



LP News

Presidential Nominating Convention

#LEGALIZE FREEDOM

2016 Libertarian National Convention

Orlando • May 26–30

Information and schedule, pages 5–9

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Monmouth poll puts Libertarian Johnson at 11 percent in three-way race

Gov. Gary Johnson, a candidate for the 2016 Libertarian Party presidential nomination, was at 11 percent in a three-way match-up against Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump in a Monmouth University poll.

The poll put Clinton at 42 percent, Trump at 34 percent, and Johnson at 11 percent, with a margin of error of ± 3.4 percent. Released on March 24, it surveyed 1,008 registered voters between March 17 and 20.

"A vigorous third-party campaign is a very real possibility this year, but it is not yet clear what the impact could be," said Monmouth University Polling Institute director

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'Stossel' airs first-ever pre-convention LP presidential TV debates

Libertarians around the country gathered for viewing parties of the first-ever, pre-convention nationally-televised Libertarian presidential debates, which aired on "Stossel" on Fox Business Network (FBN) on April 1 and 8.

Gov. Gary Johnson, software entrepreneur

John McAfee, and *Libertarian Republic* founder Austin Petersen participated in the debates. It was filmed on March 29 in front of a live audience. Attendees scooped up the limited tickets almost immediately after FBN announced the show.

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Austin Petersen, John McAfee, Gary Johnson debate hosted by John Stossel (at right)

Nevada legislator John Moore joins LP

Nevada Assemblyman John Moore, formerly a Republican, officially changed his affiliation to the Libertarian Party (LP), making Nevada the fifth state in the party's history to have had representation in a state legislature. Libertarians have held legislative seats in Alaska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Moore now holds the highest elected office of any Libertarian in the country. He was elected in 2014 to represent District 8 and is running for re-election in 2016 as a Libertarian.

Moore made the switch when he saw that the LP better represents his views and that the LP Nevada (LPN) strongly supports his candidacy.

"I decided to make the move to the Libertarian Party for two reasons," said Moore. "The other two parties force you to believe 100 percent in their party-line views, with no

room for differing opinions. Even though they talk a good game about liberty and freedom, they do not truly practice what they preach. I was tired of all the infighting within the GOP. I want no part of that, as I was elected to work for the people, not the party."

Moore was at odds with Republican legislators who passed the largest tax increase in Nevada history in the 2015 session.

"I will work to reverse these tax hikes," he states at his website. "To grow our economy and create much needed jobs, we must reduce the tax burden on business and stop job-killing regulation." Moore is also making criminal-justice reform a priority, including by doing his best to tip the balance on Nevada's upcoming marijuana-legalization ballot issue, fighting against civil-asset forfeiture, and promoting

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Libertarian State Assemblyman John Moore (Nevada)

CHAIR'S CORNER

I'm a proud Libertarian.

Republicans and Democrats is just straight jibber jabberin'.

—Excerpt from "Nice: The Libertarian Theme," by Sage Faconier (YouTu.be/mKpaAibwGSo)

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

As I sit down to write my last column before our national convention over Memorial Day, I've never been prouder to be a Libertarian. We are poised to have a breakout year, in an election when the two old parties are putting up candidates with some of the poorest public-opinion numbers in any modern election.

No matter which candidate the delegates choose to nominate, he or she will be the only candidate on every single American voter's ballot who is running on a platform of supporting their right to live their life in any way they want, as long as they don't hurt anyone else and don't take their stuff. That basic principle, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, is represented in the political realm only by the Libertarian Party.



Nicholas Sarwark

Thanks to people like Richard Winger, Tina Kelly, and hundreds of activists and donors, the LP is back on the ballot in Oklahoma for the first time in 16 years. More than 42,000 Oklahomans signed a petition for real political choice, and the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma is going to deliver it to them.

With the goal of Oklahoma's ballot access behind us, we have the opportunity for a Libertarian candidate to appear on every ballot, in every state, for the first time since 2000. That's an amazing accomplishment—but it's not enough. Having a strong presidential candidate on all fifty state ballots gives our party credibility with voters who will be dissatisfied with the Democratic and Republican nominees, but that credibility is magnified when the voters see

Libertarian candidates up and down their ballot. We need you to run for office as a Libertarian. Just as a presidential campaign adds value to the lower-level candidates, having a deep bench of candidates for local office actually helps our presidential candidate do better in November.

I've given interviews to *Reason* magazine, the *Wall Street Journal*, MSNBC, *The New York Times*, the *Washington Times*, and NBC News about the effect our presidential candidate will have on this year's election. Combined with polling data showing that in a Trump vs. Clinton race, 37–60 percent of primary voters would seriously consider a third-party candidate, these are signs of a great election for the LP. This media coverage and excitement are the culmination of 45 years of hard work by Libertarian candidates and activists like you. Be proud of where we are and where we're going.

In the last two years, I've logged more than 50,000 miles visiting LP state conventions around the country. Despite taking me away from my wife and children, every one of these trips energizes me. It's so good to meet Libertarians excited about growing the party and showing their fellow citizens that there is a political party that stands for all of their freedoms, all of the time.

The convention is shaping up to be the most exciting Libertarian Party presidential nominating convention in my lifetime. There's a hotly contested race for president and a beautiful, family-friendly destination in Orlando. I'm taking my family with me to this convention, and I look forward to joining you as we gather to nominate a presidential candidate who will make us all proud to be Libertarians.

Yours in liberty,



DONOR

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David F. Nolan

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Jan. 21 – Mar. 25, 2016

Hero of Liberty

James Palidar

Plaques are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee office space in Alexandria, Va., that recognize our top donors. To have your name appear on a plaque, or if you'd just like to help pay off the mortgage, mail in your donation or visit LP.org.

Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

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LP News

The Libertarian Party (LP) and its state affiliates work to advance the right of individuals to be free, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of others. The party runs candidates for public office, elects Libertarians, supports and opposes ballot measures, lobbies, and takes positions on public policy aimed at removing, reducing, and nullifying government laws, regulations, prohibitions, taxes, spending, debt, and foreign interventions.

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Libertarian voter registrations on the rise

Total U.S. Voter Registrations by Party

	Democratic	Republican	independent	Libertarian	Green	Constitution
Feb. 2016	41,341,965	30,447,217	27,606,975	411,250	242,023	77,916
Oct. 2008	43,933,901	30,944,590	24,157,259	240,328	255,019	438,222

% Change in U.S. Voter Registrations by Party

	Democratic	Republican	independent	Libertarian	Green	Constitution
Oct. '14–Feb. '16	-3.3%	-1.6%	-0.3%	3.0%	-4.4%	-0.7%
2012–2014	-1.7%	-1.2%	3.3%	20.7%	1.0%	0.7%
2008–2012	-1.0%	1.1%	11.0%	37.6%	-1.7%	-82.2%
2004–2008	17.8%	6.7%	18.0%	2.0%	-14.6%	36.9%
1992–2004	4.7%	17.9%	50.3%	134.6%	191.3%	N/A

Source: Ballot Access News; March 1, 2016

Businessman seeking to capitalize on anti-incumbent fervor in Texas

By Christopher Goins

Texas businessman Ed Rankin, running as a Libertarian for U.S. House, District 32, for the second time against incumbent Republican Pete Sessions, is gaining support and is positioned for a strong showing in the race.

"Sessions is definitely vulnerable," Rankin said.

The senior Republican is viewed as an establishment politician. In the presidential race, Sessions initially endorsed Jeb Bush, and later put his support behind Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida), when Bush failed to gain momentum.

Texas District 32 has become more Tea Party movement-oriented; its constituents lean more toward Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Donald Trump; and they are not aligned with the GOP establishment in Washington, Rankin says. He believes that "anti-incumbent fervor ... plays right into our hands," and that he can scoop up disaffected Democrats and Republicans.

Far North Dallas Tea Party activist Mimi Buser, who donated \$1,000 to Rankin's campaign and plans to contribute more, seconded the notion.

Rankin points out that in the 2014 GOP primary, Katrina Pierson, now Donald Trump's national spokesperson, with "not much money and planning" took 36 percent of the vote against Sessions.

No Democratic Party candidate filed for the race this year,

which means that many votes are up for grabs.

"It's essentially a two-person race, with me, the Libertarian, running against an establishment Republican who is losing the support of the Republican Party base," he said.

In 2014, Sessions won 61.8 percent of the vote; the Democrat, Frank Perez, received 35.4 percent; and Rankin received 2.7 percent.

"The other parties really don't have any principles to stand by," he said. "Their principle is to win the election, at whatever cost — it doesn't matter."

Rankin, who joined the Libertarian Party after the GOP's mistreatment of Ron Paul in the 2012 presidential campaign, says his primary focus is to get government out of everyone's lives.

"The more we get government out of the way, then the more opportunities there are for people to create and build things," he said, adding that they'd also be able to keep more of their own property and money.

On national defense, he highlighted the difference between "military spending" and "defense spending," indicating that the former needs to be drastically cut. He also emphasizes that only Congress—not the president—can declare war.

