

**LP National Convention**  
New Speakers & Website!



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# LPN

The Party of Principle™

# News

April 2014

The Official Newspaper of the Libertarian Party

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John Buckley

## John Buckley bids to succeed Rockefeller in WV

### Former Republican state legislator to offer Libertarian choice in Mountain State

West Virginia Libertarians have nominated a former Republican state legislator, John S. Buckley, for U.S. Senate.

"Big government leads to an unhealthy concentration of power, because big government is wasteful, destructive, bureaucratic, and terribly intrusive," Buckley said. "Worse, it corrodes our heritage of personal responsibility and self-reliance. With liberty and

a much smaller government than we have today, we keep our money in our own pockets in the first place: to pay bills, take care of our families, invest in small business, save for our future, and help our neighbors in need."

Buckley says both the Democrats and the Republicans are expanding government at a furious

*continued on page 5...*

## LP Candidates Say: End the War on Drugs

By Carla Howell

In the Libertarian Party tradition of speaking truth to power, 27 candidates running so far for federal office in 2014 have pledged that, if elected, they will sponsor legislation to end the War on Drugs, release all victimless drug "criminals" from prison, abolish the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and cut taxes accordingly.

Ending the War on Drugs is the single most effective way in which lawmakers can reduce crime in America.

Ending prohibition will dry up the market for violent street gangs and turf wars, dramatically reducing crime, especially in inner cities. It will end no-knock raids that have killed scores of innocent people and injured many more. It will dramatically reduce break-ins and robberies, many of which are committed by addicts who want money to buy drugs at prohibition-induced high prices. It will remove the pretext for militarization of law enforcement within the United States.

While Libertarian candidates offer voters a choice to dramatically reduce crime, their Democratic and Republican opponents cling to and defend the failed drug prohibition.

Repeal of drug prohibition will replace government control, which triggers harmful drug use and addiction, with personal responsibility, which moderates drug use.

While Libertarian candidates offer voters a choice to dramatically reduce crime, their Democratic and Republican opponents cling to and defend the failed drug prohibition.

Following are a few of the candidates who have pledged to end the War on Drugs.

*continued on page 3...*



## New LP radio show features Libertarian Party candidates

A new weekly radio show, "Libertarians Working for You," hosted by LP Political Director Carla Howell, features candidates running for office in 2014 who show how their Libertarian solutions will make life better for everyday voters.

The show began on Feb. 12, and airs every Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The 13-week series on VoiceAmerica.com Variety Channel was made possible by LP member Chris Conlan.

Each of the first six shows focused on particular topics: ending state income taxes, ending the War on Drugs, restoring gun freedom, getting federal and state governments out of schooling, taking care of the poor by cutting government, and

*continued on page 14...*

## CHAIR'S CORNER

# National Convention: Proposed bylaws changes

By Geoffrey J. Neale, Chair

On Feb. 28, the Bylaws Committee (of which I am a member) met in Washington, D.C., and considered a large number of changes to our bylaws. The proposals came both from members of the Bylaws Committee and from our membership. Few proposals passed the committee unaltered, and some did not survive at all.

Now we will be faced with deciding which proposals to place before the delegates in June at our national convention. In doing this, the factors involved are more than just what we want to change, but also what we feel the membership will be willing to support. That means that we have to make a case for each and every one of the final proposals.

One of the most interesting proposals is to split our convention business into alternating four-year cycles. This change would make the presidential nominating conventions restricted to the nomination of our presidential candidate and platform changes, leaving the "off cycle" conventions restricted to bylaws changes and the election of the LNC and Judicial Committee.

Effectively, the terms of the regional representatives to the LNC would remain as they are today: they serve at the pleasure of their regions and can be replaced at any time, for any reason. However, regions would remain static during those four years.



Geoffrey J. Neale

My first thought on this is that it will be met with significant opposition, because many will argue that it's a "power grab." This reason alone is why I was somewhat reticent to cast a vote in favor of this proposal, because of this perception, but the benefits that such a change would provide convinced me that the delegates need to consider this change.

There are some negatives to this proposal, foremost being that with four-year terms for the LNC, I think it may be harder to get quality candidates, because of the length of the commitment. Also, the likelihood of resignations and replacements will increase, but I cannot remember a term of the LNC without a resignation, so I think that is a minor consideration.

The benefits, however, are significant.

First, we currently change our entire board within six months of the presidential elections. We always have some members who return, but usually have a large group of newcomers. Even the best prepared of the new people need time to get up to speed. Regardless of who is new, and who is not, there is always a "reset" when we need continuity the most. For a political party, this change during our highest-profile cyclical activity has no upside.

Second, and far less obvious, is the nature of the involvement of the LNC members. The first half-year is getting up to speed, and carrying on with the goals, budget, and projects of the prior LNC. The last half-year is setting the goals and budget, and executing the projects that will be passed on to another LNC in six months. There is only one year of each two-year term that

is really owned completely by each LNC. Changing to four-year terms would improve this.

This second reason is the biggest reason why I support this change. This two-year cycle inevitably leads to short-term thinking and planning. I have already seen the "lame duck" attitudes of several current LNC members. Statements have been made like "why should we be setting goals that the next LNC will not be bound to?" or "it's too late to start something new, or make a change" or "the next LNC will have to deal with that."

As an example, this LNC has failed to establish a coherent strategy during this term. I think this short-term thinking is a big reason why. Another big reason is that we do not have enough strategically minded people on the LNC, but no bylaw change can fix that. "Short term" thinking and planning can be addressed. We must develop longer-term strategies and goals, and facilitate effective methods to implement them. I think this bylaw change would be helpful toward that end.

"Don't change horses in the middle of a stream" is an oft-used phrase that is so old that no one knows its origin. Perhaps it is used so often because it is so often true.

The following individuals became Lifetime Members of the Libertarian Party between Jan. 25, 2014, and March 19, 2014:

Theresa Abercrombie  
Pete Cooper  
Fred Dan Fernandes  
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The Libertarian Party grants Lifetime Membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,000 during any 12-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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### NATIONAL CHAIR:

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E-mail: chair@LP.org

### 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.

### LP NEWS EDITOR:

Eric D. Dixon

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# David F. Nolan Memorial Office Fund donors, Jan. 25–March 19

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Great news! The Libertarian National Committee is ready to buy an office space for the party's new national headquarters in the Washington, D.C., area, which will substantially reduce the party's annual operating costs. This office will be named the David F. Nolan Memorial Office, in honor of our party's founder.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have your name appear inside this historic office, right alongside David Nolan's.

## Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund



## Pledge to end drug prohibition

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### David Patterson, Kentucky, U.S. House

David Patterson works for the city of Harrodsburg as a peace officer, which is the language used in Kentucky law to describe what is commonly referred to as a police officer.

"I see my job as keeping the peace, not policing peaceful citizens," he said.

Patterson is a member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) and strongly opposes the War on Drugs, which he says is "costly, both in dollars and in liberty."

"When I first became a peace officer in 1996, I thought I would rid the world of drugs," he said. "But I now see that drug use will never go away — whether it's legal or not."

He finds the prohibition on marijuana particularly absurd.

"Cannabis is a lot less dangerous than either tobacco or alcohol. I have never had to fight or even argue with someone under the influence of marijuana."

• Website: [david4senate.com](http://david4senate.com)

### Ray Netherwood, Florida, U.S. House

Retired Air Force officer Ray Netherwood says, "People should be free to make their own choice and to live their lives as they see fit without causing harm to another. If you don't want to use marijuana — don't. Legalization doesn't mean that someone's going to hold you down and make you smoke or eat a brownie."



David Patterson

"I see my job as keeping the peace, not policing peaceful citizens. When I first became a peace officer in 1996, I thought I would rid the world of drugs. But I now see that drug use will never go away — whether it's legal or not."

— David Patterson, LP Kentucky candidate for U.S. House

"By passing laws [against drug use], our elected officials are telling us that we aren't responsible enough to make decisions over our own lives. These are the same 'Do as I say, not as I do' politicians who cannot even pass a budget."



Ray Netherwood

— Ray Netherwood, LP Florida candidate for U.S. House

He notes the hypocrisy of politicians passing laws to try to force "good behavior."

"By passing laws that force us to tailor our peaceful lives to the will of some bureaucrat thousands of miles away, our elected officials are telling us that we aren't responsible enough to make decisions over our own lives," he said. "These are the same 'Do as I say, not as I do' politicians who cannot even pass a budget."

Netherwood aims to cut more than \$40 billion per year now wasted on the failed drug war and return that money to the taxpayers who earned it in the productive private sector.

• Website: [ray2014.com](http://ray2014.com)

### Marc Harrold, Virginia, U.S. House

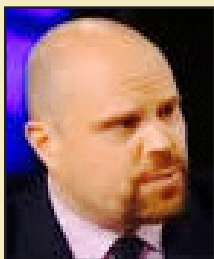
As an attorney, former prosecutor, and former member of a tactical narcotics task force (the "Red Dog" unit) for the city of Atlanta Police Department, Marc Harrold has seen the effects of the Drug War up close and personal.

"The benefits of ending the drug war are numerous," he said. "Penal resources could,

continued on page 4...

## Federal candidates who have signed the pledge to end the War on Drugs

1. Joe Baratelli, U.S. Senate, New Jersey
2. Danny Bedwell, U.S. House, 1st District, Mississippi
3. Jeff Blunt, U.S. House, 20th District, Texas
4. John Buckley, U.S. Senate, West Virginia
5. James Carr, U.S. House, 7th District, Virginia
6. Jeff Carson, U.S. House, 8th District, Virginia
7. Chris Clemmons, U.S. House, 2nd District, Kansas
8. Xavian Draper, U.S. House, 1st District, Virginia
9. Eric Eberly, U.S. House, 5th District, Ohio
10. Sharon Hansen, U.S. Senate, Illinois
11. Marc Harrold, U.S. House, 11th District, Virginia
12. Sean Haugh, U.S. Senate, North Carolina
13. Andrew Horning, U.S. House, 8th District, Indiana
14. Joshua James, U.S. Senate, Tennessee
15. Davy Jones, U.S. House, 2nd District, West Virginia
16. Lenny Ladner, U.S. House, 7th District, Tennessee
17. Rob Lapham, U.S. House, 22nd District, Texas
18. David Macko, U.S. House, 14th district, Ohio
19. Jim McDermott, U.S. House, Alaska
20. Ray Netherwood, U.S. House, 19th District, Florida
21. David Patterson, U.S. Senate, Kentucky
22. Bill Redpath, U.S. House, 10th District, Virginia
23. Michael Salyer, U.S. House, 1st District, Tennessee
24. Matthew Schnackenberg, U.S. House, 11th District, Florida
25. Jack Seaman, U.S. House, North Dakota
26. Bill Slantz, U.S. House, 2nd District, Missouri
27. Arvin Vohra, U.S. House, 4th District, Maryland



Marc Harrold

**"Individuals can and should be held criminally liable for actions that victimize others. But no law should criminalize an adult's mere possession or use of any drug. Addiction is a health care issue, not a crime."**

— Marc Harrold, LP Virginia candidate for U.S. House

## Pledge to end Drug War

...continued from page 3

for example, focus on violent criminals who victimize children; border violence would decrease exponentially; and nonviolent offenders would avoid being saddled for life with a criminal record for merely possessing or using drugs in their youth."

