—represent myself as one. This is a matter of principle to me.

Victory does not always come in the

form of election results. While the Socialist Party lost power beginning in the 1930s, it continues to have an influence on policies in our country today. Libertarian ideas such as medical savings accounts have come into practice regardless of results at the polls.

As a Libertarian activist, I look at victory in terms of increments. As we achieve more positive name recognition our candidates receive more votes. As we receive more votes, we can achieve equal ballot status with major-party candidates, eliminating a major hurdle and allowing candidates to make further strides forward in their goal of limited government.

The more candidates run for office

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I NEED YOUR HELP BOOSTING NATIONAL and STATE FUNDRAISING!

Dear Friend of Liberty,

I've got an idea to help fundraising at the state level.

But first, I'm sorry to say, we're running behind budget on fundraising here at national headquarters. I hope you'll return a generous \$5,000 donation, \$200, \$50, or whatever you can today, in the envelope that came with this copy of LP News.

The LNC set a budget of \$1,324,500 in revenue for 2011. And as of the end of May, we were \$41,175 behind where we needed to be. June wasn't any better!

I hope you'll help out so we can fund all of our ballot access, membership recruitment, and other efforts.

Now, let me tell you about my state party fundraising idea.

I was not born a fundraiser. My background is not in sales. In fact, some of you may know that I have a mechanical engineering degree!

When I was first hired by the Texas LP back in 2004, and tasked with raising funds, I don't mind telling you, I was intimidated!

I postponed, procrastinated, and came up with all kinds of excuses to avoid writing my first fundraising letter. That was until my frustrated boss, Chairman Patrick Dixon, called and said, "You'd better get a fundraising letter out right away or else!"

Four days later I had completely written from scratch, got approved, printed, stuffed, stamped, and delivered to the post office two different versions of a letter -- 1,199 copies total.

Actually, I only wrote one of the two letters because I was chicken and let someone else write the other one.

Turns out, both letters did great and raised over \$3,605 plus \$245 in new monthly pledgers! (*New executive director breathed big sigh of relief because his job was on the line! You're probably a volunteer so NO PRESSURE -- lucky you!*)

Lesson 1 for all you new fundraisers: Just do it! Right now!

Lesson 2: Keep it simple.

Forget using bulk mail permits, window envelopes, mail merge, and all that complicated stuff for your first letter. Just get it done! Use regular First Class stamps. Write it on your computer and print it out in black and white, or have a copy center photocopy it. If you can figure out how to print addresses onto envelopes, do that. Otherwise, print labels and stick them on, or hand address them if you're just going to send 100 letters or so.

Lesson 3: Copy other people's letters.

That's what I started out doing. Not verbatim, but I copied the style and format of the national LP plus what the LP Texas had sent in the past.

Lesson 4: Don't get bogged down trying to think of the perfect letter.

Crank something out! Keep it real and simple, especially the first one. The most important thing to do is actually ask the reader to make a donation!

Better yet, use the template I posted online at <http://www.lp.org/campaign-resources/sample-letter>. It should just take you 45 minutes to make them ready for your own state.

If you have a magnifying glass, perhaps you can read the templates right here.

Letter page 1	Letter page 2	Reply form	Envelopes

Lesson 5: Who to send it to.

Send it to people who are currently dues-paying

Continued on the next page ...

I NEED YOUR HELP BOOSTING NATIONAL and STATE FUNDRAISING!

members to the national Libertarian Party. We send membership lists to the state parties monthly. Use the ones marked "Active."

Lapsed members, and people who have never donated, are far less likely to donate to you.

Lesson 6: Getting permission from your state party.

It always helps you to get permission if you offer to personally help fund it and to do the work yourself.

Lesson 7: Cash, check, or charge?

If you're not already set up to process credit cards, skip it for now. Just ask people to mail checks. Keep it simple.

Lesson 8: No graphics please.

Mr. Eberle of the Bruce W. Eberle & Associates direct-mail fundraising agency says one of the most common flaws with direct mail is overuse of graphics.

I say put a logo on the envelope and page one of the letter if it's convenient for you. Otherwise, no graphics at all!

Personally sign each letter in blue ink if you have time. Otherwise, scan and print your signature electronically (in black, since you're printing this whole thing in black & white).

Lesson 9: You're not a beggar! You're a hero!

Jerold Panas, author of Asking: A 59-Minute Guide to Everything Board Members, Volunteers, and Staff Must Know to Secure a Gift, writes:

"Congratulations. You're among the greatest and the most privileged. You're about to undertake what George Bernard Shaw called, 'The joy of being used for a purpose recognized by all as a mighty one.' ... Your task is vital because without your help your organization couldn't exist."

People like to donate. They know you're not perfect. They appreciate your effort. Give them the joy of helping you!

Lesson 10: Use Courier font, size 12.

Everybody does it. Your donors are used to it. Experts recommend it. Also underline like crazy if you want to.

Lesson 11: Be honest and careful with predictions.

One of the reasons I've raised money successfully year after year is that I'm optimistic, yet honest and realistic. I'm in this for the long haul and I don't want to make promises I can't keep. The LP has been around for 40 years. Our best donors have been around for many years, they are sophisticated, and they know what's what.

Lesson 12: Fundraising letters are newsletters too!

I learned from Richard Viguerie, a direct mail guru, that fundraising letters aren't just for raising money. They are newsletters, advertising, and much more. Even if a recipient doesn't donate, and even if your letter just breaks even, that letter still benefits the party in many ways.