On immigration, he supports a work-visa program and streamlining the immigration process, noting that illegal aliens take advantage of "free health care" and education, all borne by the taxpayer.

On NSA spying, he said the federal government is ignoring the Constitution. "Our tax dollars are being sucked away from us to create this apparatus that is used against us," he said. "We're being spied on."

Sessions has been the incumbent since 2003. District 32 includes parts of Dallas, Collin, and Tarrant counties. •

Website: EdRankinForCongress.com



Ed Rankin

Moore now Libertarian

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police accountability.

LPN Chair Brett Pojunis combined Moore's announcement with other news and celebrity appearances at a press conference at LPN's Las Vegas office, covered by Channels 3 and 8, and KXNT News/Talk Radio 840 AM.

At the conference, talk radio personality Richard Hunter announced that Moonlite BunnyRanch owner Dennis Hof, star of HBO's "Cathouse," is running for state senate as a Libertarian in 2016.

Speaking on Hof's behalf, Hunter noted, "Dennis Hof is a small-business owner. He knows from experience how high taxation and overregulation [strangle] enterprise right out of business. He's running on behalf of all Nevada business owners who are struggling from government intervention in our local economy."

Speaking next was tech mogul John McAfee, who developed the first commercial antivirus program—which bore his name and is now owned by Intel—and who is seeking the LP's nomination for president. He spoke of the importance of cyber security.

"One of the government's few jobs is to protect its citizens from being attacked. America won't be invaded by any large army; it'll be attacked in cyber warfare, and a strong hack can knock out power grids and leave millions without electricity, without refrigeration for their food, and everything from business technology to personal medical devices will go without power. Instead of blackballing all these young computer hackers, the government ought to hire them to protect us."

McAfee also had strong comments about government-induced inflation and runaway government spending. "My business can't write checks if there's no money in the bank. Yet the government does this, and billions of dollars at a time. It's fraud, and it's wrong."

LPN then hosted a reception at Mandalay Bay. Light heavyweight champion Ron Johnson and Kylie Johnson, *Playboy's* Miss February 2011, both avid Libertarian supporters, attended the press conference and the reception.

LPN Outreach Director Jason Weinman said he wasn't surprised about the sudden surge of Libertarian activity. "The [LP] is the fastest-growing political party... We've all been working hard to bring big wins like the ones announced today. This is only the beginning."

"Winning Moore's re-election will help us to reach the tipping point for the party and for Libertarian candidates across the country," said Weinman. •

Campaign website: www.ReElectJohn.com

Zach Foster contributed to this article.

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, from your state LP affiliate or national LP headquarters, information you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state's election laws, and get on the ballot.

Elected Libertarian Hewitt seeks higher office

by Christopher Goins

Jeff Hewitt, elected Libertarian mayor of Calimesa, Calif., is running for the 42nd seat in the state assembly. His number one goal is to make California more attractive for business.

According to the 2015 fourth annual Thumbtack.com Small Business Friendliness survey, California received an "F" rating—the worst score a state can possibly get—by the small-business owners surveyed.

Hewitt would work to eliminate "ridiculous" taxes, regulations, and fees. He believes that as a Libertarian he can reach across the aisle in ways that his Democratic

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Mayor Jeff Hewitt

LP on Nov. ballot in Oklahoma

On March 21, the Oklahoma State Election Board announced that the Libertarian Party's (OKLP) petition submitted on Feb. 22 is valid, allowing candidates to appear on the state's November ballot as Libertarians.

This is the first time OKLP has been recognized as an official political organization in the state since 2000.

Libertarians took advantage of a law

passed by Oklahoma lawmakers in 2015 which reduced the signature requirement from what would have been 5 percent of the last gubernatorial vote (41,188) to 3 percent (24,745). The new requirement still leaves Oklahoma among the states with the most difficult ballot access.

The Election Board deemed 30,517 of the 42,182 signatures that Libertarians turned in to be valid.

In addition to the presidential and vice presidential nominees, at least 18 Libertarians are expected to file to appear on the ballot in November, including Dax Ewbank and Robert Murphy for U.S. Senate; Tim Krahling Jr., Anna Flatt, and Ephriam Zachary Knight for U.S. House; Cole Gallup and Josh Clark for state Senate; and 12 candidates for state House: Erin Adams, Clark Duffe, Nicole Rhodes, Nathan Harvill, Gene Bell, Shannon Grimes, Ellany Newman Collins, Chris Wilson, Skyler Krieger, Christina Purdom Wright, and Bailey Betz.

"Oklahoma Libertarians are excited by the prospect of seeing candidates on the ballot that represent us," said OKLP Vice Chair Tina Kelly. "I expect the electorate to be inspired by that and to re-engage in a big way."

To remain on the ballot, the top-of-ticket candidate must win 10 percent of the vote. However, the Oklahoma House passed a bill on March 31 that would lower this requirement to 2.5 percent.

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OKLP Vice Chair Tina Kelly at a press conference, announcing petition turn-in with 42,182 voter signatures

Presidential candidates making rounds at state conventions

Libertarian candidates vying for the party's 2016 presidential nomination have been sharing their campaign offerings with party members at LP state conventions, where they give speeches and participate in debates and forums.

Darryl Perry, Dr. Marc Feldman, Gov. Gary Johnson, and Austin Petersen have visited the most states, with Perry and Feldman on the road since they declared their bids in 2015.



Darryl Perry

Darryl Perry has attended 16 state conventions since 2015, speaks at Free State Project events in New Hampshire, his home state, and was the keynote at Keenevention 2015.

Marc Feldman attended nine LP state conventions in 2015, with another 11 attended or planned in 2016.

Gary Johnson has been to, or plans to attend, at least 14 states since announcing

his candidacy in January, and has visited many LP events since his 2012 run for president, to advocate for his organization's (Our America Initiative) lawsuit against the Commission on Presidential Debates. Austin Petersen also attended 14 state conventions.

John McAfee has spoken at 10 state conventions, and Derrick Reid, Jack Robinson, and Shawna Joy Sterling have each spoken at five or more state LP events, as did Steve Kerbel, who has withdrawn from the race.

Affiliates that had held or were planning to hold candidate debates or forums at the time of this writing include Alabama and Mississippi (in their joint convention), North

Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Colorado, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Illinois, California, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Illinois, and New York. •



Marc Allan Feldman

Presidential debate on TV

...continued from page 1

Topics raised by host John Stossel included the War on Drugs, welfare, cutting spending, terrorism, foreign aid, reaching voters, abortion, the death penalty, marriage equality, and women's pay.

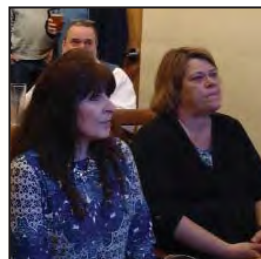
After the debate, Stossel held a panel discussion with FBN host Kennedy and Reason Editor-in-Chief Matt Welch.

"People really are clamoring for a third party," Kennedy said. "The LP [will be on the ballot] in 50 states, and I think, therefore, people are going to be paying much more attention to these ideas."

The panel discussed Johnson's unusually high 11 percent showing in Monmouth University's poll.

"If you have liberty back on the stage in these presidential debates, it completely changes the race," Kennedy said. "You've got an electorate that is so frustrated at government. If you've got someone who can logically show how government is the cause for this frustration, and limiting it will only do better, it could be very, very interesting."

The Stossel program chose to include Johnson, McAfee, and Petersen, based on an online poll of Feb. 20 at LP.org. •



LP Rhode Island members gather to watch the first LP presidential debate on "Stossel" on April 1.

Hemp foods producer running for U.S. House in Pennsylvania

By Christopher Goins

The CEO of the oldest hemp foods company in the United States is running as a Libertarian candidate for U.S. House in Pennsylvania's 16th Congressional District to replace retiring Republican incumbent Rep. Joe Pitts, who has held the seat since 1997.

Shawn Patrick House, the newly elected LP Pennsylvania chair, said the time just felt right, given what the Republicans and Democrats are offering. House believes he has the name recognition to propel his candidacy forward.

House's campaign has already been covered by two local news outlets: *LancasterOnline* and *ReadingEagle.com*.

House, of Lancaster Trading House, which sells "Hempzels"—hemp pretzels—said his no. 1 issue is to repeal the restrictions, such as excessive fees and acreage limits, prohibiting farmers from growing hemp, and therefore "recognizing [the] absolute right of the individual to self-cultivate cannabis."

Farmers are on the cusp of growing industrial hemp in Pennsylvania, House says, but he is concerned that farmers with fewer than 20 acres of land—in a state where a small farm easily may have one to six acres—will be left out and that the industry will be over-regulated.

At the federal level, House would push to end the Drug Enforcement Administration, which he says influences the federal



Shawn House

government to keep cannabis being treated like a drug; and he would push for the removal of cannabis from Schedule 1.

He also wants to eliminate property taxes, which he believes would help families keep their homes; scrap wage taxes; and repeal the penalty for not signing up for Obamacare or health insurance. Like many business owners, House must pay over \$1,000 per month to insure his wife and himself.