He says that the War on Drugs is a war on America's own citizenry, and a colossal failure.

"The collateral damage includes a massive increase in harsh sentences for nonviolent offenders, disparate sentencing along racial lines, and an eviscerated Fourth Amendment," he said. "Individuals can and should be held criminally liable for actions that victimize others. But no law should criminalize an adult's mere possession or use of any drug. Addiction is a health care issue, not a crime."

• Website: [marcharrold4congress.com](http://marcharrold4congress.com)

### Bill Slantz, Missouri, U.S. House

The War on Drugs is one of many areas where businessman and music industry consultant Bill Slantz says the government does not belong. He aims to end drug prohibition and apply the cost savings to tax cuts in order to "return \$2,000 to each American family, build real personal responsibility, and dramatically reduce violent, prohibition-related crime, including much of our border war."

He says that the choice to use drugs — or not — must lie with the individual.

"Those who wish, wisely or foolishly, to use drugs should be free to do so. Those who wish to keep drug use off their property

should similarly be free to do so," he said.

• Website: [BillSlantz.com](http://BillSlantz.com)

### Jack Seaman, North Dakota, U.S. Senate

Jack Seaman, a precious metals dealer, describes the Drug War as both futile and destructive.



Davy Jones and family

**"Since the War on Drugs began, America's murder rates have doubled. The cause-effect relationship is clear. Prohibition is putting innocent lives at risk. I want our families to be safe. That's why I will sponsor legislation to End the War on Drugs."**

— Davy Jones, LP West Virginia candidate for U.S. House

"The War on Drugs has been a failed, wasteful venture that we have already spent \$1 trillion and thousands of lives on with no slowdown in drug user rates to show for it," he said. "Legal or not, people who wish to use drugs will find a way to use them."

Seaman wants to send nonviolent drug "offenders" home to their families.

"Ending the incarceration of non-violent drug offenders would relieve our bloated prison system and greatly reduce associated expenses," he said.

• Website: [jackfornd.com](http://jackfornd.com)

### Davy Jones, West Virginia, U.S. House

Davy Jones, a network engineer who served in the National Guard, supports the

elimination of federal drug laws.

"America's murder rate rose nearly 70 percent during alcohol prohibition, but returned to its previous levels after prohibition ended," he said. "Since the War on Drugs began, America's murder rates have doubled. The cause-effect relationship is clear. Prohibition is putting innocent lives at risk. The fact is that most drug users are non-violent and to throw them into prison only makes them more violent. Someone who has been incarcerated will struggle to obtain a job, and ultimately be forced into 'real' criminal activity. We are just creating criminals out of people whose lifestyle choices we may not like."

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Jack Seaman

**"The War on Drugs has been a failed, wasteful venture that we have already spent \$1 trillion and thousands of lives on with no slowdown in drug user rates to show for it. Legal or not, people who wish to use drugs will find a way to use them."**

— Jack Seaman, LP North Dakota candidate for U.S. Senate

## The Case for Ending the Failed War on Drugs

The War on Drugs has proven far more deadly and destructive than drugs themselves.

Just as alcohol prohibition prompted organized crime, consumption of stronger alcoholic drinks, and an epidemic of alcohol overdose deaths, drug prohibition has prompted the formation of deadly street gangs, use of stronger drugs, and an increase in drug overdose deaths.

Because of the Drug War, the United States incarcerates more people than any country on earth. More than 500,000 Americans are now serving time in jail or prison for drug "offenses." They are peaceful citizens, separated from their children and families, who could be living productive lives. Instead, their incarceration has cost taxpayers more than \$1 trillion since 1971.

More than 658,000 people are arrested every year for mere possession of marijuana, diverting attention from where it should be: on violent criminals.

Marijuana prohibition denies those suffering from cancer, AIDS, migraines, glaucoma, and other serious diseases their right to an effective treatment that both reduces suffering and saves lives.

Democrats and Republicans enacted the failed War on Drugs, escalated it, and continue to defend it. It is indefensible.

Continuing the failed and immoral War on Drugs sends the wrong message to kids:

- Incarcerate people who have harmed no one else.
- Deprive people with serious illnesses of the medicine they need.
- Stubbornly continue failed policies —

while crime rages and millions suffer.

- Be hypocrites, drinking alcohol while banning milder substances.

Kids can see through this irresponsible message. It encourages them to discredit and disregard good advice.

We must immediately end the failed War on Drugs, dismantle and abolish the federal Drug Enforcement Agency, release every nonviolent drug offender from prison, and cut taxes accordingly.

Crime will go down dramatically, making our streets and homes safer.

People now in prison who never harmed another human being will be free to go home to their families. Their children will grow up with their mom or dad at home.

Law enforcement will focus more on finding and prosecuting murderers, rapists, and thieves.

Each taxpayer will get back hundreds of dollars — every year — that they now spend on today's failed prohibition. Money they can save, spend, or give away to others in need.

People suffering from cancer, AIDS, and other serious diseases will have dignified and safe access to medical marijuana, giving them their best chance for a long and healthy life.

Ending the War on Drugs sends the right message to kids:

- Be personally responsible.
- Be just, be reasonable, and honor individual rights.
- Admit mistakes and get rid of bad laws that don't work.
- End unnecessary human suffering.

**"Those who wish, wisely or foolishly, to use drugs should be free to do so. Those who wish to keep drug use off their property should similarly be free to do so."**

— Bill Slantz, LP Missouri candidate for U.S. House



Bill Slantz





# Libertarian Party—issued news release:

## Florida campaign shows continued growth of Libertarian votes

**L**ibertarian Lucas Overby won 4.8 percent of the vote in a very tight three-way race for Florida's 13th congressional district held on March 11, demonstrating continued strong and rising vote totals for Libertarians.



Lucas Overby

This is an especially high vote total for a Libertarian in a special election, where voter turnout is lower. The boost is attributable in part to an outstanding get-out-the-vote effort on the part of Florida Libertarians.

Libertarians in federal races have typically garnered votes in the low single digits in three-way races against both a Democrat and Republican. Since 2012, however, a number of Libertarian candidates have scored far better, including the following:

- **Dan Cox** for U.S. Senate in Montana won 6.6 percent.
- **Robert Sarvis** for Governor in Virginia won 6.5 percent.
- **Powell Gammill** for U.S. House in Arizona won 6.4 percent.
- **Ron Williams** for U.S. House in Mississippi won 6.4 percent.
- **Thomas Jefferson** for U.S. House in Kansas won 6.2 percent.
- **Jonathan Dine** for U.S. Senate in Missouri won 6.1 percent.
- **Thomas Jefferson** for U.S. House in Kansas won 5.9 percent.

- **Andrew Horning** for U.S. Senate in Indiana won 5.8 percent.
- **Rex Bell** for U.S. House in Indiana won 5.8 percent.
- **Kevin Craig** for U.S. House in Missouri won 5.2 percent.
- **James Stanczak** for U.S. House in Texas won 5.2 percent.
- **Chris Kella** for U.S. House in Ohio won 5.2 percent.
- **David Kaiser** for U.S. House in Montana won 5.2 percent.

Gov. Gary Johnson broke the million-vote barrier for a Libertarian for president in 2012, winning a record 1,275,951 votes.

State Libertarian races also fared well in 2012, including the following:

- **Jeremy Walters** for state House in South Carolina won 47 percent.
- **Tim Menger** for state House in Colorado won 41 percent.
- **Mike Fellows** for clerk of the Supreme Court won 43 percent.

Republican David Jolly edged out Democrat Alex Sink for the congressional open seat in Florida, winning by under 2 percent and raising speculation as to whether Overby's presence in the race determined the winner.

Republicans had assumed that the Libertarian would take more votes from their candidate, prompting a Karl Rove PAC to fund robocalls to 20,000 voters urging a vote for Jolly.

However, polling of past Libertarian campaigns coupled with the fact that Overby ran his campaign on a mix of issues that are often associated with both the "left" and the "right" renders any conclusion about his impact uncertain. His campaign promises included tax cuts, spending cuts, a non-interventionist foreign policy, drug legalization, and marriage equality.

Sink, Jolly, and their supporters spent more than \$12 million during the campaign, one of the most expensive races for House ever. They saturated the airwaves with attack ads on each other and barraged voters with direct mail and phone calls, which may have boosted the Libertarian vote.

William McConnell, a lifelong Republican, told the *Miami Herald* that he voted for Overby in response to television ad blitzes that were "packed with lies on both sides."

An independent voter, Frank Akers, told the *Tampa Tribune* that the onslaught of mail and phone calls — sometimes six or seven in one night — drove him to vote for Overby.

Whether or not Overby's campaign determined the winner, it is likely that he pulled substantial votes from people who don't normally vote.

"The Overby campaign is another sign that non-voters, who lean more Libertarian than the general voting population, are giving up their resignation and re-engaging in politics," said Carla Howell, political director for the Libertarian National Committee. "This bodes well for 2014 Libertarian candidates and the future of the Libertarian Party."

### John Buckley in WV

...continued from page 4

pace and taking away our individual liberties.

He explained, "I spent decades in the GOP, from precinct captain to candidate. But in the early '90s, I realized it was an ineffectual vehicle for less government. I proudly accepted that my political home is in the Libertarian Party. Many Republican officeholders talk the fiscal talk, but either don't un-

derstand it, or aren't principled enough to act on it. And they can't seem to extend the principles of freedom and small government to privacy and other civil liberties."

"I think the citizens of West Virginia, especially the younger voters, are eager for an alternative to the dreary, special-interest politics of the Democrats and Republicans," he said.

Buckley pledges, "If elected, I will work tirelessly to enact: 1) across-the-board tax cuts (more money in our own pockets); 2) drastically reduced government spending; 3) an end to special favors to corporate insiders; and, 4) a cease-fire in the ruinously expensive, counter-productive, and crime-enhancing 'War on Drugs.'"

