

Denver to host 2008 Libertarian National Convention

THE LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE has announced that Denver, Colorado will be the host city for the 2008 Libertarian National Convention. The LP presidential nominating convention will be held between Friday, May 23 and Monday, May 26 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Adam's Mark Denver is Colorado's largest hotel, with over 1225 rooms and 133,000 sq. ft. of meeting and exhibit space.

"We are extremely proud to serve as the venue for the 2008 convention," said Libertarian Party of Colorado Chairman Travis Nicks. "We look forward to showing the nation's Libertarians what the birthplace of the Libertarian Party has to offer."



■ Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver Colorado

While Libertarians hold a Libertarian National Convention every two years, on presidential election years they select their presidential and vice presidential candidates through the convention process.

"With all of the recent media interest about the libertarian vote in western mountain states, Denver will provide an excellent opportunity for us to show the voters what is meant by smaller government, lower taxes and more freedom," said LNC Chairman William Redpath. "Additionally, the Libertarian National Convention won't be a coronation of some pre-determined candidate held at taxpayer expense."

The Libertarian Party, which recently celebrated its 35th birthday, was founded in Colorado in 1971. Libertarians do not accept public funding for their national convention, while the Republican and Democrat conventions generally cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.

Former Congressman Bob Barr newest LNC member

"Can Americans be persuaded to cast votes based on something more than party label and habit," asked former U.S. Congressman Bob Barr in a recent *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article. "Will the next two years witness, at long last, the rise of a truly viable third party — not one molded in the image of a wealthy egotist but one based on meaningful and substantive ideas? Will the 35-year-old Libertarian Party finally prove itself a party truly concerned with winning elections as opposed to defiantly championing issues that will never fit the description 'mainstream?' If the new management of the Libertarian Party has anything to say about it, the answer to those questions will be a resounding 'yes.'"

In mid-December, Bob Barr, a recent Life Member of the Liber-

tarian Party, became a part of the Libertarian management team he had described after he was offered the position of Regional 4

and Alabama met via teleconference to discuss the matter after the recent resignation of Mark Bodenhause for medical rea-



■ Bob Barr stumping in Texas with Libertarian congressional candidate Bob Smither

Representative to the Libertarian National Committee.

The state chairs of Region 4, which is made up of Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi,

sons.

State leaders endorsed Barr as their representative to lead them into the 2008 presidential election season. David Chastain is

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Indiana Libertarian sworn in by Libertarian judge

IT'S BEEN SAID that "when dog bites man, that's not news, but when man bites dog, that's news!" While it doesn't appear there was any biting going on, there was an unusual occurrence in Hagerstown

on January 1st, when Susan Bell, judge of the Hagerstown Town Court, administered the oath of office to Conley Tillson and Steve Coffman.

"What makes this so very special is that this is the first time this

the Libertarian Party of Indiana. "Despite the election law hurdles placed against the Libertarian Party by the Republicans and Democrats, the Libertarian Party has grown in Indiana to the point where an elected Libertarian judge is now giving the oath of

See SWORN IN Page 2



■ Indiana LP State Chair Mark Rutherford and former Executive Director Brad Klopfenstein congratulate newly elected Libertarians Steve Coffman and Conley Tillson

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WHAT'S NEW

Indiana Libertarian sworn in by a Libertarian

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office to two Libertarian elected officials today.”

Susan Bell was elected to the Town Court in 2003. Tillson was elected to the Clay Township Advisory Board, and Coffman was elected to the Liberty Township Advisory Board in last November's election.

Both Tillson and Coffman

expressed appreciation for the confidence voters have placed in them, and vowed to keep a watchful eye on the taxpayers' money.

Township Board members are elected for four-year terms, and have responsibilities in the township similar to those exercised by the County Council, dealing



■ Steve Coffman, Conley Tillson and Susan Bell

mostly with township budgets.

Rex Bell, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Wayne County, says all three wins were quite welcome. “We organized the local LP in 2002 and since that time we have ran some competitive races with some respectable vote totals in the 25-30 percent range, but a win definitely feels better.”

Bell also hopes the wins will instill confidence in the local voters. “We hear a lot of comments

from people who like what Libertarians stand for, especially at the state and local level, but they fear voting for us amounts to wasting their vote. Putting a few in the ‘win column’ will go a long way in alleviating those fears.”

According to Bell, the LP is focusing its attention on the 2007 elections.

“Obviously, the town and city elections that will be held this year are more within reach of the LP and its limited resources. We can't come close to spending as much as the two major parties, but in the smaller races we can do the ground work and meet the voters. That is where we shine. That is what we can build on.”