SPECIAL NOTE: I, Wes Benedict, am making a challenge offer right here! I'll contribute \$50 to the first ten states in 2011 that snail mail a letter to at least 100 people and include me at my home address on your mailing list. That should cover the cost of First Class postage for 100 letters. That's \$500 out of my own pocket I'm willing to contribute. (That's for state parties only, not counties or candidates.) Texas is excluded from this offer because I already contribute \$10 per month to the LP Texas. My mailing address is: Wes Benedict, 2400 Virginia Ave NW #C1125, Washington, DC 20037. Can't wait to get your state's letter!

Sincerely,



Wes Benedict
Executive Director

P.S. Our national headquarters has fallen behind budget. Please help -- please send a donation today.

AFFILIATE News And Events

Affiliate news and events are provided to LP News by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Arkansas

Officially on the Ballot

The Libertarian Party of Arkansas (LPAR) is officially a recognized political party for the first time in history and will now be able to run candidates for office in 2012.

Last month the party submitted signatures to the Secretary of State's office in order to fulfill the requirement of collecting at least 10,000 valid signatures from registered voters in the state. According to Martha Adcock at the Secretary of State's office, more than 12,000 of the 16,000 submitted signatures were valid. This count was confirmed by an independent auditor.

The party placed presidential candidates on the ballot for more than 30 years but never met the more difficult requirement to run candidates for other offices. The LPAR's success marks the first time in recent history that a third party has been able to run a partisan candidate for office in all 50 states for offices other than the president.

"This achievement is monumental for Arkansans who want more choice on their ballot," said LPAR Chairman Rodger Paxton of Marion. "Now we won't have to choose between big government and bigger government, but can vote for minimum government and maximum freedom."

Libertarians advocate lower taxes, more personal freedom and less government intervention.

"In the voting booth, Arkansans will now be able to say that we want the government out of our pockets, out of our businesses, out of our homes and out of our personal lives," said Paxton. "We are honored to have spent the last year working towards ballot access to give Arkansans the chance to tell the government to 'back off'."

The LPAR is now seeking candidates to run for office in 2012. "Whether running for city council or congress, we want liberty-loving Arkansans to take advantage of our efforts and represent true freedom on the ballot," says LPAR Vice Chairman David Pangrac of Van Buren.

If the Libertarian presidential nomi-

nee earns three percent of the vote in the 2012 election, the party will automatically retain ballot access for 2014. If less than three percent is earned, the party will have to again submit 10,000 signatures to the Secretary of State's office for verification, a process that cost the LPAR almost \$40,000. In 2010 the Libertarian presidential candidate Bob Barr received 0.44 percent of the vote.

In a statement given on Thursday, Libertarian National Committee Executive Director Wes Benedict said: "This is an historic achievement. We are especially proud of the LPAR for accomplishing this. And, the icing on the cake, from my perspective, is that they did this without funding from our national headquarters! A special thanks goes out to our new state chairman, Rodger Paxton, for leading this effort towards a successful conclusion. Based on this success, we're expecting great things from the LPAR. The people of Arkansas, who love liberty, will have a new voice at the table."

The Green Party of Arkansas is suing the state over the requirements to retain ballot access, which they feel are cumbersome. At this time, no other third party in Arkansas has achieved the requirements to run candidates in 2012.

California

Annual Convention Sets Party's Standard

Members and friends gathered at Harrah's Resort and Casino in Stateline, Nevada, next to South Lake Tahoe, California, over the April 8-10 weekend to enjoy some very special movies, challenging business sessions, captivating speakers, glorious natural surroundings, delicious food and drink, casino games galore, a fund raising poker tournament, and the usual lively liberty-focused discussion.

Delegates met Friday afternoon for the Bylaws Committee and for the Platform Committee meetings to decide revisions to those two documents. Registration opened at 5 p.m. but for only two hours, at which time Chairman Kevin Takenaga conducted a first-timers' orientation meeting.

As soon as the orientation ended, delegates and convention visitors walked

to the Horizon Casino Resort's Hollywood Cinema to enjoy the inspiring double bill of *The American Dream* and an exclusive preview of *Atlas Shrugged, Part I*. John Orland, the post-production manager for *Atlas Shrugged* was also at the special screening.

Beginning at Saturday morning's breakfast, delegates and friends were treated to the speakers and presentations interspersed among business sessions. Immigration lawyer Carlos Rodriguez's "Immigration, Latinos & Liberty: An Opportunity Squandered." Author and journalist Steven Greenhut's "How the GOP is Heading Toward Irrelevancy." Retired Judge James Gray's "It's About Time: Owning the Marijuana Regulate and Tax Initiative of 2012." Movie writing-directing duo Tad Lumpkin and Harold Uhl's question and answer session about their half-hour animated feature *The American Dream*. John Stagliano addressed the Saturday evening banquet audience about "My Victory in Court: a First Amendment Triumph."

After the banquet, our first Texas Hold 'em poker tournament was held. Third, second, and first place winners were Edward Bowers, Michael Warnken, and Melisse Lusin. Sunday morning early risers were treated to ballot access expert Richard Winger's informed assessment of "What's New in the Fight to Keep Us On the Ballot." Steve Kubby roused the lunch audience with his presentation of "Liberty, Leadership, and Libertarianism."