• **Website:** johnbuckley.org

## Libertarian National Committee meets

By Gary Johnson  
Libertarian National  
Committee

**T**he Libertarian National Committee met Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2, in Alexandria, Va.

Committee members inspected the office space for the new headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

The LNC approved a \$12,500 contract to gather signatures for ballot access in Alabama, and the Executive Committee of the LNC voted to spend \$65,000 for a petition drive in Illinois. The National Committee voted to pay the last \$5,000 in expenses to attorney Paul Rossi for his defense against the 2012 attempt by Republicans to take the Libertarian Party off the ballot in Pennsylvania.

The chair, Geoffrey Neale, briefly described the Libertarian Angels fundraising campaign and plans for a "You Might Be a Libertarian" advertising campaign.

The executive director, Wes Benedict, said recent sales of T-shirts exceeded expectations and he planned to offer more premiums such as new brochures, bumper stickers, and yard signs to raise revenue.

LNC members met Saturday night with Libertarian activists from Northern Virginia.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, at 3 p.m. in Columbus, Ohio, at the site of the national convention.

*Gary Johnson, no relation to Gov. Gary Johnson, is a member of the Libertarian National Committee and the secretary of the Libertarian Party of Texas.*

### Next LNC Meeting:

June 26, 2014

LP National Convention

Columbus, Ohio

## Libertarian Party booth attracts student interest at ISFLC 2014



Left: LP editor Eric D. Dixon, LNC representative Arvin Vohra, and LP Political Director Carla Howell share information about the Libertarian Party with the many students in attendance at the 2014 International Students for Liberty Conference held Feb. 14–16 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Lincoln Photography)

Above: Vohra and a conference attendee at the LP booth.

## Tonie Nathan, first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote, dies at 91

By Carla Howell

**T**heodora “Tonie” Nathan, the 1972 Libertarian Party candidate for vice president, passed away on the morning of March 20, 2014, at the age of 91.

Nathan was a charter member of the national Libertarian Party, which was founded in 1971, inspired largely by the philosophical vision of Ayn Rand. At the first Libertarian Party presidential nominating convention in 1972, she was selected to run for vice president with Libertarian presidential candidate John Hospers.

Republican Virginia elector Roger L. MacBride, who later switched his affiliation to the Libertarian Party and became the party’s 1976 Libertarian presidential nominee, chose to vote for Hospers and Nathan rather than Nixon and Agnew, making Nathan the first woman in U.S. history to receive an electoral vote in the Electoral College — ahead of Geraldine Ferraro in 1984. She was also the first Jewish person in America to receive an electoral vote and to gain a nomination to run as vice president.

Nathan was a TV and radio broadcast journalist. Starting in 1971, she produced and occasionally hosted a daily talk show for KVAL-TV (CBS affiliate) in Eugene, Ore.

Following her vice-presidential run, she ran for office as a Libertarian candidate during the 1970s through



Tonie Nathan

the 1990s for federal and state offices. In the 1980 U.S. Senate election in Oregon, Nathan participated in three statewide television debates with then-Sen. Bob Packwood and then-state Sen. Ted Kulongoski. She received 43,686 votes.

In 1990, Nathan ran as a Libertarian candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives for Oregon’s 4th congressional district. She was the lone challenger to incumbent congressman Peter DeFazio, and received 26,432 votes for 14 percent of the vote.

Nathan earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Oregon. She operated her own in-

“It is with sadness we learn the news of the passing of our friend Tonie Nathan, a great and history-making Libertarian. We celebrate her life and her accomplishments.”

— Geoffrey J. Neale, Chair,  
Libertarian National Committee

surance agency, a music publishing firm, and a decorating service in the Los Angeles area of California before moving to Eugene, Ore.

Nathan married Charles “Chuck” Nathan, an ASCAP composer who wrote top-10 hit songs in the 1950s. The couple had three sons, Paul, Larry, and Greg Nathan.

Nathan is a former vice chair of the Libertarian Party, as well as a founding member and former president of the Association of Libertarian Feminists. She was a speaker at the 2012 Libertarian National Convention, where she announced Gary Johnson as the 2012 Libertarian Party presidential nominee.

“It is with sadness we learn the news of the passing of our friend Tonie Nathan, a great and history-making Libertarian,” said Geoffrey J. Neale, chair of the Libertarian National Committee. “We celebrate her life and her accomplishments.”



# Libertarian Party 2014 National Convention

## Don't miss the National Convention in Columbus, OH — June 26–29, 2014

By Nancy Neale  
Chair, Convention  
Management Committee

As I've written before, you don't want to miss the LP National Convention in June! We have more confirmed guest speakers to announce at this time — and more will be on the convention site by the time you read this. (I am working on a few big names, but they take a bit longer to work out the details. Stay tuned, as they say.)

The founder and producer of FreedomFest is economist **Mark Skousen**. He is well known as the author of many books on economics and finance, and also publishes an online investment newsletter. But did you know that he is a descendant of none other than Ben Franklin? His book *The Completed Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* was published in 2006. As Franklin was known as a man of great character, it seemed fitting to shine a light on this great man in our nation's history. Skousen has graciously agreed to give a talk about his famous ancestor. (And Ben may make a personal appearance as well.)

*Don't Sell Your Coat: Surprising Truths About Climate Change* is a wonderful book that sets the record straight on many myths about the subject. Though not a scientist, the author, **Harold Ambler** (a journalist by profession), has done extensive research and does an excellent job presenting the subject matter in a very fact-



Mark Skousen



Harold Ambler



Elizabeth Gentner



Marc Harrold

based but accessible manner, poking holes in many of the global warming alarmists' claims — including those made by Al Gore. Ambler provides great ammunition for any of us trying to debunk the claim that "all the science is in" on climate change.

And, for your entertainment, we are pleased to have fellow libertarian "The Red Diva" herself, **Elizabeth Gentner**. Her past performances include many as the soprano soloist in well-known choral masterpieces, as well as major roles in operas, such as *La Traviata*, *Carmen*, and *Madame Butterfly*. She will open the business session with a patriotic song or two, and will be a part of the program during the gala banquet on Saturday night.

**Marc Harrold** is a former police officer (including a role as a police academy instructor) and a former U.S. Immigration prosecutor, having served as an assistant chief counsel with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). He's left the dark side, and is now an immigration attorney in the D.C. metro area, representing immigrants

and businesses around the country with his expertise on immigration law, detention, and deportation issues. He is also an expert on First and Fourth Amendment law. And he is the Libertarian candidate for Congress in Virginia's 11th district.

The convention site is up and running: **lpcon2014.org**

You can also easily follow the link from LP.org. There, you can read about new speakers as they are confirmed, visit the hotel page to make your room reservation by June 5 in order to get our special convention rate, visit the linked "Experience Columbus" site to find out all the other things you can include in your trip, and purchase your registration to attend all the meals and speaker events. The cutoff for "Early Bird" pricing is May 1 — and, for what you get, the prices are lower than for the past few conventions!

Always keep in mind that convention registration is a separate process from becoming a credentialed (voting) delegate. And you don't have to be a delegate to register for all the great events. In fact, we hope to have many people attend who

### Call for Volunteers

We need people to help on-site, to perform a variety of tasks, such as helping with registration or being a door monitor/ticket taker. You could offset some or all of the cost of your registration by volunteering your services. Visit the Volunteer page of the convention site: [lpcon2014.org/volunteer](http://lpcon2014.org/volunteer)

are not delegates! It's the perfect opportunity for political and non-political libertarians, and those just interested in finding out about our ideas to gather and attend a conference built around the business portion of the convention.

I am open to suggestions, and I am particularly interested in finding talented musicians and other performers among our ranks to entertain at various times throughout the weekend. This convention promises to be educational and informative, but also inspiring and entertaining. It will be one of the best LP conventions ever, and we want you there to be a part of it. I look forward to seeing you there! You may contact me at: [Nancy@LP.org](mailto:Nancy@LP.org)

*Nancy Neale helped organize the 2012 Las Vegas LP convention, and was the primary organizer of the highly-touted 2004 Atlanta convention. She has also organized several state LP conventions, in Texas and her native California.*

## How to participate effectively at the LP National Convention

By Rich Tomasso  
Libertarian National Committee

Your first national convention can be overwhelming. Your state convention may have 20–40 people, a one-page agenda, and simple rules for debate and voting. At a national convention, there'll be 10–30 times as many delegates, an inch-thick binder of material, special rules of debate and voting, three days of business, speakers, workshops, and more. Even if you've been to a few of them, it's still a lot to take in.

Here's some general advice that will help prepare you and help keep business on the convention floor moving smoothly.

**1. Make sure the national office has your current contact info, especially your email address.** A lot of in-

formation will be provided ahead of time. Make sure it can reach you.

**2. Answer the bylaws and platform surveys.** Changes to our bylaws and platform will be the first business of the convention. Each committee sends a survey before the convention to get feedback from the members. Taking the survey will help you to become familiar with the proposals, and also let you point out problems or ask questions directly to the committees so they can be addressed before the final recommendations to the convention. Discuss the proposals with your local group.

**3. Talk with your state chair or delegation chair about your affiliate's goals.** Talk with others who have been to prior conventions. Get recommendations on workshops and panels.

**4. Familiarize yourself with the basics of Robert's Rules of Order, especially if your state does not use Robert's or similar procedures for running meetings.** You do not have to read the giant book (you definitely have better ways to spend your time). There are many excellent two-page summaries of Robert's. There will be a cheat sheet in the binder listing the motions you can make and the vote thresholds required. Also read the LP convention rules, as we do use some special rules for debates and voting.

**5. Get to the convention as early as you can manage.** The earlier you arrive, the more time you will have to get familiar with the layout, double-check the schedule to plan your weekend, read materials, talk with officers and candidates, attend pre-convention events, visit the

*continued on page 15...*

# THE 2013 LIBERTARIAN PARTY ANNUAL REPORT



## A Message from the Chair and Executive Director

Dear fellow Libertarian,

While Republican and Democratic politicians continued their attacks on liberty in 2013, the Libertarian Party responded by exposing them, pushing back against them, and blazing new paths towards liberty.

Polls show public approval of Libertarians rising, while fewer and fewer people identify as Democrats or Republicans.

Polls also show that Americans are more distrustful of government than ever (as well they should be). From Obamacare to NSA domestic spying, people are being offered many reasons to support libertarianism. According to a December 2013 Gallup poll, a record-high 72 percent of all Americans believe that Big Government is a bigger threat to the United States than Big Business (21 percent) or Big Labor (5 percent).