He also wants to end pensions for new teachers and new government officials.

"We don't have to worry about term limits if newly elected officials are not getting pensions," House said, "starting with myself."

"I want to try to shame these other congressmen that run for a couple years and then retire and are getting pensions," he continued.

He said pensions are "killing the budget" in Pennsylvania and at the federal level. "They need to go private."

He also expressed non-interventionist foreign-policy sentiments. "We don't have a legitimate right to be in other countries," he said. "Our foreign policy is wrong. Nation-building is wrong." He added that it goes against libertarian principles to drop bombs to force people to do things. He also doesn't believe that arms should be sold to both sides of a conflict.

Abolishing the TSA is a "no-brainer," he says.

House has to collect 2,035 signatures to appear on the ballot in November, and intends to run a vigorous campaign. He notes that collecting signatures is an important part of getting a candidate's name on the minds of voters.

On Facebook, House recognized the power of a third-party vote, calling it "a message to the establishment that you do not consent to their policies." •

Poll: Johnson at 11%

...continued from page 1

Patrick Murray when releasing the numbers.

News of the unusually high percentage for a Libertarian presidential candidate was featured by *Politico*, the *Washington Times*, Fox News, Newsmax, Townhall.com, the *Daily Caller*, Red Alert Politics, Reason's "Hit & Run" blog, AMI Newswire, Opposition News, RT TV, and KRQE News 13 (Albuquerque, N.M.).

Johnson's high percentage comes in spite of the fact that 76 percent of voters surveyed didn't know him well enough to form an opinion.

"To see Libertarians included in an in-

dependent presidential poll this early in the election year, and especially for a Libertarian to poll at 11 percent against the leading Democrat and Republican, is unprecedented for the LP," said Nicholas Sarwark, Libertarian Party chair. "This is red-hot news and bodes extremely well for our candidates up and down the ticket this year."

Responding to the poll, Johnson said, "Polls across the board are showing that the real plurality of American voters are independent, and are clearly not comfortable with either the likely Republican or Democrat nominee. The door is open for a credible advocate of smaller government and greater freedom." •

Nothing beats being there

by BetteRose Ryan,
Convention Chair

As anyone who has been to a professional sports event can attest, hearing the roar of the crowd over your speakers just isn't the same as being part of that roar. The excitement of the crowd is infectious.

Attending the LP national convention is like being at a live championship game.

It's where we meet up to share stories, trade tips, and inspire each other. We gather to hear special speakers with insights and secrets for success. We attend seminars to learn what is happening in other areas of the fight for liberty. We create a roar for liberty and encourage others to join in.

The best thing about the convention is that anyone can come—not just delegates, not just national Libertarian Party members. In fact, nondelegates are encouraged to attend. Even with just the Basic package, you'll gain access to all but meal events and private functions.

**The 2016 national
Libertarian convention
is one you won't
want to miss.**

Before the convention opens, on Thursday we will have Libertarian training seminars for activists and candidates all day, starting at 9:30. Learn to use social media effectively in campaigns; how to attract new members at a Libertarian booth or table; and play *Who's Driving*, to learn black-belt communication techniques that put liberty in the driver's seat.

At the opening reception on Thurs. night, you can meet up with friends old and new,



while being entertained by gifted comedian Jeremy McLellan, and nationally known businessman and investor Jim Rogers.

For the next three and a half days, enjoy seminars including *Apple iPhone Security vs. FBI Backdoors*, with Gary Miliefsky; *Future of Bitcoin*, with Tatiana Moroz; *Dying with Dignity*, with Wendell Stephenson; and *The Evolution of Liberty*, with Will Coley. Gain insight about running winning campaigns from our panel of Libertarians who've been there. Join in discussion groups on a variety of topics including *Speaking the Language of the Democrats*, with Eva Kosinski; and *Winning Strategies*, with Craig Bowden.

An upgraded package comes with meals and our special guest speakers, including Adam Kokesch, Libertarian talk-show host; Tim Moen, leader of the LP of Canada and recent candidate for prime minister; and Tom Woods, a *New York Times* best-selling author.

The evenings will bring even more fun and entertainment as well as some serious events.

Join us on Thursday night for a presidential candidate meet-and-greet from 5–7 P.M., and then for a pre-convention debate at 8 P.M. This is your chance to hear from the candidates, before granting one of them your delegate token. The event is open to everyone.

On Friday night, from 7:00 P.M. to

continued on page 7...

**Thursday, May 26
Meet the candidates!**

**5–7 PM.... Meet and greet
8 PM..... Pre-convention
debate**

Your chance to hear directly from the candidates, before granting your delegate token.

Open to all!



**Saturday, May 28
Televised debate!**

8–10 PM

Be a part of 2016 election history.

**General admission \$20.
Included for
package holders!**

#LEGALIZE FREEDOM

2016 Libertarian National Convention

Speakers who inspire...

JEREMY MCLELLAN



Comedian

Photo by Tyler Sawyer

WILL COLEY



National
Director,
Muslims4Liberty

TOM WOODS



Senior
Fellow, Mises
Institute; host
of "The Tom
Woods Show"

TIM MOEN



Leader of the
Libertarian Party
of Canada

LARRY BEANE



Pastor, teacher
of Austrian
economics

JOE JOHNSON



Elected
Libertarian

KEVIN FORTUNE



Founder,
Liberty
America

WENDELL STEPHENSON



Past President
of Final Exit
Network;
advocate for
dying with
dignity

TATIANA MOROZ



Composer, performer

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(LEAP)

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commentator

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antiwar activist

ROBIN KOERNER



Political and
economics
commentator

GARY MILIEFSKY



Cybersecurity
expert

ROBERT SARVIS



Libertarian for
Governor,
Virginia 2013;
U.S. Senate
2014

MICHELE POAGUE



Author

LILY TANG WILLIAMS



Libertarian for
U.S. Senate,
Colorado

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For speaker list & updates, visit: www.LP.org/convention/speakers

#LEGALIZE FREEDOM

2016 Libertarian National Convention

Convention business —and so much more.

Nothing beats being there

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midnight, make time for Darryl W. Perry's 2016 party, next door at Clarion Inn & Suites. As Perry says, "It's no secret I only like good beer, and good beer needs to be shared with others." This event is open to all. But to enter, either bring a craft beer to share, or be prepared to make a donation of crypto-currency or precious metals.

Want to hear from those seeking to lead the party for the next two years? See our candidates for national chair debate on Friday night. Ask questions, find out where the candidates want to lead the party, and discover their plan of action.

On Saturday night, once their nominations are in, the presidential candidates will debate on stage. This televised debate is included for package holders; otherwise, admission is \$20. Stoked by April's nationally televised Libertarian presidential debates on "Stossel," more eyes than ever will be on this historic event.

Karaoke anyone? In a reprise of their 2014 party, Texas will host a hootin', hollerin' shindig, with a cash bar and karaoke machine for anyone who dares. Join them on Saturday night, following the presidential debate.

The 2016 national Libertarian convention is one you won't want to miss. Come for the fun—and to be there to watch history in the making. •

Still
available!

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Visit: LP.org/convention/sponsors Phone: 202-333-0008 x231

E-mail: 2016Convention@LP.org (indicate in subject line: "LP Convention 2016")

More speakers who motivate and educate ...

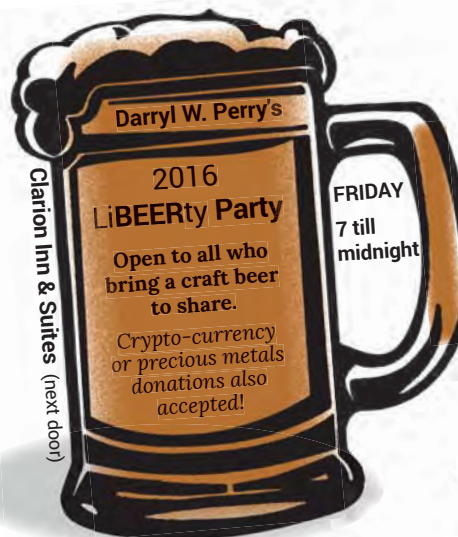
SHARON HARRIS **DENNIS HOF**
Libertarian Businessman and
communications expert HBO TV star

CRAIG BOWDEN **JOHN VAUGHT LABEAUME**
LP candidate for Communications director,
U.S. Congress (Utah) Sarvis for Governor 2013

RIC MCCLUSKEY **JEFF HEWITT**
LP candidate for U.S. Elected Libertarian
Congress (Mississippi) mayor (Calimesa, Calif.)

JOE MCKENZIE **EVA KOSINSKI**
Networking coach Event organizer

... plus more great speakers
to come!



Exercise
your right
to sing!

Back by popular demand...

Karaoke! with LP Texas

Saturday night
following the
presidential debate.

Cash bar.

National Chair candidates debate



Hear from those
seeking to lead
the national
Libertarian Party
for the next
two years.

Friday night
8–9:30 P.M.

For details and announcements, visit: www.LP.org/convention

#LEGALIZE FREEDOM

2016 Libertarian National Convention

What, where, when.