Delegates spent much of the rest of the day electing its leadership for the ensuing years, including our officers and At-large representatives: Chairman, Kevin Takenaga; Northern Vice Chairman, C. Michael Pickens; Southern Vice Chairman, Boomer Shannon; Treasurer, Brian Darby; Secretary, Lauren Hilton. At-large Representatives elected include Gale Morgan, Carlos Rodriguez, Armando Romero, Starchild, Rich Vanier, and Nancy Zardeneta. First Alternate is Brian Andresen and Second Alternate is Mike Paster.

The new Executive Committee met immediately following the convention's close.

Indiana

Sam Goldstein Re-Elected as Chairman

On April 30, Libertarians from around Indiana gathered to elect their leadership for the next two

years. Delegates have reelected Sam Goldstein as the chair of the state's largest third party. Jerry Titus of Howard County was elected to serve as Vice Chair, replacing Dan Drexler of LaPorte County. Dale Wedel of Hendricks County was reelected as the state party's treasurer, and John Schick of Porter County will remain as the party's secretary. Chris Spangle also remains as the Executive Director.

"I want to thank the convention delegates for their support in electing me to serve a second term as the Chair of the LPIN," said Sam Goldstein. "The past two years have seen great progress in the ability of our candidates to compete with the old parties at all levels from U.S. Senate to local town councils and to have an impact well beyond expectations. With the support of our new vice chair, Jerry Titus and the continued efforts of reelected treasurer, Dale Wedel and secretary, John Schick and the rest of the central committee, I look forward to this year's municipal elections and the 2012 state and national election with the hope of LPIN victories around the state."

"I am greatly honored to have been selected as the new vice chair," said Jerry Titus. "I am most grateful for the opportunity to help take our party to the next level. I look forward to working with the State Central Committee, and libertarians throughout the state, to continue building our party. I'm very excited to introduce some ideas and projects I've been working on for awhile that dovetail perfectly with my new job. I will be working to develop a program I call RELATE that defines and organizes the tasks needed to build a party. I will be rolling out more information on RELATE in the week or so, and have already begun recruiting members for our operational focus committees. Again, it's a great honor to have been elected, and I promise to do my best."

Leadership for the State Central Committee was also selected this weekend to serve a one-year term. The SCC is the governing body of the party. The members are as follows: 1st District: Beth Duensing, Lake County; 2nd District: Doug Barnes, LaPorte County; 3rd District: Doug Horner, Allen County; 4th District: Jim Rainwater, Boone County; 5th District: Rob Place, Hamilton County; 6th District: Jeremiah Morrell, Henry County; 7th District: Josh Featherstone, Marion County; 8th District: Vacant; 9th District: Greg Hertzsch, Clark County.

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Advice

...continued from page 3

Danny de Gracia, II

Elected to Honolulu, Hawaii Waipahu Neighborhood Board on May 20

Aloha fellow Libertarians and dearest friends! As both a new member of the LP and Hawaii's newest and only elected Libertarian, it is my great joy to report to you that a new lamp has been lit for the cause of freedom here in the islands. Our victory is minor in comparison to the challenges that face us, but our opportunity to change hearts and dismantle tyranny has never been greater than it is now.

Many Libertarians have become discouraged over the years because it seems like we are so small and those we contend against are so great, but I am here to tell you that even a tiny pebble caught in the engine gears of a giant bulldozer can stop the entire machine. America needs your message; America needs you. Keep talking to your neighbors. Keep running for office. Don't be discouraged. We can show the world once more that the miracle of liberty is the ability to frequently accomplish the impossible.

I am humbled by the passion, character and unique diversity of the LP's members and honored to be a part of something so special. If I can be of any service or assistance to you, please feel free to contact me at any time. God bless you and good luck, LP!

Guilt

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they're lucky, they suffer only from having more reports to file, less privacy, reduced access to products and services, higher costs, heavier taxes, and a new set of penalties for those who shirk their duty to fight in the War On _____ (fill in the blank). But those who aren't so lucky may wind up in prison—as have thousands of non-drug-using individuals who were convicted on drug charges.

Needless to say, the ineffectual law is never repealed. When government force is used to solve social problems, we all suffer and nothing good is ever achieved. But coercion is wondrously effective at harming the innocent. All our lives are diminished.

Even worse, every year, a few million innocent people suffer special burdens—greater than those the government places on all of us. The dismantling of the Bill of Rights allows the government to disrupt their lives, confiscate their property, or even kill them—even though they've committed no crimes.

I hope you never become one of them. But no one can guarantee that.

Harry Browne was an American free-market Libertarian writer and the Libertarian Party's 1996 & 2000 candidate for President of the United States. You can read more of his articles at HarryBrowne.org. This article was re-printed with permission from WorldNetDaily.com.

LNC Meets in Alexandria

by Wes Benedict

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met April 16-17, 2011 in Alexandria, Virginia, just outside of Washington, DC.

The LNC voted to fill two at-large vacancies. They chose Rebecca Sink-Burris of Indiana, a former regional LNC member and recent U.S. Senate candidate, and Randy Eshelman of Nebraska, who had been a regional alternate.

A list of all of the current LNC members can be found here: <http://LP.org/leadership>. Minutes from LNC meetings going back as far as 2004 are posted here: <http://LP.org/lnc-meeting->

archives. The next LNC meeting will be August 20-21 at the Chestnut Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio. Telephone (614) 463-1234.