Public opinion continues to move in our direction regarding the War on Drugs. The Libertarian Party has fought for decades to end drug prohibition, and we saw more success on that front in 2013, as medical marijuana prohibition was ended in Illinois and New Hampshire, and marijuana possession was decriminalized in Vermont.

President George W. Bush doubled the national debt, mostly with the support of a Republican Congress. Since 2009, President Obama and the Democrats (and Republicans) have nearly doubled it again.

The Republicans and Democrats have made it abundantly clear that they will not respect our civil liberties, and they will continue to grow the size and scope of government.

Here are some examples of Libertarian candidates and officeholders fighting back:

- In 2008, the Republican Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, voted for the Wall Street bailouts.

*continued on page 9...*

### 2009 - 2013 LNC Balance Sheet Summary

|                   | 2009    | 2010    | 2011    | 2012    | 2013 *  |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Assets      | 235,481 | 421,811 | 454,149 | 290,870 | 445,746 |
| Total Liabilities | 38,496  | 79,087  | 42,998  | 37,515  | 48,988  |
| Total Net Assets  | 196,985 | 342,724 | 411,151 | 253,355 | 396,758 |

### 2009 - 2013 Revenue & Expense Summary

| Support and Revenue                       | 2009             | 2010             | 2011             | 2012             | 2013 *           |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Membership Dues                           | 480,132          | 532,494          | 482,622          | 458,288          | 456,082          |
| Donations                                 | 307,564          | 240,508          | 288,594          | 281,015          | 189,628          |
| Recurring Gifts                           | 268,089          | 351,243          | 393,021          | 331,288          | 344,601          |
| Board Solicitation Major Gifts            | 19,763           | 94,388           | 25,027           | 1,000            | 125              |
| Convention Revenue                        | 0                | 170,112          | 0                | 185,226          | 0                |
| Project Program Revenue                   | 0                | 5,000            | 130,035          | -6,321           | 235,869          |
| Brand & Promo Materials Rev               | 0                | 28,994           | 0                | 690              | 2,450            |
| Ballot Access Donations                   | 0                | 32,052           | 30,188           | 231,877          | 61,395           |
| Publications Materials Other              | 500              | 24,427           | 7,900            | 1,645            | 1,000            |
| Other Revenue & Offsets                   | 3,652            | 2,871            | 1,523            | 142              | 23               |
| <b>Total Support and Revenue</b>          | <b>1,079,701</b> | <b>1,482,088</b> | <b>1,358,911</b> | <b>1,484,850</b> | <b>1,291,173</b> |
| Cost of Support and Revenue               | 2009             | 2010             | 2011             | 2012             | 2013 *           |
| Fundraising Costs                         | 145,588          | 126,335          | 147,122          | 165,265          | 116,486          |
| Membership Fundraising Costs              | 73,486           | 121,165          | 155,965          | 76,355           | 101,057          |
| Direct Costs                              | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                |
| Convention                                | 0                | 102,896          | 0                | 161,912          | 0                |
| Ballot Access Other Project Fundraising   | 0                | 4,283            | 2,937            | 16,825           | 56,116           |
| <b>Total Cost of Support and Revenue</b>  | <b>219,074</b>   | <b>354,678</b>   | <b>306,024</b>   | <b>420,357</b>   | <b>273,659</b>   |
| <b>Net Support Available for Programs</b> | <b>860,627</b>   | <b>1,127,410</b> | <b>1,052,887</b> | <b>1,064,493</b> | <b>1,017,514</b> |
| Program Expense                           | 2009             | 2010             | 2011             | 2012             | 2013 *           |
| Administrative Costs                      | 379,255          | 356,133          | 365,257          | 362,256          | 342,204          |
| Compensation                              | 342,028          | 375,988          | 412,239          | 399,518          | 461,390          |
| Affiliate Support                         | 300              | 0                | 3,867            | 4,816            | 5,404            |
| Brand & Promo Materials Exp               | 35               | 51,879           | 5,191            | 2,748            | 2,408            |
| Campus Outreach                           | 0                | 60               | 0                | 0                | 1,000            |
| Candidate, Campaign & Initiatives         | 0                | 25,048           | 50,000           | 4,464            | 0                |
| Ballot Access Petitioning Related Exp     | 5,500            | 128,904          | 72,452           | 382,461          | 16,262           |
| Litigation                                | 5,367            | 0                | 12,882           | 23,259           | 6,979            |
| Media                                     | 5,745            | 1,250            | 0                | 0                | 30               |
| Member Communication and Materials        | 33,092           | 34,016           | 36,992           | 38,452           | 24,670           |
| Outreach                                  | 3,016            | 8,392            | 21,285           | 4,315            | 6,979            |
| Project Program Other                     | 0                | 0                | 4,294            | 0                | 6,785            |
| <b>Total Program Expense</b>              | <b>774,338</b>   | <b>981,671</b>   | <b>984,459</b>   | <b>1,222,289</b> | <b>874,111</b>   |
| <b>Net Operating Surplus (or Deficit)</b> | <b>86,289</b>    | <b>145,739</b>   | <b>68,427</b>    | <b>-157,796</b>  | <b>143,403</b>   |

\* Unaudited for 2013



## LP FACEBOOK FANS

2012: 254,255

2013: 438,005

NET  
GAIN: 183,750

% GAIN: 72.3%



Libertarian Party Facebook presence grew substantially in 2013.

...continued from page 8

In 2013, Kentucky Libertarian David Patterson launched his campaign against McConnell and vowed to fight against all bailouts.

- While the vast majority of Republican and Democratic Congressmen continued to support the Patriot Act and NSA spying, former Libertarian Presidential nominee Gary Johnson commented at a rally in Washington, D.C., “There are members of Congress who wrote the PATRIOT Act and are vowing to fix it. Well, there’s only one way to fix the PATRIOT Act and that’s to repeal the PATRIOT Act.”
- Libertarian Brett Bittner serves on the Marietta, Georgia School Board. Bittner bravely cast the only vote against a local sales tax extension in 2012. He was re-elected in 2013. Bittner also serves as executive director of the Libertarian Party of Georgia.
- Thanks to the efforts of the Libertarian Party of Kansas, gun owners who were prohibited by their local governments from openly carrying firearms are now free to open-carry in their cities.

Because we’re a political party, we can do something no other organization can do: when we have ballot access, we can put candidates directly on the ballot.

Win or lose, our candidates spread our important message about the benefits of free markets, civil liberties, and peace.

The Libertarian Party’s time is now, and we need your support today!

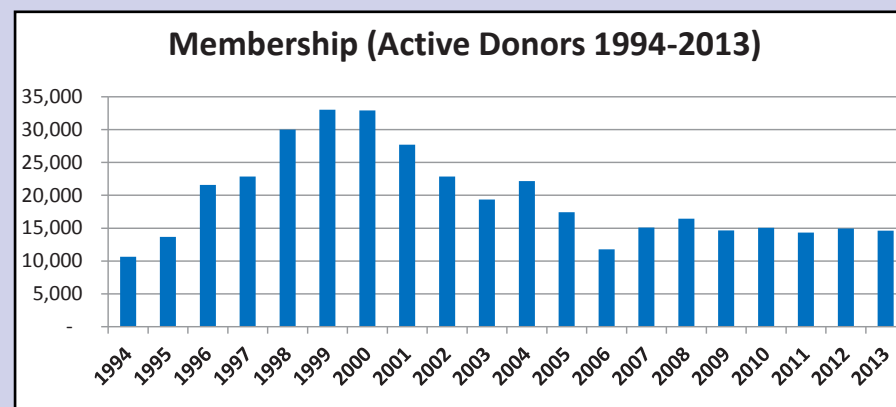
Almost all of our revenue comes from individual donors like you. Your support allows us to staff our headquarters, maintain our website, petition for ballot access, reach out to the press and the public, and keep you informed about what Libertarians are getting done throughout the United States.

Thanks for your support in 2013. We hope you’ll continue supporting the Libertarian Party in 2014 by signing up for a new monthly pledge, increasing your monthly pledge, or making a contribution today.

**Geoffrey J. Neale, Chair**  
**Wes Benedict, Executive Director**

*P.S. — Donate online at LP.org, call 800-Elect-Us, or enclose a check made out to “Libertarian Party” in the enclosed envelope.*

As the chart below shows, Libertarian Party membership has been stable since 2007. The chart shows “Active Donors,” which includes some non-member donors.



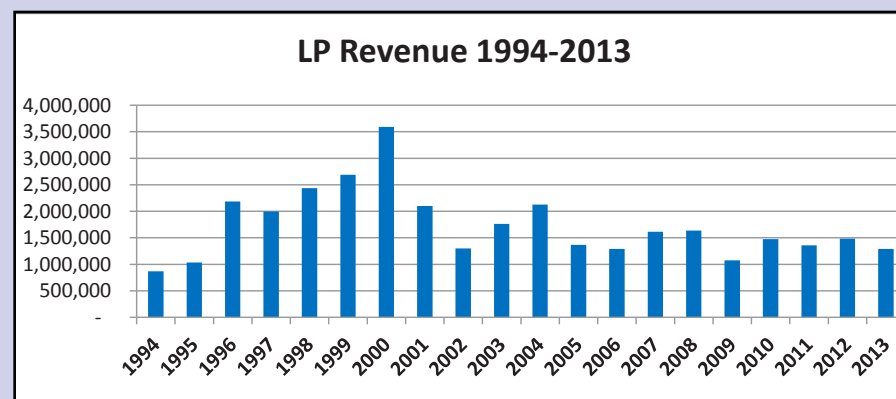
Dues-paying membership peaked at about 33,000 in the year 2000. During that time, the Libertarian Party conducted a huge recruitment drive. That membership drive, called Project Archimedes, temporarily grew membership, although the project was very expensive.

More recently, on a much smaller scale than Project Archimedes, the LP has sent membership “prospecting letters” to lists of donors to libertarian-oriented organizations like Reason magazine and the Cato Institute. These mailings typically cost more money than they bring in. The party raised several thousand dollars for a prospecting letter in late 2013, but that was only enough to bring in about 140 new members.

If fundraising goes well in 2014, there are plans to do more member prospecting. It is valuable to identify new dues-paying members, because they don’t just help fund the party’s activities—they are also the people most likely to volunteer or run for office.

National dues-paying membership is only one way to measure the size of the Libertarian Party. Some state and county Libertarian Party affiliates have their own separate membership programs.