Thursday, May 26

9:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.Activist and campaign training
11 A.M. – 1 P.M.Credentials meeting
1 P.M. – 6 P.M.Registration open
1 P.M. – 6 P.M.Credentials open
1 P.M. – 3 P.M.Platform meeting
3 P.M. – 5 P.M.LNC meeting
5:30 P.M. – 7 P.M.Bylaws forum
7 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.Bylaws meeting
5 P.M. – 6:45 P.M.Meet the presidential candidates; sponsored event; open to all
6:30 P.M. – 9 P.M.Opening reception; presentation 7–8 P.M.
8 P.M. – 11 P.M.Pre-convention candidates debate; sponsored event
5 P.M. – ??Private functions and parties (see list at convention)

Friday, May 27

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.Credentials meeting
8 A.M. – 6 P.M.Registration open
8 A.M. – 6 P.M.Credentials open
8:30 A.M. – 12 noonBusiness hall open; speakers, Bylaws report
9 A.M. – 12 noonSeminars
Noon – 1:30 P.M.Lunch with Adam Kokesh (Bronze and Gold packages only)
1:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.Business hall open; speakers, Bylaws and Platform reports
3 P.M. – 5 P.M.Seminars
5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.Regional caucuses
8 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.National Chair debate
5 P.M. – ??Private functions and parties (see list at convention)

Saturday, May 28

7 A.M. – 8:20 A.M.Torch Club breakfast (invitation only)
8 A.M. – 6 P.M.Registration open
8 A.M. – 6 P.M.Credentials open
8:30 A.M. – 12 noonBusiness hall opens; speakers, platform report
10 A.M. – 12 noonSeminars
Noon – 1:30 P.M.Lunch with Tom Woods (Silver and Gold Packages only)
1:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.Business hall opens; speakers, platform, nominations
3 P.M. – 5 P.M.Seminars
5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.Regional caucuses
8 P.M. – 10 P.M.Presidential debate (\$20 admission; included for package-holders)
10 P.M. – TBDTexas karaoke party; reprise of 2014 party, open to all
6 P.M. – ??Private functions and parties (see list at convention)

Sunday, May 29

7 A.M. – 8:20 A.M.Breakfast with Tim Moen (Bronze, Silver, Gold packages only)
8 A.M. – 6 P.M.Registration open
8 A.M. – 6 P.M.Credentials open
8:30 A.M. – 12 noonBusiness hall open; speakers, nominations, elections
10 A.M. – 5 P.M.Seminars; discussion groups
1:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.Business hall opens; speakers; nominations; elections
7 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.Banquet reception
7:30 P.M. – 8 P.M.Escorted seating to banquet
8 P.M. – 10 P.M.Banquet (Silver, Gold, and ticketed guests only)
6 P.M. – ??Private functions and parties (see list at convention)

Monday, May 30

8 A.M. – 1 P.M.Registration open
8 A.M. – 1 P.M.Credentials open
8:30 A.M. – CloseBusiness hall open; nominations, elections, unfinished business
9 A.M. – CloseSeminars and discussion groups
TBALNC meeting

TICKETS AND PACKAGES

The convention committee is pleased to offer a variety of registration options to meet your needs.

Attendee Ticket.....\$95

Five-day convention pass. Includes name badge.

Basic Package.....\$179

Five-day convention pass. Includes name badge, reception, and convention book.

Bronze Package.....\$319

Five-day convention pass. Includes name badge, reception, convention book, one breakfast event, and one luncheon.

Silver Package.....\$429

Five-day convention pass. Includes name badge, reception, convention

book, one breakfast event, one luncheon, and the Presidential Banquet.

Gold Package.....\$499

Five-day convention pass. Includes name badge, reception, convention book, one breakfast event, two luncheons, and the Presidential Banquet.

Presidential Banquet.....\$150

Top off a convention of fun and excitement with our Presidential Banquet. Enjoy fine food and drinks while gathering with friends, new & old. (Already included with the Silver and Gold Packages. Get an extra ticket for a spouse or friend.)

LOCATION

Rosen Centre Hotel & Resort

9840 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819

Telephone: 1 (800) 204-7234
Facsimile: (407) 996-2659

Ask for the Libertarian National
Committee Convention rate.



Please note that rooms may be sold out. There are numerous other hotels in the area.

To order your ticket or package, visit: www.LP.org/convention/register

Token tips for convention delegates

By Alicia Mattson,
LNC Secretary

For those of you who will be first-time delegates to our national convention, we use a “token” procedure that is likely different from what you’ve encountered at a state convention. As you’ll read below, these tokens play very important roles.

When you arrive, check in first at the registration desk and then at the credentials desk, to get your badge and delegate materials. One of the items you will receive at the credentials desk is a packet with seven tokens in it. Treat your tokens like cash. They are valuable and cannot be replaced if lost.

According to LP bylaws, to be nominated for president or vice president, a candidate must have collected the signatures of at least 30 registered delegates. You will receive one token for the presidential nomination and one for the vice-presidential nomination. To help nominate your favorite candidate, fill in all the blanks on your token, including the candidate’s name, your printed name, and your signature, and place it in a designated ballot box. Very important: To protect your intentions, do not hand your signed token to someone else with the candidate’s name



left blank — not even to the candidate or the candidate’s volunteer.

The very same presidential signature tokens are used to determine the participants in the presidential candidates debate. To be included in the debate, a candidate must receive tokens equal to at least 10 percent of the number of registered delegates.

Your other five tokens are used for platform plank retention. Essentially, you can use each token to express a desire to delete a particular platform plank. You may cast all five tokens against the same plank, if you wish. On each token, clearly mark one — and only one — plank that you wish to delete, sign the token, and place the tokens in the designated ballot box. For any plank receiving more tokens than 20 percent of the registered delegates, the convention will have a yes–no vote on whether to delete that plank. In theory, as few as 4 percent of delegates could bring a plank to a deletion vote by casting all five of their tokens against that one plank. •

Hewitt for Assembly

...continued from page 4

and Republican counterparts can’t.

“I’m not a natural enemy to either side,” he said. “I share those social values with the Democrats and I share those fiscal and regulatory values with the Republicans.” That allows him to work deals without giving up anything, he explained.

“Most of the laws I would be trying to write would be laws that replace several other laws,” he said. “We have way too many laws.”

He noted that there are many “laws that deal with punishing people or keeping people from doing things that don’t hurt anybody else.”

His number two issue is to make sure there is enough water for growing California communities. Calimesa’s population of 8,000 is expected to triple, due to the expected construction of 10,000 new homes.

“But we have to have a reliable source of water before we can ever get ‘will serve’ letters from water companies,” said Hewitt,

also a member of the San Geronio Pass Regional Water Alliance, which works to overcome water-supply challenges.

He believes that S.B. 3, the recently enacted \$15-per-hour minimum wage, is like a “nail in the coffin” and would vehemently fight to overturn it.

Hewitt is running against the incumbent Chad Mayes (R–Yucca Valley) and Democratic challenger Greg Rodriguez.

Another elected Libertarian is also running for the California legislature this year. John Inks, elected city council member and former mayor of Mountain View, is in a nine-way race for the 24th Assembly seat, to replace term-limited Democrat Rich Gordon. •

Jeff Hewitt’s campaign website:
www.VoteHewitt.com

John Inks’s campaign website:
www.Inks4Assembly.com

Validation software programmers enable ballot drive success

By Carla Howell

Several critical Libertarian ballot drives owe their success to activists Rob Perry of Kentucky and John Karr of Pennsylvania. Each wrote software enabling Libertarians to easily check petition signatures against a voter registration database. This ensures that the drive produces enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Ken Moellman, former LP Kentucky state chair, tells the story of Perry’s involvement.

“In 2014, LPKY knew that ‘hoping we made it’ wasn’t going to be enough to ensure we collected enough signatures to qualify U.S. Senate candidate David Patterson for the ballot. We had faced challenges and increasing threats of challenges for the few years prior.

“The existing validation process was taking approximately 2 or 3 minutes per signature. With over 9,100 signatures collected, the task was slated to take a daunting 400 man-hours.

“Rob Perry, an LPKY member and donor to the Patterson campaign, came to the rescue. He created software we call Voter Validator, which reduced validation time to an average of 30 seconds per signature. To find a voter match, the user merely types whatever characters can be read on a petition line from left to right. The program eliminates matching variants until there is only one name left, or none at all.

“When LP Oklahoma needed a better way to validate signatures in 2015, Rob modified Voter Validator to work with that drive. By leveraging this new software, and with volunteer help from around the country, the LP Oklahoma petition was validated using a statistical 20 percent sample.

“Voter Validator has now been adapted for LP Ohio as well, and will be used to ensure that the LP presidential candidate will be on the ballot in November. In the future, the goal is to use it to regain LP Ohio’s party status in the state.

“Any state which has an electronic version of their state’s voter list and gives us enough notice can use this software.

“Additionally, we’d love to hear from any-

one who wants to volunteer to help validate signatures. I envision a team of Libertarians across the U.S., validating signatures in record time and helping ensure 100% success of every Libertarian ballot drive.”