Typically, the official business meeting runs from about 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, plus 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. However, the schedule is subject to change, and it is often amended during the course of the meeting.

LNC meetings are open to LP members. Local Libertarians, LNC members, and some out-of-town Libertarians often gather for both organized and informal social events on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Affiliate News

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Missouri

Annual Convention

The Annual Convention and State Committee meeting took place on May 21 in the St. Louis area. Speakers included representatives from the Tenth Amendment Center and NORML USA, as well as two speakers from the Show-Me Institute discussing the damaging effects of earnings taxes, and asset forfeiture abuse. Sessions on marketing, CiviCRM, local activism and MEC compliance also took place. Updates on a pending eminent domain I&R petition were also reported. Cisse Spragins and Mike Bozarth were re-elected Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, while Greg Arrigo and Sean O'Toole were elected Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

In other news, Mark Jones of Springfield was appointed to the Springfield Personnel Board, while Julie Stone was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Village of Riverview in St. Louis. Former City Councilman Mike Bozarth was appointed to the TIF Commission in St. Joseph.

New Jersey

Party Has Loitering Ordinances Repealed

In 1979, the state of NJ adopted a Code of Criminal Justice. When this code was enacted the legislature specifically excluded vagrancy and loitering as an offense. In *State v. Crawley* (1982) the court held that the legislature at the time was concerned that these offenses have "long suffered from constitutional infirmity and have been criticized as inviting official harassment and discriminatory enforcement." However the NJLP has found that many towns in New Jersey still have and enforce these laws.

Three years ago the New Jersey Libertarian Party formed a Pre-empted Ordinance Repeal Project whose goal was to find towns who have these laws and lobby for their repeal. May Brick Township re-

pealed their loitering ordinance as a result of a letter from the project.

The Brick Patch quotes the Project's Chairman, John Paff: "'The ordinances are clearly unenforceable, and they confuse people—including the police,' Paff said, explaining that a person mistakenly arrested or ticketed for loitering could turn and sue the township. 'The laws against loitering were so often abused or misunderstood. It used to be just too easy to pick on certain groups.'"

The project has had loitering ordinances repealed in 33 towns so far. For more information see <http://njlp.org/loitering>.

Ohio

Still Fighting for Access to the Ballot

Ohio, like many other states, has been fighting some ballot access issues. The good news is that most of what is trying to be done, mostly by Republicans, has already been ruled unconstitutional. The bad news is that if it passes we will still be forced to get an injunction and sue the State, again, to keep reasonable access available to the LPO. We are working with many of the Tea Party groups around Ohio and will have a booth at a large convention in Columbus the weekend of the 4th.

Texas

Taking advantage of voter list

Thanks to a generous contribution by a long-time Texas Libertarian, LP Texas has obtained the list of all registered voters in Texas. With this list we intend on sending outreach materials to those voters who are most likely to be receptive to the Libertarian message. Because this is a project that has not been done before, we are testing its effect in the central Texas area first. Our success is entirely dependent upon the interest our membership takes in funding it.

Want to know what's going on in your area?

Go to <http://www.lp.org/event> to learn about many Libertarian events across the country.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY SPEAKS OUT

Libertarians Call for Permanent Government Shutdown

*From an April 8, 2011
press release*

WASHINGTON—As elected officials put on a dog-and-pony media show about a temporary shutdown of small parts of the federal government, the Libertarian Party calls for a permanent shutdown of most of the federal government.

Libertarian Party Executive Director Wes Benedict said, “Just think how a permanent government shutdown would allow so many Americans to regain the blessings of liberty.

“Education would blossom as the Department of Education ended its War on Learning, no longer wasting our money and preventing educational innovation with one-size-fits-all centralized mandates.

“Job opportunities at companies big and small would multiply, providing opportunity and choice for American workers.

“The world would enjoy peace as we withdrew our forces from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya. Our government spends almost as much on the military as the rest of the world combined. Millions

of industrious men and women who work for the military and its contractors could be focusing on building up our economy, rather than tearing down others’.

“Crime would plummet as the government’s War on Drugs ended, no longer sustaining a giant violent black market and overfilling our prisons.

“The life of many poorer Americans would improve as welfare programs stopped, no longer trapping low-income families in an endless cycle of government dependency.

“All Americans would feel a huge burden lifted every April, as they were no longer required to wrestle with a byzantine and oppressive IRS.

“But most importantly, Americans would once again be free of unjust and unconstitutional violations of their unalienable rights.”

Benedict added, “We’re not talking about eliminating the federal government. We want to end all federal activities that are not authorized by the Constitution, and we want to cut everything else as much as we can. In 2000, the federal government spent \$1.8 trillion. This year it’s expected to spend \$3.8 trillion. Things are going the wrong way—fast.”

Restore Freedom, Repeal Patriot Act

*From an May 27, 2011
press release*

WASHINGTON—Libertarian Party Chair Mark Hinkle issued the following statement:

“Yesterday, Republicans and Democrats in Congress joined hands to renew several provisions of the Patriot Act. These provisions are unconstitutional and violate our right to freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures.

“These provisions should be repealed, and if they’re not repealed, they ought to be ruled unconstitutional by the courts.

“Anyone who believes that Demo-

crats care more about civil liberties than Republicans ought to be disillusioned by this renewal. It has become painfully clear that the Obama administration is indistinguishable from the George W. Bush administration.