Additionally, 31 states allow voters to designate a party affiliation when they register, and 26 report the number of registered Libertarians. There were over 300,000 registered Libertarians in 2013, and that number continues to grow, while the registration of Republicans and Democrats has been declining. Exact numbers are not available, because some states only release their numbers in even-numbered years. However, most if not all of the states that reported numbers in 2013, reported growth in the number of registered Libertarians.



## AFFILIATE News And Events

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

### Arkansas

*LPAR convention a tremendous success*

With more than 100 people in attendance and 28 candidates nominated, “Big Liberty, Little Rock” proved to be the biggest and most successful event in LPAR history.

Heading the state Libertarian ticket is Frank Gilbert, running for governor of Arkansas. Gilbert currently serves as constable of Dekalb Township in Grant County, attending to the rural areas of northwest Grant County. Gilbert also served as mayor of Tull, Ark., for eight years and coroner of Grant County for two years, and is a former president of the Bauxite Education Association.

“I am excited by the opportunity, as the Libertarian Party’s nominee for governor, to carry the message that free men and women have an absolute right to conduct their lives in any way they choose, so long as they don’t infringe on the equal rights of others,” Gilbert said, “as well as our absolute responsibility to bear the result of our actions. The Libertarian Party is the only political entity that has that message for the voters of Arkansas. I believe it will be a refreshing change from the politics-as-usual of the old parties. I intend to campaign vigorously throughout the state.”

If the Libertarian Party candidate for governor receives at least 3 percent of the vote, the party will be automatically certified to run candidates in the next election cycle, without having to petition for a spot on the ballot.

For a full list of nominated candidates, or to find your Arkansas Libertarian candidates, please go to the LPAR candidates page on our website: [lpar.org](http://lpar.org)

The Libertarian Party of Arkansas Executive Committee also gave out several awards at this convention:

- Michael Pakko received the Chairman’s Award for Extraordinary Service
- Rodger Paxton received the Standard Bearer of Liberty
- Tyler Harrison received the Outreach

Award.

- Debbie Standiford received the Volunteer of the Year Award.
- Frank Gilbert received the Officeholder of the Year Award.

We had great training by Brett Pojunis, our LNC Representative, and Evan McMahon, executive director for the LNCC. Geoff Neale, the chairman of the LNC, served as debate moderator, speaker, and birthday boy. Judge Jim Gray, the LP vice presidential candidate for 2012, was the keynote speaker and sang a wonderful birthday song to Neale. The LPAR will be posting videos of all of this training and the speeches very soon!

Some of our other many successes were:

- Formation of three new county groups: Benton County, Washington County, and a Southeast Arkansas group that consists of Drew and Lincoln counties.
- Nominated a full delegation for the National LP Convention on June 26–29.
- Increased our monthly recurring donations by more than \$400 a month.
- Filled three vacancies on the LPAR Executive Committee. The new ExCom members include Grant Brand, Third District Rep; Ken Hamilton, Fourth District Rep; and Tyler Harrison, At-Large Rep.
- Increased LPAR membership by several new members (full numbers still not known as of this writing).

### Kentucky

*Attend district and county conventions*

David Patterson was selected by registered Libertarians who chose to participate in the Libertarian Party’s partisan primary. All those registered to vote as a Libertarian, who chose to participate, were able to vote. David faced only NOTA (None Of The Above) and was selected by the voters. We’re excited to have a pro-liberty candidate in the 2014 U.S. Senate race. Now, we ask: Won’t you step up and be a pro-liberty candidate in your county this year? To find out how, look below.

Don’t forget about your district and county party conventions. All affiliated parties will be holding their conventions

at various times in the month of March, instead of their (first) regular business meeting for the month. For more information, look below or visit the LPKY event page to find out when your party is holding their March meeting: [lpky.org/events](http://lpky.org/events)

We’re currently working on raising money for a new server. The server has been purchased by State Chair Ken Moellman, for only \$270! But it needs additional disk drives, which will in total cost another \$270. We’ve had one donation already. We need to raise another \$170 to cover the cost of these drives.

This new server is critical to enabling the growth of the party. The projects planned for this new server are: localized newsletters, keeping in contact with known Libertarians, and finding new Libertarians.

If you can help, please donate today. If you have any questions about the server, just direct them to State Chair Ken Moellman: [lpky.org/contact](http://lpky.org/contact)

This is the official “last call” for Libertarians to declare their candidacy. The initial paperwork must be filed by April 1 for all partisan non-federal offices, and candidates must be elected in our primary, held at your local convention.

In many counties, no one has filed to run for various offices, and the deadline for Democrats and Republicans has passed! That means you’re likely to just walk into an office. You can look at who is registered as a candidate in your county here: [tinyurl.com/q9jfr3p](http://tinyurl.com/q9jfr3p)

To get started, visit our new Campaign Introduction Webpage: [share.lpky.org/bin/view/CandidateIntro/WebHome](http://share.lpky.org/bin/view/CandidateIntro/WebHome)

After reading it, if you have any further questions you can contact state Chair Ken Moellman and he’ll direct you to the right person.

Libertarianism is on the rise. Will you stand with it?

### Mississippi

*Joey Robinson campaigns for U.S. House*

Deep in the south, Libertarian candidate Joey Robinson has joined the race for Mississippi’s 4th congressional district. The seat, currently held by Republican Steven Palazzo, is sure to draw some big attention over the next couple of months with the addition of former Democratic congressman Gene Taylor also joining the race. This time, however, Taylor has crossed party lines and will

compete against Palazzo in the Republican primary on June 3.

Robinson is as local as it gets. He was born and raised in Gulfport, Miss., and is a product of the Gulfport School System, graduating from Gulfport High School in 2001. After graduating high school, he attended the University of South Alabama in neighboring Mobile, Ala., where he graduated with a major in psychology and a minor in political science. After college, Robinson moved back to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to start his family. He married his long-time girlfriend, Jamie Carlow of Biloxi, and together they have two rambunctious boys, Joseph and Jakob. They currently live in Ocean Springs, Miss., where Jamie is a nurse practitioner for Singing River Health and Joey is a sales consultant in the medical field.

“I am of the firm belief, that if the people of this great state take a moment to look at the values and beliefs of the Libertarian party, what they will find is a party that they can truly identify with,” Robinson said.

You can find more information about Joey by visiting:

- [JoeyRobinsonforCongress.com](http://JoeyRobinsonforCongress.com)
- [fb.com/JoeyRobinsonforMSCongress](https://www.facebook.com/JoeyRobinsonforMSCongress)
- [twitter.com/LibertarianJoey](https://twitter.com/LibertarianJoey)

“I really feel that we could not be in a better position for this race,” Robinson said. “The people of Mississippi are caught between our current congressman, who has not done a good job of representing the district, and another former congressman who has switched parties in a desperate attempt to get re-elected.”

Robinson continued, “I believe that Mississippians and Americans alike are tired of career politicians in our nation’s capital. This country does not need the same old guard, but new people with new ideas, people who aren’t bound to any corporate donors, who aren’t tied to the current political parties that got us into this mess. The people are ready for a change, and they are not going to get it while voting Democrat or Republican.”

“This is a unique situation,” explained Mario Barnes, the 4th district representative for the Mississippi LP. “The Republican in office now was voted in because people were tired of their Democratic Representative. And, after four years of the Republican, people are ready for another change. Apparently, the previ-

*continued on page 11...*



## AFFILIATE News And Events

...continued from page 10

ous Democratic congressman could smell blood in the water and is out for revenge. He still feels it would be difficult to win as a Democrat even with the amount of negativity surrounding the incumbent. So here we are, waiting for the primary to find out who the lesser of those two evils are. The Democrats aren't running any big names, so we see this as an opportunity to scoop up unsatisfied voters from the loser of the primary while continuing to reach out to both the Democratic and Republican base voter. We are excited to have Joey representing us in this race. We feel it is a real possibility to make it to a runoff with the winner of the Republican primary. If this happens, these people won't be afraid to vote for us. Their motivation for voting party lines is gone. If you vote for us and we lose, your guy still wins. It will be interesting to watch this race play out."

Robinson appears to have a solid support base. The Libertarian Party of Mississippi's social media fan base is greater than the Democrats' and second to the Republicans'.

Mississippi also has a hot race for Senate. State Sen. Chris McDaniel, touted for his Libertarian leanings, is looking to oust U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran. Cochran has been in office since the '70s. Politics in Mississippi is starting to heat up. It ap-

pears libertarianism is taking a real foothold in the state.

Robinson could use all the help he can get. We would love to see a Libertarian in a runoff for a U.S. Representative seat!

## Missouri

*Convention: 'A Better Deal for Missouri'*

The Missouri LP held its state convention on March 8 at the historic Soulard Preservation Hall in the downtown St. Louis area. The annual State Committee business meeting was held, wherein the executive committee for 2014/2015 was selected, as well as delegates for the national convention. In addition, two sessions were coordinated by Executive Director Greg Tlappek. The first featured several party members giving informative presentations on the various segments of the Missouri state government and budget. The second session, building upon the first, involved the participants creating a "Better Deal for Missouri," which would serve as talking points for candidates running for state office. The afternoon session was promoted as being of particular interest to members of the general public. Participants heard talks from John Chasnoff of Drone Free St. Louis; John Payne and Sgt. Gary Wiegert of Show-Me Cannabis; Lloyd Sloan, former radio host and Tea Party/Ron Paul activist; and a brief overview of libertarianism by state chair Cisse Spragins. Several new members joined, and new personalized color plastic membership cards that were printed on the spot were a hit.

Filing for the August primary is open through March 25. The party expects to have candidates for the eight congressional districts, the sole statewide race, and state auditor, as well as several state representative candidates.

## Montana

*Election year promises to be interesting*

Montana's filing deadline ended March 10 for major parties in Montana. With open federal

seats, control of the Montana legislature, this election year promises to be interesting. We have seven candidates for the legislature, one candidate for Granite County Commission, and both a U.S. House and a U.S. Senate candidate.

Those who filed as a Libertarian for the legislature are:

- Senate District 33 Joan Stanley
- House District 3 Cris Colvin
- HD 54 Jeffery Hill
- HD 56 Joshua Austill
- HD 80 Ron Vandevender
- HD 84 Nicholas Taffs
- HD 97 Charles Satchfield

Elena Gagliano filed as a Granite County commissioner, and will face off against a Republican because no Democrat filed. Roger Roots is the nominee for the U.S. Senate seat that was vacated by retiring Sen. Max Baucus. The U.S. House candidate is Mike Fellows. These candidates can use your support and time.

