COMMENTS CONCERNING 2016 AWARDS COMMITTEE

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, July 13, 2015

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The following is a list of comments and suggestions concerning the 2016 Libertarian Party Awards Committee.

1) During the LNC meeting in March 2015, I volunteered to prepare a draft notice to encourage applications for service on the 2016 Awards Committee. The draft is enclosed below as an appendix.

2) The 2014 Awards Committee was assisted greatly by the work of Eric Dixon, who served as the Editor and Technology Developer at LPHQ. In particular, he assembled the video presentations shown during the 2014 national convention to honor Samuel Adams Award winner Hardy Macia and Hall of Liberty inductees Harry Browne and Richard Winger.

At this time, I am not aware of any staff member who already has the expertise to provide the same type of assistance to the 2016 Awards Committee. This matter should be kept in mind as preparations proceed for the 2016 national convention.

3) In its report to the LNC on June 23, 2014, the 2014 Awards Committee noted that there is very little information about LP award winners on LP.org. In addition, those seeking to find such information must conduct a search of the website.

The report indicated that since the Adams, Paine, Henry, Jefferson, and Hall of Liberty awards represent the highest honors presented for service to the Libertarian Party, Committee members recommended that LP.org feature a webpage listing the names of the award recipients, along with their photographs and brief biographies. As chair of the 2014 Awards Committee, allow me to reiterate that recommendation.

In the interest of full disclosure, please note that I am a recipient of the 2004 Adams Award, the 2008 Jefferson Award, and the 2012 Paine Award.

4) Allow me to mention an issue that the LNC may wish to consider before the end of 2015.

In advance of the 2012 national convention the 2012 Awards Committee instituted a new award (the Patrick Henry Award) to recognize very effective Libertarian Party candidates and campaigns. In addition, the Committee instituted the Hall of Liberty, induction into which “… is to honor lifetime or significant achievement that has made a lasting impact on the Libertarian Party and/or libertarian movement.”
In a related action the Committee changed the purpose of the Jefferson Award. Specifically, the Committee provided the following description of the Jefferson Award as follows:

_Thomas Jefferson Leadership Award with recognition of outstanding leadership, high character, and dedication to the principles and goals of the Party._

The description is in contrast to the description given by the organizers of the 1996 national convention, who instituted the Adams, Paine, and Jefferson Awards. The Jefferson Award was instituted to serve as the award for lifetime achievement, and thus to serve as the highest honor the Libertarian Party could bestow.

By instituting the Hall of Liberty awards and changing the purpose of the Jefferson Award from lifetime achievement to “outstanding leadership, high character, and dedication to the principles and goals of the Party,” the Committee inadvertently created what may reasonably be considered a discontinuity in the awards.

That is, prior to 2012, the Jefferson Award was given for lifetime achievement. As of the 2012 national convention, induction into the Hall of Liberty is to honor lifetime or significant achievement, whereas the Jefferson Award has been given for outstanding leadership, high character, and dedication to the principles and goals of the Party.

As the chair of the 2014 Awards Committee, allow me to suggest that the LNC (or some subcommittee thereof) consider ways to deal with this discontinuity. Once again, in the interest of full disclosure please note that I am a recipient (along with Ruth Bennett) of the 2008 Jefferson Award.

**APPENDIX:**

**DRAFT NOTICE FOR AWARDS COMMITTEE APPLICANTS**

Applications to serve as a member of the 2016 Libertarian Party Awards Committee will be accepted until XXXX, 2015. The Libertarian National Committee will select the members of the Awards Committee no later than Nov. 15, 2015.

Applicants must be sustaining members of the Libertarian Party. Members who have the following qualifications are especially encouraged to apply:

* Sustaining membership in the Libertarian Party for at least ten years
* Life membership status
* Service as a Libertarian Party officer at local, state, and national levels.
* Service as a Libertarian Party candidate (especially for statewide or national office)
* Previous service as a member of the Awards Committee

Applications should include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address, along with a list of your accomplishments in the Libertarian Party. In addition, please include a
statement that lists the reasons you wish to serve on the Awards Committee and the benefits your service would bring. Please send the application to XXXXXX

**The following information about the Awards Committee appears in the LNC Policy Manual:**

Section 2.02 (Committee Scope and Responsibilities)

4) Awards Committee

For the convention awards described below, the Awards Committee shall set the budget, manage the nomination process, select the award winners by committee vote, secure the awards, and present the awards at the convention.

The award descriptions are:

Thomas Jefferson Leadership Award with recognition of outstanding leadership, high character, and dedication to the principles and goals of the Party.

Patrick Henry Candidate Award with recognition of a very effective campaign for public office at the state or federal level, while communicating Libertarian ideas, principles, and values.

Thomas Paine Communication Award with recognition of outstanding communication of Libertarian ideas, principles, and values through written, published, or spoken communication.

Samuel Adams Activism Award with recognition of effective activism by building Party membership, organizing community outreach, or communicating Libertarian principles.

The Hall of Liberty induction is to honor lifetime or significant achievement that has made a lasting impact on the Libertarian Party and/or libertarian movement.

With a majority vote the committee may select recipients of the Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, Thomas Paine, and Patrick Henry awards. While the committee has discretion as to the frequency of such convention awards, it is hoped that at least one recipient will be found worthy for each award at each regular convention.

With a unanimous vote the committee may select recipients of the Hall of Liberty award, with up to 3 inductees per convention. While the committee has discretion as to the frequency of this convention award, it is hoped that at least one recipient will be found worthy for each presidential nominating convention.

**Libertarian Party National Award Recipients and Hall of Liberty Members**

**Patrick Henry Award:**
2012: Lex Green, Travis Irvine
2014: Rob Sarvis

**Samuel Adams Award:**
1996: Don Ernsberger
1998: Steve Dasbach
2000: Richard Rider
2002: Bruce Baechler
2004: Jim Lark
2006: Michael Badnarik
2008: Bill Hall
2010: Michael Johnston, Kevin Knedler
2012: Clyde Garland
2014: Hardy Macia

**Thomas Paine Award:**
1996: Jacob Hornberger
1998: Harry Browne
2000: Michael Cloud
2002: Richard Pearl
2004: Mary Ruwart
2006: John Stossel
2008: Mike Ferguson, Eric Schansberg
2010: Rex Bell
2012: Jim Lark
2014: Sharon Harris

**Thomas Jefferson Award:**
1996: David Nolan
1998: David Bergland
2000: Ed Clark
2002: John Perry
2004: Ron Crickenberger
2006: Harry Browne
2008: Ruth Bennett, Jim Lark
2010: Bill Redpath
2012: Sharon Harris
2014: Pat Dixon

**Hall of Liberty:**
2012: Ed Clark, John Hospers, Roger MacBride, Tonie Nathan, David Nolan
2014: Harry Browne, Richard Winger