“The plain injustice of these search provisions is compounded by the secrecy that surrounds them. In some cases, Americans—even members of Congress—aren’t permitted to know the legal interpretations that govern how these searches may be implemented. And of course there is the infamous ‘library records’ provision, which prohibits targets from telling anyone that they were ordered to turn over records to the

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40 Years is Enough—End the Drug War

*From a June 17, 2011
press release*

WASHINGTON—June 17, 2011 is the 40th anniversary of America’s War on Drugs. Libertarian Party Chair Mark Hinkle issued the following statement today:

“On June 17, 1971, President Richard Nixon declared a ‘War on Drugs,’ which has become a relentless violation of the lives and property of Americans, including many who have never taken illegal drugs. These violations continue under President Barack Obama, an admitted former cocaine user who has shown no hesitation in throwing people into prison—a punishment he might have suffered had he been caught. Moreover, although promising to respect medical marijuana use in states where voters have approved it, the Obama administration has already conducted close to 100 raids on patients, growers, and compassion centers in those states.

“America’s first experiment in prohibition involved alcohol, and is widely recognized as a failure. Approved in 1919, Prohibition I led to a steady rise in both alcohol usage and violent crime. The murder rate rose 50% between 1919 and 1933, peaking at 9.7 murders per 100,000 population in 1933, when the country finally decided enough was enough. Immediately after the repeal of Prohibition I, gangsterism went into a swift decline, with all of the major gangs disappearing within 18 months, and the murder rate dropping every single year for more than a decade.

“Prohibition II—the War on Drugs—has been another tragedy. We applaud the efforts of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), an organization of current and former police, prosecutors, judges, DEA agents, and others, which issued a 20-page report this month detailing the tragic results of this misguided crusade,

entitled ‘Ending the Drug War: a Dream Deferred.’

“In their report, LEAP documented some of the measurable costs: over a million people arrested each year, a trillion dollars spent, and drug gangsterism at a level that dwarfs its alcohol equivalent and which has led to a bloodbath in Mexico that is spilling over into the United States. Not because of drugs, but because of drug laws. And over 120 million Americans have used illicit drugs: only the most deluded observer believes the laws have curbed drug abuse, and only the cruelest believes that 40% of the American population belongs in prison. No wonder 67% of police chiefs say the War on Drugs is a failure.

“Ultimately, of course, this tragedy is the result of our government’s refusal to allow people to engage in peaceful choices as to what they consume. Even if drug use were to rise upon a return to the American tradition of tolerance that existed before the 1914 Harrison Narcotics Act, our streets would be safer, innocent people would not have their homes raided and pets killed by narcotics agents entering the wrong house, victims of asset forfeiture laws wouldn’t have their houses and other assets seized without due process, and resources would be freed to spend on improving peoples’ lives instead of destroying them.

“Ten years ago, Portugal decriminalized all drug use, including substances classified as hard drugs. As a Cato Report entitled ‘Drug Decriminalization in Portugal: Lessons for Creating Fair and Successful Drug Policies’ showed, drug use dropped over the next several years and the Portuguese now use marijuana at lower levels than Americans use cocaine.

“It only took Americans 14 years to realize the insanity of Prohibition I. Both practical considerations and simple human decency demand that our government end Prohibition II now.”

20 Issues Trump Birth Certificate Circus

*From an April 27, 2011
press release*

WASHINGTON—In the wake of the much-discussed release of President Obama’s long-form birth certificate, Libertarian Party Chair Mark Hinkle had this to say:

“Instead of wasting so much ink on this birther story, the press should be giving a lot more attention to the many real disas-

ters of the Obama administration. The Libertarian Party recently released a list of ‘20 Obama problems, 20 Libertarian solutions.’

“Of course, President Obama and the Democrats in Congress are only part of the problem equation. The Republicans deserve an equal share of the blame, for their unwillingness to cut military spending or entitlements, their addiction to government

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Birth Certificate

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programs like farm subsidies, and their big-spending compromise bills of December 2010 and April 2011.

"I wonder if Obama and the Republicans might just be conspiring to keep this birther stuff alive, to distract everyone from all the real problems they're causing. The president might have been worried that the birther talk was about to die down.

"When you consider that we're involved in three foreign wars, our entitlement state is crumbling, we have record-level spending and deficits, unemployment is high, and inflation is growing, the president's birth certificate seems less significant somehow.

"We need to be more focused on the fact that massive debt is driving our government toward bankruptcy—something Republican birther Donald Trump would know a lot about.

"Nearly two years ago, one of our junior staffers mocked this very issue:

"Socialized healthcare is on the horizon. The DHS, NSA, TSA police state is expanding, the Drug War is still being pursued by an arrogant, ignorant government and Obama is expanding the war in Afghanistan! Frankly we have got bigger problems to pursue than blogging endlessly about where the President was born."

"Hopefully Americans will worry less about long-form birth certificates, and more about thousand-page spending bills."

Patriot Act

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government.

"I don't believe that these violations of our rights are making us any safer. I think it's security theater. And I'm certainly reminded of Benjamin Franklin's words, 'Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.'

"Our Constitution guarantees our rights. It doesn't make an exception for 'fear of terrorists.' It's time to end these violations of our rights, and repeal the Patriot Act.