Thanks to Jeffery Hill for his meetings of the Yellowstone County Libertarian Party. Yellowstone County is the largest county in Montana. The Yellowstone Facebook page can be found here: fb.com/pages/Yellowstone-County-Libertarian-Party/705374756174659

The Missoula County Libertarian Party had an entry in the March 15 Missoula St. Patrick's Day parade. It was a good day, and there was a large crowd present along the route. The MCLP is speaking out against a special safety district that will tax property owners within the district. These safety issues should be included in the Missoula city budget. Cites in Montana are limited in the mills they can assess property owners, so these special districts are used as an outside revenue source for a number of things like roads and parks.

The Libertarian Party of Ravalli County has seven members of their central committee. Five members are required for a central committee. The deadline for those positions was also March 10.

No word yet on the L.R. 127, the top-two primary lawsuit presented to the Montana Supreme Court earlier this year. Republicans decided to put this issue on the ballot, since a governor's veto was looming on S.B. 408, the top-two primary, in the 2013 Montana legislative session.

If folks have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, contact State Chair Mike Fellows.

## Nebraska

*6 candidates for state and federal offices*

Our filing deadline was March 3. We have six candidates for state and federal offices. We are confident that with our field of candidates, we will maintain ballot access for another four years. We have a competitive race in one of federal house races, which is a first. We are approaching 5,000 registered Libertarians, which would be the most we have ever had.

## New York

*State convention to be held on April 26*

The LPNY convention will be held on April 26. We will select four statewide candidates (Gov., Lt. Gov., Comptroller, Attorney General) and new state committee officers. Geoff Neale is the keynote speaker.

## North Carolina

*NC Libertarians get U.S. Senate primary*

For the second time in history, the Libertarian Party of North Carolina will have a primary. Two people filed for the U.S. Senate nomination, Tim D'Annunzio of Raeford and Sean Haugh of Durham.

D'Annunzio was the Republican nominee for U.S. Congress in District 4 in 2012, losing to incumbent Democrat David Price. Haugh was the Libertarian nominee for U.S. Senate in 2002, and is a former party executive director.

The first Libertarian primary was in 2000 in the governor's race. Barbara Howe won the nomination with 923 votes over Johnathan Littlejohn, 231 votes.

Other Libertarian candidates in 2014 are: J. Wesley Casteen, U.S. House 7; P.H. Dawkins, state Senate 25; Paul Meinhart, state House 59; Eric Cable, state House 104; Shelby Mood, state House 117; Windy McKinney, Haywood County Commissioner; Jeremy Hussey, Randolph County Commissioner District 4; and Ginny Godfrey and Richard Evey, both running for Burke County Commissioner.

There will also be a Democratic and a Republican primary for U.S. Senate on May 6. Incumbent Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan has two challengers: Will Stewart, a small business owner;

*continued on page 12...*

**Want even more frequent updates from LP Headquarters?**

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**Visit [lp.org/contribute](http://lp.org/contribute) to make your pledge today!**

## AFFILIATE News And Events

...continued from page 11

and Ernest Reeves.

There are nine candidates in the Republican primary. Thom Tillis, speaker of the state House, is the favorite. Other candidates are: Ted Alexander, former Mayor of Shelby; Alex Lee Bradshaw; Greg Brannon, physician and Tea Party activist; Heather Grant, nurse practitioner; Mark Harris, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charlotte and president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; Edward Kryn, retired physician; and James Snyder, Jr., former state representative, candidate for U.S. Senate in 2002 and nominee for lieutenant governor in 2004.

If no one gets 40 percent of the vote, there will be a runoff between the top two on June 24.

### Oregon

*Raising funds to mail LP primary ballots*

The LPO is raising funds to mail 2014 LPO primary ballots to 16,000 Oregon Libertarians, an increase of 3,000 members since 2012. After nominating dozens of candidates in 2012, the goal for this year is to get LPO nominees on the ballot for every partisan race in the state.

For the first time, the 2014 primary ballot will also ask Libertarian voters whether they endorse statewide initiative measures likely to appear on the general election ballot. Those measures include marijuana legalization and marriage equality.

Visit [lporegon.org](http://lporegon.org) for current candidate lists and other LPO news.

### Texas

*'Launch 2014' marches to November*

Fellow Texas Libertarians, By the time you receive this, we will have concluded our state convention. At the time of this writing I do not know the outcome of the convention, but as the "Launch 2014" campaign marches toward the November elections, I want to express my appreciation to all of you.

For the past 10 years, we have set all-time records: more candidates, more

support, more funding, more votes. It has truly been a team effort.

We did not accomplish record results through selling out our principles. Many of us have endured scorn, ridicule, and hardship. We did not seek an easy endeavor. It might be tempting to yield in order to get easy money or easy votes. We have made ourselves more persuasive and appealing while delivering a message that can be difficult to get noticed and hard for some people to receive. In spite of this challenge, we have succeeded in growing the Libertarian Party and the principled message of liberty is being heard.

It has been my honor to serve you for this past decade and I greatly appreciate all of the support you have given me and the Libertarian Party of Texas. My best wishes for you as we have launched the march toward November.

— Texas LP Chair Patrick Dixon

### Vermont

*LP Vermont 2014 convention on April 26*

Come celebrate with like-minded Vermonters on April 26 at Zachary's Pizza in South Burlington at the Vermont Libertarian Party state convention.

When: April 26, 2014. Starts at 11:30 a.m. (sign in starts at 11 a.m.). Ends by 4:30 p.m. at the latest.

Where: Zachary's Pizza, located at 250 Williston Rd, South Burlington. Tel: (802) 864-9817. Visit [vtlp.org](http://vtlp.org) for additional information and a map.

Cost: \$10.00 per person, paid in advance of the convention to the VTLP (includes food, drink, and tip).

For more info contact: Jeremy Ryan, [chair@vtlp.org](mailto:chair@vtlp.org), (802) 735-2149.

Register at: [vtlp.org](http://vtlp.org)

### Washington

*State convention from May 30 to June 1*

The state convention will be held May 30–June 1, and starts with the "Robert Dome" (who included the LPWA in his estate) reception on the evening of May 30, with Gov. Gary Johnson and Judge Jim Gray, location

TBA. On Saturday, we will have a morning business session for party business and endorsing candidates. The luncheon (for a fee) will have highlighted speakers, and there will be an afternoon session of speakers. The evening banquet will have keynote speakers. Sunday, June 1, will feature a brunch with Gov. Gary Johnson (for a fee and no-host), location TBA. Some of the speakers we will have include Gov. Gary Johnson, Judge Jim Gray, David Bergland ('84 LP presidential candidate), LNC Chairman Geoff Neale, and many others.

Various counties are having meetings and mixers, including Whatcom, Clark, King, Thurston, Pierce, and Spokane counties. Check the [meetup.com](http://meetup.com) groups or the [LPWA.org](http://LPWA.org) website.

The Liberty Lion medal has been released by Northwest Territorial Mint, and part of the sales price goes to the LPWA.

We had a successful day at the Capitol in Olympia on Feb. 27. We held a morning session at the Red Lion Hotel, then went to the Hill in the afternoon to attend hearings and speak with our legislators or their assistants. This event is growing, and next year should be much larger.

Many events are planned for this summer, including Hempfest in both Seattle and Olympia.

### West Virginia

*Biggest slate of candidates in LPWV history*

The Libertarian Party of West Virginia's 2014 Nominating Convention has concluded, and the LPWV will be hosting its largest slate of candidates in the state affiliate's history.

John Buckley, formerly of the LPVA, has moved to the Mountain State and was successful in securing the nomination for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Jay Rockefeller.

Additionally, Davy Jones won the nomination for U.S. Representative, 2nd District; Patrick Smith won the nomination for WV Senate, 12th District; Ed Olesh won the nomination for WV House, 51st District; and Michael Ray won the nomination for WV House, 50th District.

You can learn more about our candidates by visiting our website at [lpwv.org](http://lpwv.org) and selecting the options in the Campaign 2014 menu.

Since the conclusion of the convention, we have had interest expressed by

additional individuals to run for office in 2014. Under WV State Code, the LPWV may appoint candidates to fill any position not nominated at the state convention. If you are interested in running for office in WV, please email us at [info@lpwv.org](mailto:info@lpwv.org).

Based upon conversations with other third parties in WV, it appears that up to five candidates will be competing for the coveted major-party/ballot-access status. Traditionally, third parties have been able to collectively gain approximately 4 percent in the gubernatorial race. Should the five proposed third parties enter into the 2016 gubernatorial race, the potential for any third party to obtain the requisite 1 percent to achieve or sustain major-party status will be highly diminished.

Therefore, in an unorthodox move in politics, the LPWV convention attendees unanimously endorsed a candidate for the 2016 election cycle. Dr. David Moran, the LPWV candidate responsible for gaining major-party status for the LP in 2012, will be the 2016 LPWV gubernatorial candidate. David will be kicking off his full campaign immediately in order to enhance name recognition, fund raising and support throughout all 55 counties in WV.

In addition to the nomination of candidates, the LPWV also elected their 2014–2016 Executive Committee: Michael S. Wilson, state chair; David Moran, vice-chair; Karl Swisher, treasurer; John Buckley, secretary; and Davy Jones, Ed Olesh, and Brent West, at-large representatives.

To conclude nomination news, the LPWV will also be fielding all six of their allocated delegates to the national convention: Michael Wilson, David Moran, John Buckley, Davy Jones, Ed Olesh, and Josh Campbell. We are still taking applications for alternates; so, if you are interested, please email [chair@lpwv.org](mailto:chair@lpwv.org).

**Thinking of running for office? Just want to learn more?**

Go to **LP.org/run-for-office** and send us your inquiry. You'll receive information from your state LP affiliate or from the national LP headquarters that you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state's election laws, and get on the ballot.



# Obama's military spending cuts equal military spending increases



## LP-issued news release:

By Carla Howell

While the Libertarian Party strongly agrees with the need to downsize the U.S. military, the Obama plan recently announced by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel expands the military.

Both Democratic and Republican politicians routinely deceive taxpayers by portraying slight reductions in the growth of government as “cuts.”

When military spending cuts are involved, Republicans protest loudly, giving credence to the claim that the cuts are real. Both Democrats and Republicans use these theatrics to disguise reckless government overspending — just as they did with the government “shutdown.”

“Elementary school arithmetic instructs us that if you grow spending at a slower rate — it still gets higher. It’s not a reduction; it’s an increase,” said Geoffrey J. Neale, chair of the Libertarian National Committee.