In Pennsylvania, the 2010 Libertarian candidates for governor and U.S. Senate were knocked off the ballot in a GOP challenge, due to low validity of signatures. This motivated Libertarian John Karr to prevent a repeat in 2012, so he wrote the first version

of a validation program he calls VIDAS.

Using VIDAS, he was able to see that the signatures coming in for the 2012 petition drive had a very poor validity rate, possibly as low as 40 percent. He knew the drive was in trouble,

so he sounded the alarm. As a result, corrective action was taken to fund enough additional signatures for the ballot drive to succeed.

If not for Karr’s efforts, along with scores of volunteers who successfully fought off another GOP challenge, Libertarian presidential nominee Gov. Gary Johnson would not have made the 2012 ballot in Pennsylvania, the sixth most populous state in the nation.

To make VIDAS usable, Karr first cleaned up the very messy Pennsylvania voter data base before he could import it into his application. This was no small task, since data formats vary across the state’s 67 counties.

VIDAS does more than look up voters in the database. It integrates scans of each individual petition sheet so volunteers working remotely can log into a website and see petition lines in the same window where they look up voters. The program also allows users to access individual voter histories and to create walk lists for going door to door.

Karr created a new version of VIDAS in preparation for the 2016 Pennsylvania drive, which will be critical to getting the Libertarian presidential ticket, a statewide slate, and numerous U.S. House, state house, and local candidates on the ballot this year. •

You may contact Ken Moellman about using Voter Validator by sending e-mail to Ken.Moellman@LPKY.org.



John Karr of Penn.



Rob Perry of Kentucky

Kevin McCormick

For President 2016

America wants the voice of
the average American to
be heard!

*“Let’s show America why
we are the only choice
in November.”*

**I am running on 3 Core
Libertarian Principles:**

- ★ INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM
- ★ FREE SPEECH
- ★ OUR RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Find out more at:

KevinMcCormick2016.com



Paid Sponsorship

Libertarian Party 2016 presidential candidates

Fourteen 2016 presidential candidates (listed below) have been recognized by the Libertarian Party based on minimal criteria as of March 22. Delegates will select the party's presidential and vice-presidential nominees at the LP national convention in Orlando, Florida in May.

Thomas Clements	<i>Thomas-Clements.ruck.us</i>
Marc Allan Feldman	<i>VotesNotForSale.com</i>
Malisia Garcia	<i>MalisiaGarciaForPresident.us</i>
Gary Johnson	<i>GaryJohnson2016.com</i>
John McAfee	<i>McAfee2016.com</i>
Kevin McCormick	<i>KevinMcCormick2016.com</i>
Darryl Perry	<i>DarrylWPerry.com</i>
Austin Petersen	<i>AustinPetersen2016.com</i>
Derrick Michael Reid	<i>TotalitarianDemocracy.com</i>
Jack Robinson, Jr.	<i>RobinsonForPresident.com</i>
Rhett Smith	<i>RhettForPresident.com</i>
Shawna Joy Sterling	<i>ShawnaSterling.org</i>
Joy Waymire	<i>Joy4thePeoplesVoice.com</i>
Heidi Zeman	<i>HeidiZeman.com</i>

Candidates Steve Kerbel, Cecil Ince, and Bart Lower, who had previously qualified, suspended or ended their campaigns for the presidential nomination. Bart Lower is now running for state House in Michigan's 86th district.

The following statements have been submitted by candidates who qualified since our last issue, except for Thomas Clements, who did not submit one. The candidates' statements have not been edited by *LP News*.

Statements by the other candidates listed above were published in the December 2015 and February 2016 issues of *LP News*, which can be accessed at: www.LP.org/lp-news

Malisia Garcia

Lady Liberty has been stricken ill. Where she once held her torch high and looked proudly on the nation at her feet, she now is stricken with despair and injured. She is ailing not by a virus from another land, nor are her injuries from outsiders. She is crying out from internal injuries, the injuries inflicted by our Government upon it people. Unless we heal from within, then this once vibrant, now tired lady will die. With her will die not just a nation, but an ideal of freedom and self-determination; and with it, the hopes and dreams of our fathers, ourselves and our children and their children.

If elected as the President of the United States of America it will be my goal to unite all parties by bringing everything back to our Constitution to come to a mutual-agreement to solve the nations problems. I strongly believe to solve America's problems it can't be solve by a party, but by the unity of this Nations people from all walks of life.



Malisia Garcia

I like Lady Liberty will fight like no other for this Nations Constitutional rights to be restored because I understand the struggles of this Nations People.

Website: www.MalisiaGarciaForPresident.us

Kevin McCormick

I am a longtime Libertarian party member and have voted Libertarian my entire life. I announced my candidacy after witnessing the frustration with the chronic rancor and petty politics that have marred the 2016 election. My campaign platform is built on the classic Libertarian doctrine of small government and maximum personal freedoms while emphasizing the need to adapt to the challenges the country faces in the 21st century.

If the 2016 presidential election has shown us anything, it's that the average American voter is frustrated with the Federal government and politics in general. There are millions of people like me who feel that their voice hasn't been heard and my campaign will speak for them. Issues of smaller government, guaranteeing personal freedoms and security are paramount yet are pushed aside by personal attacks and attempts to win the sound bite war.

Many Americans feel trapped by a two party system with no real third choice in this election. It's time to grab our democracy back from the billionaires, millionaires and corporations and show the world that an average, hard-working American can still become President of the United States!

Website: www.KevinMcCormick2016.com

Shawna Joy Sterling

LIBERTARIAN CALL TO ACTION: I Shawna Joy Sterling Libertarian Presidential Candidate am looking for delegates who will give me a chance to debate in the Libertarian Presidential debates at the Libertarian Party National Convention in Orlando, Florida. If you are a delegate willing to give me this opportunity, please email me at pastorshawnaSterling@gmail.com

In 2016 the LP has the opportunity to nominate a woman to win against Hillary. I will win against Hillary and help the LP take the White House this November as the first female Libertarian President of the United States of America who will protect and defend the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights under the guidance of the LP's NAP.

I am against: physical force; censorship; violation of property



Kevin McCormick



Shawna Joy Sterling

rights; slavery; spying; bailouts; federal control of energy production, education, health care, and retirement; the draft; terrorism; the death penalty; and torture.

I am for: rights to life, liberty, property, ownership of one's own body, speech, religion, privacy, self-defense, the right to raise and educate one's own children; free trade and markets; abolishment of all federal programs not required by the U.S. Constitution; and defending our borders to prevent attacks against security, health, and property.

Website: ShawnaSterling.org

Heidi Zeman

As your President, I will work with you to create an environment where each person looks forward to the day ahead. I propose:

Doctors bill the House of Representatives for your health care.

Repeal affirmative action; we are people, not races.

Work with private charities and schools to design curriculum designed so that children love to learn; recreate the Department of Education.

Cease foreign aid.

Bring our troops home.

Repeal and replace our nation's law enforcement training. I propose we disarm law enforcement and accompany each officer with an armed veteran.

Repeal Prohibition, which includes eliminating the FDA and DEA, and restore rights of victims of unjust laws.

Combine the US Census Bureau with the Treasury, and create a Treasury account for each citizen.

Replace government employee welfare (federal and state civil service pensions) with Social Security, with Social Security for all, including people pre age 65 who have been unable to find a job. This will eliminate food stamps and unemployment wages.

Repeal the 16th Amendment, income tax.

Promote USA business worldwide by reducing corporate oversight and regulation.

For the 'why's behind this platform, please see my website. Thank you and God Bless America.

Website: HeidiZeman.com



Heidi Zeman

Want your message in LP News?

For sponsorship info and rate sheet, write to:

LPNews@LP.org

Restrictions apply.

The Libertarian Party

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear fellow Libertarian,

I'd like to thank you for supporting the Libertarian Party in 2015. We made a lot of progress, which I'll review shortly.

But first, I'm going to ask you now to—please—send a major contribution today, to make 50-state ballot access possible.

Recently, on CNN, [Ron Paul](#) said [he won't vote for Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump](#), if the Republican and Democratic front-runners become the nominees of their parties.

Paul goes on to say “If you can't stand any of them ... and if you happen to be a Libertarian, then [vote for the Libertarian Party](#).”

America needs a Libertarian on the ballot—someone who will cut government spending, protect our civil liberties, and respect the Constitution.

Here are some of our accomplishments from 2015:

Student Outreach

We started out 2015 with a major outreach effort to young people at the 2015 International Students For Liberty Conference in Washington, D.C.

Of the roughly 1700 attendees, 317 (that's 18 percent!) “signed the pledge” to join the Libertarian Party. That conference attracts top-notch student liberty activists from around the country, and we expect many of them to become active donors and volunteers for the Libertarian Party in the future.

Voter Registration

From October 2014 to February 2016, Libertarian Party voter registration increased from 399,302 to 411,250. At the same time, voter registrations for Republicans, Democrats, Green, the Constitution Party—and even independents—went down!