"We can never perfectly protect ourselves from foreigners who hate us. One useful thing we can do is to try to stop antagonizing foreigners. Our government should stop invading and bombing their countries and stationing troops in them. It's time for a non-interventionist foreign policy."

Third-Party Candidates

...continued from page 7

as Libertarians, the more our party name and principles become recognized by the average voter. I found this to be the case when I ran in 2010 for Illinois Comptroller, eight years after I ran for the same office in 2002. The Libertarian name was not only better recognized and understood, it was received in a much more positive way by voters in 2010 than in 2002.

Libertarians need to distinguish ourselves from other political ideologies and parties. When we run as Democrats and Republicans we are promoting those parties, and in doing so we are promoting in general the policies of those parties.

It is also a matter of principle that I cannot represent a political party that has as its leadership such persons as Barack Obama and George W. Bush, who represent the kind of government that Libertarians are working hard to change. I am abhorred by the two major big-government corporatist war parties, and will not be a part of them.

Let me reiterate that the decision is a personal one. While I chose not to run as a major-party candidate, I don't have any issue with others doing so, because in the end it is the person who we elect to office, not the party. It would be great if in the end more libertarians are elected through "infiltration" of one of both of the major parties. It is not a direction that I feel is right for me, though. I chose to fight for liberty alongside other libertarians, not to fight for reform of the beast from within it.

Running as a third-party candidate requires conviction, a strong sense of perseverance, and vision. It has never been easy, and recent changes in some state laws have made it even more difficult. In addition to the reasons I noted above, it helps to be a non-defeatist, and it also helps to remember the words of Murray Rothbard: "Quintessentially and metaphysically, [the libertarian] should remain of good cheer. The eventual victory of liberty is inevitable, because only liberty is functional for modern man. There is no need, therefore, for libertarians to thirst maniacally for Instant Action and Instant Victory, and then to fall into bleak despair when that Instant Victory is not forthcoming. Reality, and therefore history, is on our side."

Platform Committee Appointments

by Alicia Mattson

The Libertarian National Committee is looking to appoint 10 people to serve on the Platform Committee in preparation for the 2012 Libertarian National Convention.

Platform Committee members will be expected to expend an appreciable amount of their time in the months leading up to the Convention; and due to the anticipated amount of work, they will

be expected to incur considerable travel costs, at personal expense, for one or more meetings prior to the Convention, in addition to attendance at the Libertarian National Convention in 2012.

So that members of the Libertarian National Committee can determine who might best fill seats on the Platform Committee, each applicant is requested to draft and submit via e-mail three proposed or modified platform planks to platform@lp.org no later than August 14, 2011.



It's Official: Libertarians Received Over 1 Million Votes for U.S. House

From Ballot Access News

Ever since 1920, the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives has been publishing a book that shows how many votes each candidate for Congress received in the preceding election. The Clerk has just published the latest volume, which is titled "Statistics of the Congressional Election of November 2, 2010."

The book is interesting because it includes tables at the back, showing the vote for each house of Congress by party. These tables will not recognize a minor party candidate for Congress as a candidate of that party, unless the state prints the party's label on the ballot. For example, Oklahoma and Tennessee have extremely easy ballot access for non-presidential independent candidates, but extremely difficult ballot access for new and minor parties. There-

fore, minor party candidates in Oklahoma and Tennessee for over 10 years have all been on the ballot as "independent," so the Clerk's tables show those votes in the Independent column, not the column of any particular party.

Even with that limitation, the 2010 chart for U.S. House lists the Libertarian Party's national vote total as 1,002,511. The Clerk's tables have credited the Libertarian Party with over 1,000,000 votes for U.S. House in five elections now. Besides 2010, they are: 2000 1,610,292; 2002 1,030,189; 2004 1,040,465; and 2008 1,083,096. The Clerk's booklet has never credited any other party (besides the Democrats and Republicans) with as many as 1,000,000 votes for U.S. House. The Progressive Party had over 1,000,000 votes for U.S. House in 1912, but the booklet didn't exist back then. Thanks to Thomas Jones for the news about the book.

LETTERS To The Editor

Better letters please

I don't mean to be rude, but the letters to the editor really need improvement. In most papers they're one of the most interesting sections. In LP News they are way too long and often ramble on about some topic that's been debated endlessly for years if not decades. We know some of you oppose abortion. We know some of you wish the LP would stop mentioning the drug war. We know some of you wish the LP would get serious about (fill in the blank). Can we get better letters on more interesting topics please?

(Author's name withheld upon request)

Registering Libertarian

Today, I made it official and changed my voter registration from Republican to Libertarian. I have always been a Libertarian in my heart and mind. I just reached the point where the old arguments about local politics and being able to vote the primaries didn't matter anymore. I no longer want to be associated with the one party system with two branches, the Socialist Democrats and Socialist Republicans.

Jim Slappey

Watch Your Language

As a long-time Libertarian, I absolutely concur in the ethic of allowing every other person to think, say, and do whatever they choose, as long as it does not impede others...or me.

But as a longer-time journalist and deep respecter of words, I am appalled that "marriage" is bantered so flimsily as many do today. In the history of the English language, marriage has always meant the life-long commitment of one man and one woman to each other, acknowledged by most religions and by the governments of all states. It has never meant anything

else, and, in my opinion, should not be used for any other relationship.

I don't care if two consenting adults (or more) choose to have a relationship of any kind. That's their business. But when they use my word—and the word used by English-speaking people for nearly a thousand years—incorrectly and inappropriately, then I must and do protest.