President Obama and Secretary Hagel propose creation of a new \$26 billion “Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative” (read: slush fund) while keeping the 2015 Pentagon budget at the same level as 2014. That’s an increase of \$26 billion.

They also propose wiping out what’s left of the so-called “sequester,” thereby sheltering the military from automatic spending cuts.

Democrats and Republicans already gutted a good portion of the sequester in the December round of budget negotiations.

Now they want to both increase military spending and take away the minimal spending controls that are still in effect while pretending they want to cut military spending.

The sequester cuts were agreed to in exchange for higher spending and higher government debt passed under the deceptively-named Budget Control Act of 2011. One more illustration that politicians’ promises for spending cuts equal spending increases.

They propose reducing the total employment of the

## Libertarian Party candidates say:

- Cut military spending immediately by at least 60%.
- Stay out of Syria and Ukraine.

Army, National Guard, Reserves, and Marine Corps by a mere 3.9 percent — while touting it as “shrinking the Army to its smallest size in 74 years.” This tiny reduction in personnel — if it ever happens — is not backed by cuts in spending. No cost savings. No real reduction.

They call for slowing down the *growth* in pay raises and the *growth* of tax-free housing allowances for military personnel. The only slight reduction they offer is an increase in contributions they pay for insurance deductibles and co-pays. Overall, they propose higher government spending for military personnel.

They propose a series of domestic base closures which, again, are not backed by spending cuts. Any savings will not go to taxpayers but to spending in other areas of the military.

In all likelihood, there will be little to no savings at all from base closures as proposed by President Obama. Few, if any, bases will actually close, because congressmen and senators will lobby intensely to keep them open in their home states. No base closure initiatives in the last 25 years have resulted in savings greater than \$1–3 billion per year, and some resulted in no closings at all.

Given that the U.S. government spends more than \$1 trillion for military purposes every year, such savings are trivial and will be used as an argument not to close any bases, as they were during the last round of attempted military base closings in 2005.

It appears the administration is more interested in provoking lawmakers to ensure bases stay open than in closing them and cutting costs — while pretending to downsize the U.S. military.

The Libertarian Party and its candidates aim to sub-

stantially downsize the U.S. military.

Libertarians are lining up to run for federal office in 2014 on a platform to cut military spending immediately by at least 60 percent, close a substantial number of overseas military bases, and bring troops home.

Specific Libertarian proposals to downsize the U.S. military include:

- Immediately withdraw all troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and bring them home to their families.
- Stay out of Syria, Ukraine, and every other foreign conflict.
- Close unneeded U.S. military bases and outposts in more than 130 countries around the world, and bring our troops home. First on the list are the massive deployments in Germany, Italy, South Korea, and Japan — countries that can fund their own military defense.
- Close at least half of the nation’s 4,402 domestic Department of Defense sites.
- Use 100 percent of operating cost savings to reduce the federal income tax, balance the federal budget, or both.
- Sell off all foreign and domestic real estate holdings of closed military bases and DoD sites while requiring that all proceeds be used to pay down existing government debt. None of it should pay for more government spending.

“Reducing and eliminating military bases in foreign countries will remove a major source of hostility towards the United States, reduce the threat of a terrorist attack, and reduce federal government debt by \$300 billion,” Neale said.

“Cutting military spending by \$600 billion every year will go a long way toward balancing the federal budget and ending the federal income tax,” he said. “This will give back \$5,000 every year to each taxpaying family in the United States; stimulate investment in small businesses; and create millions of sustainable, private-sector jobs. Plenty of jobs for veterans and millions of others now out of work.”

The LP platform’s section on national defense reads:

“We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression. The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. We oppose any form of compulsory national service.”

## Pledge to end Drug War

...continued from page 4

“I want our families to be safe,” he said. “That’s why I will sponsor legislation to end the War on Drugs.”

• Website: [vote4davyjones.org](http://vote4davyjones.org)

Chris Clemmons, Kansas, U.S. House

Chris Clemmons, a middle school teacher of life science, says the government has no business telling citizens they may not control their own state of mind by using drugs.

“You are a consenting adult and you have the right to do with your body as you see fit,” he said. “The government has no right to lay claim to your consciousness.”

He says ending the Drug War will restore personal responsibility.

“Every day, I work to impart to my students the need to be personally responsible,” he said. “Repealing the Drug War will go a long way toward fostering responsible behavior among those in the drug trade, potential drug users, and law enforcement personnel.”

• Website: [clemmonsforkansas.com](http://clemmonsforkansas.com)

“Every day, I work to impart to my students the need to be personally responsible. Repealing the Drug War will go a long way toward fostering responsible behavior among those in the drug trade, potential drug users, and law enforcement personnel.”

— Chris Clemmons, LP Kansas candidate for U.S. House



Chris Clemmons

# Spreading libertarianism by closing our mouths and opening our ears

By Dimitri Vassilaros

Talk Host, NewsRadio 1020 KDKA

If Libertarian ideals such as right-sizing bloated government are so wonderful (and they are), why doesn't every American agree with us? We might be tempted to ask what is wrong with those people who don't understand libertarianism. Maybe, instead, Libertarians should be asking what can we do better to understand them.

The late provocateur Andrew Breitbart crudely distilled our challenge to its essence: "If you can't sell freedom and liberty, you suck, and by suck, I mean, you suck profoundly."

I've been selling this glorious principle for years on radio, TV and in print. My audience is filled with Bubbas in Texas, Joe the Plumber in Ohio, and Good Ol' Boys in Georgia.

Let's call the average American "Joe Six-Pack."

## Step No. 1 — Read his mind (without having to learn Mr. Spock's Vulcan Mind Meld)

Mr. Six-Pack seldom cares about what matters to other people; he cares about what matters to him. So, how to read someone's mind? Here's the secret: ask.

Ask Joe what he is concerned about in his life; family, job, finances, goals, pets, anything.

## Step No. 2 — Listen (and listen good)

He probably won't mention Austrian economics, returning to the gold standard or ending the War on Drugs. He probably will mention seemingly mundane worries like his job prospects, the price of a gallon of



gas, health insurance for his family, making the next mortgage payment.

## Step No. 3 — Speak his language (by finding common ground)

Alas, Rosetta Stone software doesn't offer a course to teach Libertarians to speak the language of Joe Six-Pack. If he mentions he likes a sports team, say in the NFL, mention that you're a fan of, say, the Steelers. If he talks about his kids, share insights about yours; bond with him. And then show him you understand — and care about — his concerns.

For example, if he cares about the price of gasoline, tell him what you paid per gallon. And then, in your own

words, somehow convey that "I feel your pain."

## Step No. 4 — Gently offer a Libertarian solution (a very soft sell)

Ask Joe if he would please consider a solution to solve his problem. More than likely he will say yes. Walk him through the idea that, by reducing government to its right size, it will make his life better.

For example: citing a reputable source, Joe would have, say ... a \$1,000 more in his wallet — each year — by eliminating government rules and regulations that artificially pump up the price of gasoline. And that might solve other financial problems of his.

## Step No. 5 — Don't try to win (it's a discussion; not a debate)

Libertarians typically are articulate, bright, knowledgeable, and passionate about eliminating excessive government. They score debate points effortlessly.

But Joe Six-Pack isn't like that, and he knows it. If a friendly chat about how smaller government can solve his concerns morphs into deeper waters, he could feel inundated; and that someone is trying to ram libertarianism down his throat. Counterproductive, at the least.

Instead, treat him the way you would wish be treated if the roles were reversed. Be kind and courteous to him. Thank him for being so open-minded and willing to consider your Libertarian solution. Smile, and try to mean it. Stay in touch with him.

You've planted a seed that, someday, might take root. And, maybe, by your listening and caring, you have made another Libertarian friend.

## Arizona repeals ballot access restriction under pressure from pending referendum

On Feb. 27, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed a bill, HB 2196, to repeal a highly restrictive ballot access law passed in 2013. Republicans championed the 2013 bill to target both their Libertarian and Democratic opponents.

The 2013 bill included a provision making it almost impossible for a member of a ballot-qualified third party to get on his or her party's primary ballot or to nominate anyone by write-in vote. It also included provisions aimed at depressing Democratic voter turnout.

The 2014 action by the legislature and governor to repeal the 2013 bill was motivated by the



AZ Gov. Jan Brewer

success of a referendum petition last fall, which called for repeal of the bill. It had qualified for the ballot this November.

It appears that the Republican-dominated legislature and governor believed that voters would have passed the referendum, thus repealing the law anyway. So they chose to cancel the popular vote.

The Democratic Party strongly opposed the 2013 bill and provided the bulk of the signatures for the referendum. The Libertarian Party played a leading role, providing spokespersons for the referendum.

This was the second major attempt by Arizona Republicans during the last two years to keep Libertarians off the ballot. In 2012, they put an initiative, Prop 121, on the ballot that would have allowed only the candidates with the two highest vote totals in the primaries to qualify for the general election ballot, known as "top two." Voters rejected the measure by a two-to-one margin.

## New Libertarian Party radio show

...continued from page 1

downsizing the military.

The Libertarian candidates who have been featured on the show through March 26 are: Charlie Earl for Governor in Ohio; Keen Umbehrr for Governor in Kansas; Arvin Vohra for Congress in Maryland's 4th District; Tresa McAlhaney for Governor in Kansas; Gigi Bowman for State Senate in New York's 5th District; Leo Dymowski for Attorney General in Maryland; Adrian Willie for Governor in Florida; Robert Sarvis for U.S. Senate in Virginia; Rob Lapham for U.S. House in Texas's 22nd District; Bill Slantz for U.S. House in Missouri's 2nd District; Steven Newton for Delaware's 22nd House District; and Sharon Hansen for U.S. Senate in Illinois.

The archived podcast for past shows can be heard at the VoiceAmerica website:

• [www.voiceamerica.com/show/2300/libertarians-working-for-you](http://www.voiceamerica.com/show/2300/libertarians-working-for-you)

Or listen live here:

• [www.voiceamerica.com/channel/246/voiceamerica-variety](http://www.voiceamerica.com/channel/246/voiceamerica-variety)

"It's a great opportunity to showcase the striking contrast between Big Government Democrats and Republicans, whose laws and actions have done immeasurable damage, and our Libertarian candidates, who offer solutions that will make America prosperous, safe, and free," said Howell.



# Libertarians are the only party providing a real choice

By Rodger Paxton  
Secretary, LP Arkansas

We are not “Republican-light.” We are not “Democratic-light.” We are Libertarians.