That's right. [Only Libertarian Party voter registrations went up!](#)

Affiliate Support

Thanks to the generous support of a major donor (a \$20,000 contribution for the purpose), we hired an affiliate support specialist, Andy Burns, in 2015.

Andy's mission: “Promote libertarian policies by providing tools and support to increase the footprint and marketing effectiveness of Libertarian Party state affiliates.”

One example of the type of feedback we've received based on Andy's work:

Thank you for selecting the LPWA as a recipient of Andy's services in his role with the LP. He has been instrumental in the improvement of our website and establishment of our database. His expertise has saved us several thousand dollars that we don't have to spend on this. I can't say enough about his vision, persistence and patience. Great choice Nick.

—Zack Banks

Vice Chair, LP of Washington

continued on page 13...

2010–2015 LNC Balance Sheet Summary

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015*
Total Assets	454,149	290,870	445,746	1,131,596	1,150,099
Total Liabilities	42,998	37,515	48,988	551,629	557,284
Total Net Assets	411,151	253,355	396,758	579,967	592,815

2010–2015 Revenue & Expense Summary

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015*
Support and Revenue					
Membership Dues	482,622	458,288	456,082	492,324	368,631
Donations	288,594	281,015	189,628	442,697	158,958
Recurring Gifts	393,021	331,288	344,601	342,279	323,457
Board Solicitation Major Gifts	25,027	1,000	125	42,475	73,400
Convention Revenue	0	185,226	0	114,820	0
Project Program Revenue	130,035	-6,321	235,869	72,248	24,206
Brand & Promo Materials Rev	0	690	2,450	19,380	30,360
Ballot Access Donations	30,188	231,877	61,395	45,954	135,292
Publications Materials Other	7,900	1,645	1,000	7,959	13,968
Other Revenue & Offsets	1,523	142	23	1	56
Total Support and Revenue	1,358,911	1,484,850	1,291,173	1,580,136	1,128,326
Cost of Support and Revenue					
Fundraising Costs	147,122	165,265	116,486	125,461	101,656
Membership Fundraising Costs	155,965	76,355	101,057	108,366	96,003
Convention	0	161,912	0	120,936	0
Ballot Access Other Project Fundraising	2,937	16,825	56,116	8,831	22,828
Building Fundraising Exp	0	0	0	5,945	81
Total Cost of Support and Revenue	306,024	420,357	273,659	369,539	220,568
Net Support Available for Programs	1,052,887	1,064,493	1,017,514	1,210,597	907,758
Program Expense					
Administrative Costs	365,257	362,256	342,204	293,071	246,602
Compensation	412,239	399,518	461,390	519,432	420,555
Affiliate Support	3,867	4,816	5,404	4,883	18,737
Brand & Promo Materials Expense	5,191	2,748	2,408	12,578	40,796
Campus Outreach	0	0	1,000	0	732
Candidate, Campaign & Initiatives	50,000	4,464	0	289	6,804
Ballot Access Petitioning Related Expense	72,452	382,461	16,262	106,696	107,502
Litigation	12,882	23,259	6,979	11,047	1,839
Media	0	0	30	119	145
Member Communication and Materials	36,992	38,452	24,670	60,394	39,396
Outreach	21,285	4,315	6,979	6,098	4,541
Project Program Other	4,294	0	6,785	2,500	7,261
Total Program Expense	984,459	1,222,289	874,111	1,017,107	894,911
Net Operating Surplus (or Deficit)	68,427	-157,796	143,403	193,490	12,847

* Unaudited for 2015

Annual report

...continued from page 12

In fact, Andy has offered to help any state that wants his help to get a new website and database up and running. So far, Andy has helped get new websites built for the Libertarian Parties of Alabama, Connecticut, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington.

Andy has posted a repository of new tools for affiliates online at: LP.org/affiliate-resources

Branding

Last summer, the Libertarian National Committee voted to adopt a new logo, which you can see on this letterhead.

Before the vote, the Committee surveyed our membership. While the new logo won, not everyone voted in favor of it.

I was somewhat skeptical myself. The thing is, I wasn't in love with our older logos either. As part of our overall branding efforts, which included the new logo, we hired a professional graphic artist, Denise Luckey, to help us update all of our publications.

Let me tell you what. Our new logo is starting to look really good to me these days. We've been updating our main website, LP.org, as well as our store, LPStore.org, with new brochures and apparel that feature the new logo.

Whether it's because of the new logo, or because we've hired a professional graphic designer, or both, the fact is, our promotional materials look a lot better today than they did 12 months ago.

Visit LPStore.org to take a look and some of the new offerings. You won't be disappointed.

We also brought on two other part-time workers: Elizabeth Brierly, who is assistant editor for *LP News* and does website updates, and Lauren Daugherty, who oversees branding, and helps with fundraising and press releases.

Training

We started "LP Activist Training by Libertarians for Libertarians." Our first event was in Alexandria, Va. Here's an example of the feedback we received:

Please do it more often. It was inspiring and I hope I can fire up my people at home like you've helped to fire me up.

—Mary Phelps, Tennessee

I would love to see [this] training expanded throughout the country.

—Victor Curbelo, Indiana

We held our second training event in February 2016 in San Francisco. I hope to offer this training four times per year. The next training will be offered on Thursday, May 26, right before the opening of the 2016 Libertarian National convention in Orlando. People who register for the convention are welcome to attend for free.

Elections and Ballot Access

2015 was not a major election year. Nevertheless, 90 Libertarian candidates qualified for the ballot and 23 were elected, including eight incumbents who were re-elected.

In 2015, we started a petition drive to get on the ballot in Oklahoma. That petition drive was made possible due to the \$30,000 donation by Richard Winger for the drive. Richard Winger is editor of *Ballot Access News*, and a long-time member of the Libertarian Party.

I'm happy to report, that effort was a success. For the first time since the year 2000, the LP will be on the ballot in Oklahoma.

However, I'm sorry to report that the Oklahoma petition drive ended up costing far more than we had hoped. We had hoped to spend \$60,000, but ended up spending \$104,000.

That hurt. But it did keep our prospects for 50-state ballot access alive.

Financial Reports

Our unaudited financial statements appear opposite (on page 12). Revenue decreased significantly from 2014 to 2015. In 2014, the LNC booked a bequest from the Joseph Shaber estate valued at \$235,575. That explains part of the drop in revenue for 2015.

However, we fell \$177,930 below budgeted revenue for 2015.

Aside from a very expensive petition drive in Oklahoma, we did a pretty good job of keeping our expenses down and ended 2015 with a \$12,847 surplus.

But that is not enough to make 50-state ballot access possible in 2016 unless our donors like you come through in a big way in the first half of 2016.

In December 2015, the LNC adopted a budget for 2016 based on \$1,514,461 in estimated revenue. (Please note, budgets are often amended during the year based on changing conditions.)

Typically, revenue increases in presidential election years, although \$1,514,461 is an aggressive budget given our 2015 results.

Once again, I'd like to recognize the late Joseph Shaber of Arizona. Mr. Shaber was a long-time member of the Libertarian Party. He passed away in 2014. I'd like to thank him for remembering the Libertarian Party in his will. His contribution will continue for years to come to help the Libertarian Party fund its critical efforts.

Membership

Membership dropped from 12,800 in December 2014 to 11,693 in December 2015, a 9-percent drop. Fortunately, and probably due to heightened interest in the upcoming presidential election, membership has started climbing back in early 2016, reaching 12,331 at the end of March. Of course I'm hoping it grows much higher by the end of 2016. Please encourage your friends and family to join the LP.

Going forward in 2016

Almost everybody's talking about it. Who's going to be the Libertarian nominee for president?

I can't tell you. That's to be decided by the delegates to our 2016 Libertarian National Convention to be held Memorial Day weekend in Orlando, Fla. Staff like me have to remain completely neutral on the candidate selection process.

What I can tell you is that the number of early registrations for the 2016 convention are far above what they were for other conventions going back at least to 2008.

With Trump and Clinton the frontrunners in the two old parties, people seem especially interested in the Libertarian Party this year.

I need your help to put our nominee for president and other offices on the ballot in as many states as possible. And it will be all 50 states if you, and others I'm asking, contribute enough to pay for all of the petition signatures we need to get on the ballot.

I want to thank all of our 2015 donors, candidates, party officials, and other volunteers.

In 2015, as mentioned previously, one donor, Richard Winger, contributed \$30,000 for ballot access. Another donor, Michael Chastain of Austin, Texas, contributed \$20,000 so that we could afford to provide low-cost Libertarian door hangers in 2016. Another donor gave \$20,000 so we could hire someone to provide support to our 50 state affiliates.

I know you probably can't afford to make a \$30,000 or \$20,000 contribution.

But I hope you will consider at least doubling what you contributed in 2015.

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, provide promotional materials, and keep you informed about what Libertarians are getting done throughout the United States.

2016 is already shaping up to be an exciting year.

But, I need your help immediately to get on the ballot in all 50 states. Please send a generous contribution today.