Let there be any relationship that anyone wants. That's fine. Just find another word to describe it. My suggestion: "pairriage." Let two (or however many) people get paired. Same legal obligations. Same legal benefits. What do you think?

Norm Lucas

Do You Have Something to Say?

If you have something to say about an article you've read in LP News, you can submit a letter to the editor at editor@lp.org. Remember, not all letters received will be printed, and those that are printed may be edited for content, grammar, and length. Please keep letters under 150 words, and include your name, city and state with your letter.

Submit your letter to the editor to editor@lp.org

Want to become a Monthly Pledger?

You can renew or sign up for a monthly pledge:

- online at LP.org
- call 202-333-0008
- use the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or mail your contribution to:

Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Avenue NW,
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20037

Comments from our donors

by Wes Benedict

We receive hundreds of comments a week by email, paper mail, phone, and at our website. Below are some of the comments we've received from people in the comments section of our donation page at LP.org. Some of the comments are funny, some inspiring, and some—how shall I put it—critical. Lots of them are interesting, which is why we're sharing them with our readers:

Sorry I didn't renew before. Money has been scarce around here. I am in almost 100% agreement on all the Libertarian Party Platform Issues.

Long Live Freedom!

The government shall make no law to censor our freedom of speech, way of life, and liberty.

I am tired of Democrats and Republicans increasing more government bureaucrats. I am voting Libertarian to restore our country.

Sorry that I can't renew at a higher rate nor restore my monthly pledge - this month marks 2 years of unemployment. Please keep up the good work. Thank you.

I finally voted Libertarian this election and now I'm solidifying my ideals by joining a Party!!

All of this info was included in the reminder email you sent, including my membership number. So why the hell do I have to fill out a form repeating all of it? Way to raise the barriers to those who want to renew or contribute! Surely an organization tech savvy enough to create this method of payment can also auto-fill all of this personal data so busy members can renew without regurgitating their name, address, email, etc for the umpteenth time?? You are costing the party money with every marginal renewer that clicks away rather than go through this boring process!

It's time for a real change. VOTE libertarian.

Sorry I'm late!

Please use this money to help get the LP in the news!

If at first you don't secede, try, try again!

Keep up the good fight for maximum liberty and minimum government.

I've thought like a Libertarian for a long time, now I'm finally making it official.

I've been an Independent voter since 1974, when I attained the age of majority. With the continued degradation of our political scene, and the increasingly hostile partisanship here in America, I feel I can no longer stand alone.

V for Victory

I would like to get plugged into fellow Libertarians in my area.

Teleprompter!!!

Turkeys just gobble (funds). Don't you know the first digit of credit/debit cards indicate the company? There appears to be no place to put the member number being renewed.

How do you hope to manage a nation when you can't manage a group?

Thank you Wes and team for all you do.

I was inspired by Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand.

The angry FoxNews article made me want to renew!

God Bless America.

Wes ~ This donation was inspired by Nigel Lyons' CPAC video and the rant from the FOX News commentator. Clearly, you are doing something right! ~ Martha

Let's get the Libertarian Party in the White House in 2012!

I've been an LP member since 1979, even though I haven't paid dues much the last dozen years. But Wes is doing a great job and I gotta do something righteous with that social security check I just started receiving!

Keep up the good work...united we will

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Marijuana Regulation

...continued from page 4

wine industry as a model. But, importantly enough, the initiative would not permit state, county or city governments to use their taxing, zoning, or licensing authority as a means to thwart the provisions of the initiative, unless those regulations would also be applicable to the wine industry. In addition, the initiative allows adults to grow up to 25 marijuana plants per year for their own personal use without any government regulation or taxation at all.

Marijuana with a THC level of less than 0.1 percent would be classified as industrial “hemp,” and would be governed by the same regulations, taxes and fees that use the cotton industry as a model. Of course the hemp industry goes back thousands of years, such that in ancient Greek the word for “canvas” was the same word as “cannabis,” or marijuana. Similarly, the plantations owned by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and many other colonial planters grew large crops of hemp, which were used for things like rope, gunny sacks and coarse cloth.

Since the colonial period the uses of hemp have been greatly expanded. For example, today manufacturers can get four times the amount of paper pulp from an acre of hemp as they can from an acre of trees. Furthermore, the hemp crop can be raised in one season of about eight months, while it takes about 20 years to grow the trees. This means that the paper pulp industry in Northern California could be reclaimed, along with all of the jobs, revenues and taxes that this would engender.

Another main purpose of the initiative would be to deprive Mexican drug cartels, juvenile street gangs and other thugs of large amounts of money, while at the same time providing significant amounts of sales and income tax revenues to city, county and state governments to use for things like fixing potholes, paying for police protection and educating children.

The initiative would also prohibit all commercial advertising of the sales, distribution and use of marijuana, except for medical marijuana and products made from industrial hemp. This provision might be controversial for some Libertarians, but it would go a long way in taking the glamor out of marijuana, especially for children. Of course, if adults want to buy the product, they would readily know by word of mouth where it could be obtained.

After Holland decriminalized mari-

juana back in the 1970s, its Minister of Health stated that they had only half the marijuana usage per capita in their country as we do in ours—both for adults and for teenagers! And he went on to explain why by saying that “we have succeeded in making pot boring.” A system in which marijuana is no longer sold illegally and also is not advertised commercially will approach the same results.