It is tiresome to continually be asked why we would want to run a Libertarian candidate against a “good Republican” or “a good libertarian-leaning Republican.” Would this same person ask that of the Democratic Party? Would this same person expect the Democratic Party to not run someone against a “good moderate Republican?” Of course not. So why do they ask us?

I believe Republicans and conservatives do this because they have a fundamental misunderstanding of what it means to be a Libertarian. They believe that we share some sort of camaraderie with them, but can offer no proof of what makes them think this way. They throw around words like “Republican-libertarian,” and “conservative libertarian,” and “constitutional libertarian” like these word salads have some sort of meaning. They do not.

A libertarian is someone who believes in the non-aggression principle, plain and simple. Simply put, the non-aggression principle states that no man may initiate force or fraud against another person or his property. This is also called “classically liberal” in many circles, and fits just as well as the word libertarian. The political party that upholds these libertarian principles is conveniently named The Libertarian Party. Republicans and Democrats have no such moral compass. This is evident in the sort of legislation both parties have brought us. However, because I am talking about the Republicans today, let’s see what they have done to this state and country recently:

- Republicans have brought us, in the last legislative session in Arkansas alone, a bill that steals \$125 million from the taxpayer’s pockets to give to a for-profit steel mill.
- Republicans passed legislation in the last session making it more difficult for the Libertarian Party to get on the ballot, restricting our freedom of speech and freedom of choice.
- Republicans passed legislation increasing an already ridiculous burden for the citizens of Arkansas to bring ballot initiatives to the people to vote on.



- Republicans brought us a bill to be voted on that will double their term limit length.
- The Republicans have also brought us a bill making it much more difficult and expensive for a person to get certain body modifications to their own body. And this was all just in the last session alone!
- Now, in the current fiscal session, the Arkansas Republicans are trying to ram the private option funding through the House any way they can! The private option is the largest expansion of Medicaid in Arkansas history, and was passed initially last session in our Republican-controlled legislature! And one of the biggest supporters of getting this passed in this fiscal session? Nate Bell, the supposed “libertarian Republican!”

And you wonder why these word salads like “libertarian Republican” have no meaning.

Federally, things are just as bad, if not worse. Republicans brought us the PATRIOT Act, the Department of Homeland Security, the TSA, Medicare Part D, multiple stimulus packages to prop up private companies, multiple wars to massively increase the military budget, pork, etc.

I could keep going, but you get the point. All of these programs stole money from our pockets and stole

freedom from our lives.

These are supposedly the “fiscally conservative” Republicans. And yet you wonder why Libertarians candidates run against “good Republicans.”

As independent reporter Steve Brawer said in the *Times Record* recently, “Libertarians are the party of less government — really less government ... That sounds like Republican rhetoric, but Libertarians are a lot more serious about it, and the party’s less government philosophy lands it to the left of many Arkansas Democrats on social issues.” Brawer gets it. Why don’t the Republicans get it?

This is the reason the Libertarian Party is the third-largest and fastest-growing party in Arkansas, because we get it. We get that the people of this great country and great state are fed up with the false choices they are being given at the ballot box. We get that people are finally saying, “ENOUGH!” The Libertarian Party is giving these voters real choice, a real difference from the eerily similar Republican and Democrat parties. People every day are fed up, looking around, and realizing that they too are Libertarians.

R. Lee Wrights, the vice chair of the Libertarian National Committee, said recently on his Facebook page, “Libertarians do nothing for America or themselves by joining and supporting our oppressors! We gain nothing and America loses every time someone falls for this load of elephant droppings. Republicans cannot be trusted. We have learned even the Democrats have more integrity than Republicans. Not by much, mind you, but by a degree. Democrats tell us they are going to take our money and give it to others, then, they get elected and do it. Republicans lie through their teeth and tell us, ‘Vote for us, we are not like that!’ Then, they get elected, take our money, and give it to their friends. Republicans and Democrats are two wings on the same bird of prey.”

I could not have said it better myself. We are no longer content with elephant and donkey droppings. We are no longer content pulling the lever for these people who campaign one way and then legislate another. We are no longer willing to play their games and allow them to run roughshod over us. We are not Republicans. We are not Democrats. WE ARE LIBERTARIANS! And, in Arkansas anyway, we are here to stay and to win.

## Convention participation

...continued from page 7

vendors, check local attractions, etc.

**6. Read the materials ahead of time.** Nearly everything that will be debated on the convention floor will be in your binder. Read it. Make notes in the margins. Waiting until things are introduced to figure them out is an opportunity for confusion. Familiarizing yourself with the proposals and motions beforehand will give you time to form

an opinion and think up questions. It will also leave you free to pay attention to the floor debate. If everyone is familiar with the proposals, that will also help speed up the debate.

**7. Pay attention.** Seriously. Show respect for all the work that went into the convention and to the people speaking at the microphone. If you are distracted by games, side conversations, checking email, posting status updates, etc., you may miss an important point of debate, miss an answer to a question you also had,

not understand an amendment, or not hear a motion correctly and vote the wrong way.

**8. If a vote requires your delegation chair to submit a ballot, stay near your delegation table until that process is done.** If your chair has to spend 15 minutes to find you to cast your vote, that just delays the process. If everyone is where they are supposed to be, then voting happens much faster, so we can get through more business items. Don’t let your affiliate be the one the other 500 delegates are

waiting on.

**9. If you are not interested in the business happening on the floor and wish to socialize, be sure to do it off to the side or in the back of the convention hall, or take it outside so you’re not distracting other delegates.** If the chair has to call for order on the floor, that’s time that cannot be spent on business.

**10. Pace yourself, get some sleep every night, and enjoy the company of a few hundred fellow Libertarians.**

See you in Columbus!

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## WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR STATE?

A list of Libertarian events can  
be found online at:  
[LP.org/event](http://LP.org/event)

You can get more information  
by visiting the website of your  
state affiliate. See a list at:  
[LP.org/states](http://LP.org/states)

If there is an event you would  
like to see listed on the  
website, please send details to:

**EVENTS@LP.ORG**

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

# Upcoming state conventions

## LP Maryland State Convention

*Saturday, April 5*  
Squire's Italian Restaurant  
6723 Holabird Ave., Dundalk, MD 21222  
<http://md.lp.org/events/phpevents.php#95>

## LP Mississippi State Convention

*Saturday, April 5*  
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino  
875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39530  
<http://www.msip.org/#!convention/c1gn7>

## LP Wisconsin State Convention

*Saturday, April 12*  
Best Western Midway Hotel  
2901 Hummingbird Rd., Wausau, WI 54401  
<http://www.lpwi.org/>

## LP Texas State Convention

*Friday, April 11, through Sunday, April 13*  
Mayborn Convention Center  
3303 N 3rd St., Temple, TX 76501  
<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-texas-2014-convention>

## LP Kansas State Convention

*Friday, April 25, through Saturday, April 26*  
Holiday Inn Wichita East  
549 S Rock Rd., Wichita, KS 67207  
<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-kansas-2014-state-convention>

## LP Alaska State Convention

*Saturday, April 26*  
Best Western Golden Lion Hotel  
1000 E 36th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99508  
<http://www.alaskalibertarian.com/news.html>

## LP Minnesota State Convention

*Saturday, April 26*  
Cambria Suites Hotel, Maple Grove  
9655 Grove Circle N., Maple Grove, MN 55369  
[http://www.lpmn.org/ai1ec\\_event/2014-lpmn-state-convention/](http://www.lpmn.org/ai1ec_event/2014-lpmn-state-convention/)

## LP New York State Convention

*Saturday, April 26*  
Best Western Albany Airport Inn  
200 Wolf Ave., Albany, NY 12205  
<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-new-york-2014-state-convention>

## LP Indiana State Convention

*Friday, April 25, through Sunday, April 27*  
Caribbean Cove Hotel & Conference Center  
3850 Depauw Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46268  
<http://lpin.org/events/2014convention/>

## LP Alabama State Convention

*Saturday, May 10*  
2330 Highland Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35205  
<http://www.lpalabama.org/events.html>

## LP Florida State Convention

*Friday, May 16, through Sunday, May 18*  
Howard Johnson Plaza — Tampa Downtown Riverfront  
111 West Fortune St., Tampa, FL 33602  
<http://lpf2014.org/>

## LP Michigan State Convention

*Saturday, May 17*  
Johnson Center at Cleary University  
3750 Cleary Dr., Howell, MI 48843  
<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-michigan-2014-state-convention>

## LP Washington State Convention

*Friday, May 30, through Sunday, June 1*  
Doubletree Hotel in Southcenter Seattle  
16500 Southcenter Pkwy., Seattle, WA 98188  
<http://www.lpwa.org/>

## LP Idaho State Convention

*Saturday, June 21*  
To Be Announced: Caldwell, ID  
<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-idaho-2014-state-convention>

## LP Illinois State Convention

*Saturday, Sept. 12, through Sunday, Sept. 14*  
Holiday Inn in Bolingbrook  
205 Remington Blvd., Bolingbrook, IL 60440  
<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-illinois-2014-state-convention>

## LP Massachusetts State Convention

*Saturday, Oct. 18*  
Tweed's Restaurant  
229 Grove St., Worcester, MA 01605  
<http://lpmass.org/>

## Media Buzz About the Libertarian Party

“Putting on a national convention in a nice professional hotel is a huge project with significant expenses, and we don’t receive taxpayer subsidies for our conventions, unlike the Democrats and Republicans. That’s right, Democrats and Republicans each got about \$18 million of government money for their national conventions in 2012,” says Wes Benedict, executive director of the Libertarian National Committee. ‘We Libertarians pay for our own conventions,’ he adds.”

**Washington Times, 3/19/2014**

“With an historically high 42 percent of Americans identifying themselves as independents as of January, the United States is becoming a nation increasingly not served by either the Republican or Democrat label. According to a December 2013 Gallup poll, 72 percent of all Americans believed that Big Government is a bigger threat to the United States than Big Business (21 percent) or Big Labor (5 percent).”

**Mint Press News, 2/25/2014**



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2014 LP Convention Site

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[ExperienceColumbus.com](http://ExperienceColumbus.com)

## What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Take the poll: What is the biggest benefit of a broad-based tax cut that forces substantial reductions in government spending?
- Ohio Republicans toss top-ticket Libertarians off ballot; LP fires back
- Libertarian Jim McDermott for Congress in Alaska polling at 12%
- Robert Sarvis announces plans to seek LP Virginia nomination for Senate candidacy
- More than 550,000 emails sent to Congress for 'The Day We Fight Back' campaign
- Libertarian candidates Gigi Bowman and Leo Dymowski on school safety and your right to self-defense