Sincerely,

Wes Benedict

Wes Benedict, Executive Director
Libertarian Party

P.S. Please donate today to ensure we get the LP on the ballot in all 50 states, plus D.C.



AFFILIATE

UPDATES

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

Alabama

New leaders elected

The Libertarian Party of Alabama held their annual convention on Feb. 27, electing leadership for the upcoming year.

Mr. Leigh LaChine, a Birmingham resident, was elected to a fourth term as state executive committee chair. LaChine also serves as chair of the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance, and is the managing member of an environmental consulting firm. Other members elected to the state executive committee were Aimee Love as vice chair, Nicole Jordan as secretary, and Ross Lowe as treasurer. Johnny Lee of Birmingham was elected as at-large representative, with Zachary Redmond serving as an additional at-large representative. The four regional representative positions were filled by Joshua Tuttle, Aaron Watkins, Amanda Beshears-Cook, and Dennis Knizely.

California

Nine candidates in top-two state

The California LP will have nine candidates on the ballot in primary election of June 7, including two U.S. Senate candidates, Gail Lightfoot and Mark Matthew Herd, and two U.S. House candidates, Alex Appleby (Dist. 9) and Kennita Watson (Dist. 17). John Webster is running for State Senate, District 13. The four state assembly candidates are Janice Bonser (Dist. 8), John Inks (Dist. 24), Dominic Rubini (Dist. 35), and Jeff Hewitt (Dist. 42). We also expect to run write-in candidates in districts where only one candidate filed for the primary. In California, the top-two open-primary voting system means that the two highest vote-getters will advance to the November election, regardless of party.

The new California LP website is up and running. Take a look at CALP.org. Many thanks to Jarrett Tilford, who led the website-revision team that designed the new site.

There will be a Libertarian presence at the California state fair this summer. The California LP will have a booth at the fair, which is set for July 8 to July 24 in Sacramento. This will be a great opportunity to promote liberty to thousands of fairgoers in this important election year.

Colorado

LP's birth state runs 33 candidates

The Libertarian Party of Colorado (LPCO) convened in Colorado Springs on March 12–13 and elected officers, adopted a new state party platform, and nominated 33 candidates for state and federal office.

Jay North was elected chair, and resigned his previous position of vice chair. Wayne Harlos was subsequently elected as vice chair. Michael Spalding was re-elected as records director, and Michael Stapleton was re-elected as legislative director. Prior appointees Richard Longstreth and Caryn Ann Harlos were elected to fill the positions of regions director and communications director, respectively. Membership Director Alan Hayman resigned, and Jeff Orrok was elected to that position. John Hjersman was elected as treasurer. The positions of outreach director and fundraising director remain vacant.

The convention delegates also accepted the Platform Committee's recommendation to adopt a new platform. The goal was to provide a principles-based platform that will be of greater service and flexibility for the board and candidates to apply to rapidly changing political issues. The new platform is expected to serve LPCO for years to come.

Also, LPCO reminded the nation what it means to be the birthplace of the Libertarian Party. With its nomination of 33 candidates for state and federal office, the LPCO currently has the second most candidates per capita of all LP state affiliates in the nation. LPCO members are ecstatic to be giving the libertarians of this great state so many opportunities to vote for a Libertarian.

Massachusetts

Candidates run for state rep. and Congress

LP Massachusetts has candidates for Lstate representative, including Justin O'Donnell, Bob Underwood, and Dan Fishman. Underwood has run repeatedly; his vote totals keep increasing. Fishman is part of a ballot-access experiment. He is running as a "United Independent," an experiment intended to give third-party candidates the hypothetical advantages of major-party status. This would not make sense in most other states, but Massachusetts ballot-access laws are ... different.

We have congressional candidates potentially running in three districts, namely Jason Caron (3rd district), Tom Tribandis (2nd), and perhaps Steve Simmons (1st).

The Facebook campaigns *Peace Now!*, *End the Warfare State!*, and *End the Surveillance State* are attracting appreciable attention at a low cost.

Volunteers Cris Crawford and Dan Fishman are handling our presidential ballot-access efforts this year. We did, in support of the presidential ballot-access effort, perform an e-mail fundraising drive that brought in a modest amount of money.

In a bylaws change, we added a nonvoting Associate membership status. It's free, but Associates receive via e-mail our newsletters and other material.

A state law change was supposed to mean that registered Libertarians would now vote in Democratic primaries. However, the law was not well advertised; many polling places did not know about the law or what it meant.

Finally, many years ago, the LP established at the Supreme Court that laws barring those under 18 from donating to political campaigns in a significant way are unconstitutional. Massachusetts has such a law; the bureaucrats enforcing it say emphatically that they are not the legislature or the courts, so someone would have to lobby or sue to fix things. On both of these points, LP Massachusetts is now working with the ACLU to see if the issues can be fixed.

Michigan

Delegates hold presidential straw poll

The Libertarian Party of Michigan upgraded its website with a brand new look for election season, including a page dedicated to members seeking our nomination (www.MichiganLP.org/general-elections), which will be fully populated in time for the state convention on May 14.

Delegates from throughout the state gathered in Berkley on March 19 to elect delegates to the national convention (24 delegates and two alternates were elected, with more likely to be elected at the state convention) and for the state party's quadrennial straw poll of support for candidates seeking the LP's presidential nomination. Six candidates vied for their support. Delegates could donate to as many candidates as they chose, up to the campaign finance limit.

Businessman and two-term former governor of New Mexico Gary Johnson was the runaway choice for voters, who in this one-of-a-kind event donated cam-

paign contribution dollars as "votes." Only members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan were permitted to make donations, but anyone was allowed to come and listen.

The combined four-digit fundraiser showed the growing support for Libertarian candidates, who hope to provide sensible alternatives in this unusually divisive presidential campaign season.

Johnson received 65 percent of the vote in the six-way contest, which included publisher and media production manager Austin Petersen of Missouri (16 percent) and news media personality Darryl Perry of New Hampshire (7 percent). Anesthesiologist Marc Allan Feldman of Ohio, software pioneer John McAfee of Tennessee, and new-age activist Joy Waymire of California also finished in the single digits.

Feldman, while trailing in dollar volume, inspired delegates with his \$5 campaign and offbeat humor, which conjured the broad support model seen this year in the campaign of Democratic candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders. While offering a very different vision of government than that of the Vermont senator, Feldman agrees that money has bought influence at all levels of government. He trailed Johnson by only one, in terms of delegates contributing to his campaign.

Since 2004, LP Michigan has led the nation with its unique "put up or shut up" campaign fundraising event. It has served as a bellwether of success at the national LP convention—with every eventual nominee having participated in LP Michigan's previous straw polls. Gary Johnson was also the winner in 2012—and went on to earn the nomination of the Libertarian Party that year.

Minnesota

Oppose Jesse Ventura for President

LPMN issued the following press release on March 24, 2016:

Due to conflict and contrast to core principles of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota, including but not limited to his proven legacy of government growth having measurable negative economic impacts that last to this day, the LPMN Executive Committee hereby declares that former (Reform Party/ Independence Party) Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura shall not receive support from this body at any point in his potential bid to become the 2016 presidential nominee of the Libertarian Party.

We believe in being fiscally conservative

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AFFILIATE

UPDATES

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and socially liberal. We promote less government dominion over the lives of individuals. Mr. Ventura's practices and statements are inconsistent with said beliefs. Therefore, in addition, the LPMN Board shall not invite Mr. Ventura to speak at our 4/16/16 state convention. We furthermore request that the LNC not invite Mr. Ventura to appear at the 5/28/16 national convention nor participate in the 4/1/16 televised Fox Business News LNC Presidential debate.

Mr. Ventura has recorded statements supporting a renewed military draft, ethanol subsidies, and expanded sales tax (to include services). He has stated his opposition to ending public education and opposition to extending school choice vouchers. He has laid out a case to replace the (albeit imperfect) computer-assisted electoral college voting system with a paper-ballot national popular vote, which would result in increased voter fraud, lengthier and costlier recount processes, while at the same time decreasing the representation of Midwestern voters in favor of coastal media regimes. We disagree with these proposals.

Mr. Ventura's legacy is a legacy of the Independence Party destruction. His lack of allies and coalition building within his own party and across all parties resulted in not only a lack of political progress, but the demise of alternative party progress. The IP has been relegated to minor-party status in the wake of Mr. Ventura's self-promotion. He has never been a member of the Libertarian Party, he is not currently a member, and has indicated he will not become a member; with the possible exception of accessing a path to the presidential ballot to promote his self interests. We the LPMN EC oppose.

Montana

Ten candidates file for office

On March 12, the Missoula County LP participated in the Missoula St. Patrick's Day parade as the only political party to enter. Thanks to Chair Mike Fellows and Adam Forslund for their help. Our Thing survived the event.

At press time, the Ravalli County LP planned to host an event in Hamilton to view John Stossel's show. LP gubernatorial candidate Ted Dunlap was expected there, along with other candidates.