Of course, many medical and legal professionals believe that in many ways marijuana is actually less harmful than my drug of choice, which is alcohol, and others believe that it can actually be used effectively against cancer. So if adults choose to use recreational marijuana instead of alcohol, the governments, as a matter of freedom and liberty, should not be able to prohibit them from doing so.

In fact, it makes as much sense to me for the government to control what I as an adult put into my body, as it does to control what I put into my mind. It is simply none of the government’s business! Instead government does have a right to control my actions if those actions have a realistic propensity of causing harm to others. That is a legitimate function of government.

Yes, the use, possession, growing and sale of marijuana and hemp would remain illegal under federal law. But if the federal government still wants to enforce its laws of marijuana prohibition it will be forced to do so alone, because the initiative would prohibit anyone working for or contracting with any of our state, county or city governments from cooperating with any such investigations, prosecutions, punishments or forfeitures, as long as the subjects of the investigations were acting within the provisions of the initiative.

So what are your thoughts? This initiative is still only in draft form, so please give it some consideration. Many of us believe this initiative, and a similar initiative being considered in Colorado, will be the beginning of the end of the failed policy of marijuana prohibition in the United States of America. But we need your support in this historic effort!

James P. Gray is a retired judge of the Orange County Superior Court, and the author of A Voter’s Handbook: Effective Solutions to America’s Problems (The Forum Press, 2010). He can be contacted at JudgeJimGray@sbcglobal.net or through his website at www.JudgeJimGray.com.

Comments From LP Donors

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make a difference and change America for the better.

I am reupping in part due to this excellent video of David Boaz from the Cato Institute: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ee6MlrtenH0>

Keep fighting, one day people will wake up.

It is nice to have found a party that exercises common sense. At least now I won’t have a distinct desire to sharpen a pencil and stick it in my temple when I associate myself with a party.

Lets support Freedom, Liberty, and personal responsibility!

There has never been greater need for the application of our party’s principles in government.

No more left or right!!!

Keep on fighting the good fight, my friends!

I have considered joining the Libertarian Party for years, but have never made the final decision. Today, I am proud to become a member of this party, which stands aligned with so many of my personal principles. I believe in the precepts and guidelines of our Constitution and the Amendments, and in government for the people, by the people. And I believe, wholeheartedly, that the Libertarian Party is the only political party still concerned with the principles upon which our nation was founded. I willingly, enthusiastically, and gratefully submit myself to membership of the Libertarian Party.

free free free we All want to be Free Free Free

annual dues for about the 33rd year. Why is our membership still so tiny? But at least our ideas have made headway.

Been sitting on the fence for a long time, no more!

This donation of membership dues is long overdue. I last was a national member in

2001. I do this for my son and my unborn 2nd child who should not have to endure and be responsible for this huge national debt or our nation’s awful foreign policy legacy of the past 50 years and continuing.

Lifelong Republican who just switched my registration to Libertarian. Not sure that I agree with you guys on everything, but the growth of government has reached apocalyptic proportions and the ship just has to be steered in the opposite direction.

I’m a disgruntled Democrat who is tired of war, failure of state programs for the poor and a bueracracy that threatens our Republic. I’m a college student who has had to live out his childhood up to now early adult hood under the shadow of two wars and a grim economic outlook. Of course being a student prevents me from giving what I would like to give, but this small token is given in faith, that this message will reach many more and hopefully help us bring our country back.

Stand for Liberty. Stand for freedom. Personal responsibility. Internal governors.

Abolish the state!

The Libertarian message is one that every single voter in every single U.S. state and territory desperately NEEDS to hear!

hooray liberty!

Please send me some LP door hangers.

Particular interest: Overturn of Obamacare

Its Time To Bring Our Money Home And Tale Back This Government For Americans.

Let’s get our Republic back!

I took a test online and the results said I was a Libertarian. The only difference we have is over the drug policy, although I don’t have a problem with pot, other drugs that ruin people’s lives like Meth should be illegal.

Freedom!

Thanks to Bob Johnston for calling me and following up by email.

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DAWN LINCOLN PHOTOGRAPHY



Nigel Lyons, Mark Grannis, and Arvin Vohra prepare for a recording session in the new LP video studio at LP Headquarters.

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- LP poll: Should Congress impeach Obama for Libya War?
- Students For Liberty offers scholarships for FreedomFest and PorcFest
- LP at Students for Sensible Drug Policy Conference
- Who to blame for the Illegal Immigration Mess: Immigrants or Congress???
- Military Tribunals Are an Affront to Our Constitution
- Libertarians elected on April 5
- LNC Board Meeting - Alexandria, VA, April 16-17
- Libertarians hold candidate forum in Austin, Texas
- Drug use is a personal choice - Arvin Vohra
- The Unraveling of a Ponzi Scheme
- Liberty Loses a Friend in Memory of Alan Bock
- Promises, Patriotism and Power
- Why Libertarian - Mark Grannis
- The Weiner Paradox by Dr. Tibor Machan

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR STATE?

A complete list of Libertarian events can be found online at LP.org/event. You can get more information by visiting the Web site of your state affiliate. (See a list at LP.org/states.) If there is an event you would like to see listed here or on the Web site, please send details to:

EVENTS@LP.ORG

OR CALL THE LP HEADQUARTERS AT
(202) 333-0008.