■ Judge Susan Bell administers the oath of office to Steve Coffman, recently elected member of the Liberty Township Advisory Board



■ Judge Susan Bell administers the oath of office to Conley Tillson, recently elected member of the Clay Township Advisory Board

Libertarian Party calls for Homeland Security to drop expansive screening program

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY has called upon the Department of Homeland Security to cease activities which target tens of millions of people as potential threats to the government. The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection recently announced that it is using its Automated Targeting System, a system previously used to track cargo, to create risk assessments on all international travelers as well as a wide variety of U.S. citizens who work in the transportation and travel industries.

While individuals may be assigned risk categories and denied flights, they are not able to obtain a copy of the information Homeland Security has compiled about them or to correct any inaccurate information contained within the database.

Homeland Security announced that it has already been using this system (by some accounts for up to four years) in the Federal Register. Homeland Security admits their intention is to circumvent compliance with the Privacy Act.

“While the intent of the Automated Targeting System program is to combat terrorism, in reality it primarily targets millions of innocent civilians in a government program with no real mechanism

to ensure accountability,” said LP Communications Director Stephen Gordon. “The Libertarian Party has jumped into the fray on this issue because Americans are being denied the most basic of their civil rights guaranteed by our laws and our Constitution.”

In a formal comment submitted in December by the Libertarian Party, opposition to the Homeland Security system was expressed in three general categories of comments:

Conflict with DHS Appropriations Act: The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007 expressly forbids the use of any funds that

“may be utilized to develop or test algorithms assessing risks to passengers whose names are not on government watch lists.” Homeland Security announced that the system “builds a risk assessment for cargo, conveyances, and travelers based on criteria and rules developed by CBP.” Homeland Security's actions clearly contradict the very piece of legislation which funds it.

Conflict with the Privacy Act: Homeland Security has claimed exemption from the Privacy Act on law enforcement grounds. While the Privacy Act clearly identifies exceptions as persons who are under criminal investi-

gation, arrested, indicted or convicted, Homeland Security seeks to add tens of millions of additional people to this general law enforcement category. Homeland Security's other claim for Privacy Act exemption is for people under criminal investigation. The Privacy Act requires that law enforcement comply with requests to furnish copies of collected personal information to persons who have been investigated. Homeland Security refuses to comply with this statute.

Constitutional Arguments: There are a variety of potential Constitutional arguments in opposition to the Homeland Security

system. The Libertarian Party is objecting primarily on Fifth Amendment grounds. The Fifth Amendment clearly requires government to use “due process of law” before depriving anyone of “life, liberty or property.” The Libertarian Party contends that the right to travel freely is one of the liberties described in the Fifth Amendment.

“The obvious attempt of DHS is to deprive people of liberty without being restrained by our ‘due process’ tradition and law,” reads the Libertarian Party public comment. “If allowed, DHS will be circumventing the entire judicial system and consequently depriving Americans of one of their most essential rights. Such action is contrary to the intent of the framers of the Constitution and attacks the very foundations of our system of government.”

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union, Electronic Privacy Information Center, Identity Project and a coalition of thirty additional organizations have filed similar formal documents. The Libertarian Party is America's third largest political party, maintaining a proud 35 year tradition of supporting smaller and less intrusive government.

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WHAT'S NEW

Three Libertarian events scheduled for Orlando in March

THE QUARTERLY MEETING of the Libertarian National Committee and the annual meeting of the state leadership of the Libertarian Party will be packaged in a big weekend in sunny Orlando this March. There will be three major events scheduled for the weekend of March 16-18. On Friday, March 16, the Libertarian National Committee will have its first meeting of 2007. This will also be the first meeting attended by new committee member and former Congressman Bob Barr (see Page 1). Later in the evening will be an opportunity for socializing with members of the LNC and state leaders from around the country.

From Saturday, March 17 until Sunday March 18 the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance will have its annual conference. This is a tremendous opportunity for

state leaders to obtain training, network, share ideas, and work on plans that can benefit the growth

dinner banquet provided. One of the banquet topics will be a discussion of the future of the Lib-

conclude Sunday at noon.

While the conference is informally still called the State Chairs' Conference, the conference is not restricted to state chairs. Registration is open to any interested party members.

According to LSLA spokesman Patrick Dixon, there will soon be a registration form posted at www.StateChairs.org with additional details. There will also be a business session on Sunday where actions and discussions are restricted to state affiliate leadership.