Montana's candidate filing period ended on March 14. One of only three qualified parties, the LP had 10 candidates file: Dick Motta (SD 39), Shannon Hanson (HD 6), Josh Daniels (HD 43), Andrew Forcier (HD 57), Francis Wendt (HD 61), Paula Bonar (HD 84), Mike Fellows (U.S. House), Ted Dunlap (governor), Ron Vandevender (lt. governor), and Roger Roots (secretary of state).



Montana Libertarian Adam Forslund in the Missoula St. Patrick's Day parade

Montana will have seven delegates at the national convention. Montana Libertarians who plan to attend should let Mike Fellows know.

New Jersey

Ron Paul: 'Consider supporting LP in 2016'

The New Jersey Libertarian Party hosted its 2016 state convention on March 12 in Hightstown. The event had the best attendance in recent memory, and featured speeches by LP presidential candidate John McAfee and LNC Political Director Carla Howell.

The NJLP hopes to recruit a full slate of candidates to capitalize on the dissatisfaction with both major parties. New Jersey has the highest property taxes, the most emigration, and the worst business climate in America. When adjusted for the cost of living, 31 percent of the state's residents live in poverty. Since he endorsed Donald Trump, Gov. Christie's approval rating has dropped to 30 percent, with several newspapers calling for his resignation.

In February, NJLP members helped welcome Ron Paul to the Young Americans for Liberty convention at Rutgers University. During his remarks, Dr. Paul indicated that anyone who supports liberty should consider supporting the LP in 2016.

Later that month, NJLP Chair Patrick

McKnight attended the Students for Liberty conference in Washington, D.C., and was interviewed on the Jason Stapleton Program about how to take the LP mainstream (YouTu.be/AYb-oeJ0hqA).

West Virginia

Serious Libertarian candidates running in 2016

With its largest field of candidates in a dozen years, the LP of West Virginia is showing voters in the Mountain State that "liberty" looks just like them. Here are just four examples of who's running.

In Hardy County, in the "Potomac Highlands" region, Tonya and Matt Persinger, home-schoolers of two energetic young boys, were fed up with politics as usual. So they decided they'd both run for the legislature—Tonya for House of Delegates and Matt for State Senate. Their "wife and husband" candidacy has already impressed the local paper, which ran a favorable story noting the Libertarian couple's evolution from Ron Paul supporters, to registered Libertarian voters, to declared candidates.

In the southern counties of West Virginia, Mercer County optometrist Zane Lawhorn has announced for U.S. House of Representatives in the 3rd congressional district. A native of Monroe County and a WVU graduate, Lawhorn, like the Persingers, is a family man, active in his church and community. Dr. Lawhorn intends to focus "like a laser" (appropriately, given his occupation) to unleash free-enterprise job creation for the hard-hit coal communities of West Virginia, battle federal invasion of privacy rights, and take on the status quo in Washington, D.C. He is a new convert to the LP.

On the Ohio border, in the Parkersburg metropolitan area, long-time LP member Brent West is running for state treasurer. Married with two young children, West pledges to give back 20 percent of the treasurer salary to help cut spending, in light of the West Virginia fiscal crisis. He says the solution is to cut spending, not raise taxes on anyone. Furthermore, he asks voters, "Who better to entrust the careful investment and disbursement of taxpayer funds than a parsimonious Libertarian?"

These four candidates are riding a wave of libertarian outreach in West Virginia. That's why LPWV has borrowed the state motto, *Montani semper liberi* ("mountaineers are always free"), and converted it to: *Montani semper Libertarian!* •

Highlights of February LNC Meeting

By Alicia Mattson, LNC Secretary

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met February 20–21 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Board members had the opportunity to meet Nevada Assemblyman John Moore (who recently switched his affiliation to the Libertarian Party) and hear a brief presentation about his re-election campaign.

The audit of the 2014 financials had revealed some areas for improvement. The LNC issued some directives and discussed other actions already under way.

A new policy was adopted requiring that monthly financial reports to the LNC include a listing of expenditures from the chair's discretionary fund.

The Convention Oversight Committee had conducted a search of potential locations for the 2018 national convention and presented a short list of bids from the top contenders. The LNC voted to select the bid from the Hyatt Regency, New Orleans. The Convention Oversight Committee will complete the contract negotiation details now that the LNC has chosen a location.

Kevin Ludlow was appointed to chair a Website Redevelopment Committee to bring about a redesign of the website (at LP.org). The LNC also gave direction to staff on subject matter for which new outreach literature should be developed.

The LNC approved a motion that \$3,722.02 of ballot-access funds be encumbered to pay candidate filing fees for 2016 governor and U.S. representative candidates in Montana. The Montana affiliate has a history of being able to retain their ballot access with candidates in these races.

To get a head start on presidential election season, the LNC reviewed a draft contract to be proposed to the eventual presidential campaign. In the end, the LNC decided the draft wasn't yet ready to be approved, and that work on the proposed contract will continue.

The final in-person meeting of the LNC during this term will be a two-hour meeting on May 26, 2016, at the national convention hotel in Orlando, Fla. The national convention will begin the next day. •

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Students for Liberty conference



Libertarians work a successful booth at the 2016 International Students for Liberty Conference in Washington, D.C. LP Executive Director Wes Benedict, who organized the event, along with Andy Bakker, Arvin Vohra, and Carla Howell (pictured, L-R) and Bob Johnston, Ruth Witt, Martin Moulton, and Bridget Ulrich signed up 331 students for LP membership and distributed hundreds of T-shirts.

Ballot access in Okla.

...continued from page 4

Hurdles yet to overcome in key states

Libertarians have ballot access in 32 of the 50 states as of early April. Of the remaining states, those that need the greatest number of valid voter signatures to get the LP presidential ticket on the ballot are:

- Illinois: 25,000 due by June 27
- Pennsylvania: 21,775 due by Aug. 1
- New York: 15,000 due by Aug. 23
- Massachusetts: 10,000 by Aug. 2
- Connecticut: 7,500 by Aug. 10
- South Dakota: 6,936 by July 11 (to get

party onto the ballot)

- Kentucky: 5,000 by Sept. 9
- Ohio: 5,000 by Aug. 10
- Virginia: 5,000 by Aug. 26
- District of Columbia: approximately 4,600 by Aug. 10
- Maine: 4,000 by Aug. 1
- New Hampshire: 3,000 by Aug. 10

By the end of March, South Dakota Libertarians had collected more than half the signatures needed to make the ballot.

To view the current status of LP presidential ballot access, visit: www.LP.org/2016-presidential-ballot-access-map

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- NBC News: Will Republicans find solace in the Libertarian Party?
- *Washington Times*: Libertarians welcome refugees from GOP and Democratic Party
- *Richmond Times*: The GOP's Libertarian Party option
- Gary Johnson featured in *New York Times*, *CNBC*, *Huffington Post*
- Extensive media coverage of Libertarian John McAfee's solution to Apple controversy
- Austin Petersen interviewed on John Stossel's show
- LPMN Executive Director Kevin Bradley on Minnesota Public Radio
- Hypocrite Kasich
- LNC chair interviewed on ABC TV affiliate in Mississippi
- Reason: How Donald Trump & Hillary Clinton have made the Libertarian Party relevant
- Ron Paul: No one for libertarians to vote for in Republican or Democratic primaries
- Seaman to run again for U.S. House in North Dakota in 2016
- Illinois LP wins lawsuit to strike unconstitutional ballot-access restriction
- Historic dates of interest to Libertarians
- LP political director Carla Howell discusses "State of the Union" on RT TV

Libertarians might play big role in November

—**Headline of an article in AMI Newswire; 3/28/16**

Trump vs. Clinton Could Give Rise to Libertarian

—**Headline of an article in Newsmax; 3/25/16**

Mr. Johnson, the former New Mexico governor who won 1.3 million votes as the Libertarian presidential nominee in 2012 and is running again this year, said in an interview that he'd welcome an intraparty challenge from a Republican, and predicted he'd wipe the floor with whatever outsider tries to infiltrate his party.

—**The Wall Street Journal; 3/22/16**

"It's unlikely that Republican elites would ever rally round someone like Mr. Johnson. But as a firewall to prevent Mr. Trump from taking over the Oval Office, the Libertarian Party nominee — whom they disagree with on many subjects — may be their best shot."

—**The New York Times; 3/22/16**

Trump's big problem in the polls has been with younger Americans, many who lean libertarian. As we've documented, many young conservatives would consider bailing the Republican Party if Trump wins the nomination.

This Monmouth poll would suggest that many of these disaffected young voters would vote for Johnson.

—**Red Alert Politics; 3/24/16**

For decades, we've been told that a vote for the GOP is a vote for "smaller government." This is repeated both by Republicans, who say it like it's a good thing, and by Democrats who still seem to think that the GOP is committed to cutting grandma's safety net.

If we look at federal spending, though, it's easy to see that the myth of the budget-cutting Republican president is just that: a myth.

—**Mises Wire; 2/9/16**

Presidential candidates often welcome the label of underdog, but 2016 could be the year a third-party contender polls high enough to be included in the general election debates. The Libertarian Party's Gary Johnson is not far from that goal.

—**RT TV; 3/24/16**

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