On Sunday, March 18, the Florida Libertarian Party will hold its convention following the close of the LSLA conference. Additional details aren't yet available, however, the Florida LP website should provide further details at a point in the not too distant future.

The events will be taking place

at the Orlando International Airport Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. The hotel is located two miles from the Orlando International Airport (airport code MCO) and offers complimentary airport shuttle, free parking, a pool/spa/fitness center, a business center, an on site-restaurant and a complimentary continental breakfast. It is also close to other restaurants and shopping. Additional hotel information may be found at their website, located at www.bestorlandoairport.com.

Room rates for the event range from \$72 to \$89 per night. To register, please call the hotel at 407-859-0380, as their website will not take reservations. Please be sure to ask for the "LP Group Rate" to ensure your low price. Group room rates will be honored from three days before to three days after the event.



■ A banquet room at the Orlando International Hotel and Conference Center

of their state parties.

There will also be a lunch and

Libertarian Party with current and past leaders. The conference will

Bob Barr officially jumps from GOP to the Party of Principle

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to be the new executive director of the Libertarian Party affiliate in Barr's home state of Georgia. Barr's experience, combined with his hot-button political issues, are important to Chastain.

"Bob Barr is an asset to the LP of Georgia," Chastain said. "He brings expertise, and a perspective on the federal government that spans several decades, so he knows how the games are played. But most importantly, he loves individual freedom and actively fights for the Bill of Rights."

In addition to having served eight years in the House of Representatives, Barr serves as a board member of the National Rifle Association and is the Chairman of Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances. He also is a member of The Constitution Project's Initiative on Liberty and Security at Georgetown University. He advises a variety of public policy organizations, including the American Conservative Union and the American Civil Liberties Union. Barr is President and CEO of Liberty Strategies, an Atlanta-based consulting firm with offices in the Washington, DC area. He practices both civil and criminal law.

LNC Chair William Redpath stated, "Bob Barr's willingness to serve as a leader of the Libertar-

ian Party represents a significant and positive development for our organization. The Libertarian Party played a pivotal role in key races in 2006 and has emerged as a strong and principled political force."

Redpath continued, "The antiquated two-party system was dealt a blow today as we have welcomed a patriotic statesman into our ranks with the intent of using his vast experience and widespread respect to help recruit and elect Libertarian candidates of his caliber."

Historically, the relationship between Libertarians and Barr has at times been contentious. Libertarians ran television commercials in 2002 targeting Barr in a Republican primary race against John Linder and took credit for their part in his defeat. Since that time, Barr has been more actively engaged in Second Amendment and civil liberties issues and has spoken at several state and national Libertarian conventions.

Since his congressional loss, Barr appears to be clarifying his stance on issues related to the use of medical marijuana. In recent interviews on Atlanta's Neil Boortz's and Phoenix's Charles Goyette's radio programs, Barr indicated that he is willing to work with Libertarians on these

and related issues.

"There's a lot of room to work on that issue," Barr said during the Goyette interview. "For example, on the issue of medical marijuana and the states' rights issues involving that. I'm very supportive of states' rights. I am also very supportive of the concept of legitimate testing for the use of medical marijuana, and I'm very disappointed that the government has stood in the way of that. So there's a lot of room there."

"I'm working through some of those individual liberties issues but also believe very strongly that, just as when I was in the Republican Party, I did not agree with everything the Republican Party stood for, everything in its platform, and certainly there's a lot of room in the Libertarian Party for people who have differing views on drugs, or differing views on other issues, and that's the sign of a mature party, that it will accommodate those differences."

Marijuana Policy Project's Executive Director Rob Kampia has welcomed Barr into the Libertarian Party.

"I've had the opportunity to meet with former Congressman Bob Barr on two occasions this fall," Kampia wrote. "The conversations were quite interesting

(and very civil), given that he was one of the three most problematic members of Congress for my organization since I co-founded MPP twelve years ago.

"But that's in the past; he has really come around on drug policy issues," Kampia continued. "He acknowledges that the drug war is a failure and it cannot be won, he has publicly come out in favor of states' rights for medical marijuana, and he wants to do whatever he can to shrink the size and reach of the federal government, which presumably includes the drug-war bureaucracy..."

"I support the notion of Mr. Barr taking a leadership position with the Libertarian Party; it's a win/win for him and the Party."

Barr's first official action as LNC representative will be to organize a meeting with state party leaders to address party-building and political goals for 2007 (see previous article).

Additionally, he is engaged in policy issues alongside the Libertarian Party, such as the new Homeland Security passenger tracking database system (see Page 2).

"We're very excited to welcome such a seasoned and respected man to the party," said Georgia Libertarian Executive Committeeman Joe Magyer. "Former Congressman Barr has

been an outspoken advocate of many of the same issues that the LP membership collectively holds near and dear. His sticking to his ideological guns rather than continuing to toe an ever-shifting Republican party-line is both admirable and reflective of the building internal discontent within the two major parties."

Since Barr has officially become more engaged in Libertarian Party activities, LP media coverage has increased dramatically. In addition to significant Internet coverage, over 600 newspaper articles have been published about Barr's political move and the story has been covered on national television networks, such as Fox News and CNN.

After accepting the position, former Congressman Barr stated, "I'm pleased to assist the Party of Principle in this capacity and hope to further our political success as we move closer to the 2008 election cycle. Being a member of this body is a serious and long-term commitment that I gladly accept. As importantly, I'm happy to announce that I am now a proud, card-carrying Libertarian who is committed to helping elect leaders who will strive for smaller government, lower taxes and abundant individual freedom. I encourage other Americans from across the

EDITORIAL STAFF

Inside this issue

WE HAVE TRIED doing a few things differently with this month's edition of *LP News*. Keeping with tradition, we provided news which we hope is of interest to party members in the front section of the paper. However, many of you have requested some changes to our format, so we have started accommodating your requests. It's your paper, and this month many more of you will have input into the content.

On the front page, we have provided the latest information we have about former Congressman (and new LP member) Bob Barr being elected to fill a vacant spot on the Libertarian National Committee. On the topic of being elected, we have the rare opportunity to share the story of two Libertarians being sworn into office – by a Libertarian judge.

Throughout the paper, you will find information about the 2008 Libertarian National Convention, which will be held in Denver, Colorado. In addition to the obvious five W's, BetteRose Ryan was kind enough to provide a lot of information about what activities are available around the immediate area surrounding the convention hall. This way, your family can begin planning for this exciting event. While it happened too late for this publication to cover, an interesting update to the convention story is that the Democrats have also scheduled their national convention in Den-

ver. The contrast between the LP and the Democratic conventions will be very interesting.

Additionally, we have provided information about a formal statement the Libertarian Party made concerning a new Homeland Security program which violates your privacy. See page 2 for the details.

The Affiliate News section announces several state party conventions and covers issues from gay rights to election reform.

We asked for your opinions and we certainly received them. LP News is once again accepting letters to the editor and we've included the first batch of them in this month's publication, beginning on Page 8. In the last issue of *LP News*, we asked what the Libertarians might do to win more elections. We've included these letters and hope you enjoy the wide range of comments and ideas.

Feel free to send us letters on any topic of general interest to *LP News* readers. Please limit your letter to 100 words, though.

We also asked state Libertarian leaders to provide us with some of their goals for 2007. We've printed those and they provide some interesting insight into the direction of some of our state affiliates.

Also included in this month's *LP News* is information about two upcoming events. The first (chronologically) is three events rolled up into one. The Libertar-

ing, Libertarian State Leadership Association will hold their annual meeting and the Florida LP will be holding their convention on the weekend of Friday, March

hotel in Florida. For more information, see page 3.

With Democrats in control of both chambers of Congress, a nationalized healthcare system

is going to be a topic which we can anticipate hearing a lot about over the next two years. As this seems to be an appropriate time to start developing some good Libertarian speaking points on the issue, please feel free to submit your Letter to the Editor on the topic.

Considering the recent anniversary of the founding of our party, we thought it appropriate to provide you with a special treat. Here is a copy of the front page of an early Libertarian Party newsletter (the forerunner of *LP News*). Enjoy!

LP News is your paper and we strongly welcome your suggestions about how to improve the publication. Unfortunately, we can't comply with every piece of sound advice offered because some conflict with others and we don't have the financial resources for some of your best ideas. However, we do listen and will try, as we have done this month, to implement some of your better suggestions.

Libertarian Party

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Newsletter

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LP's PUBLIC DEBUT A SMASHING SUCCESS

On January 31, the National Office of the Libertarian Party held its first Press Conference, to publicly announce the formation of the Party, publicize libertarian stands on the issues of the day, and reveal goals and strategies for 1972. The results were tremendous.

Lengthy (and largely favorable) stories were carried in every major paper in Colorado. In addition, we received coverage on one TV station and four radio stations; two radio stations have requested in-depth interviews. The *New York Times* ran a major story in its February 6th edition. And UPI interviewed Temporary LP Chairman Dave Nolan for a major feature story, to be sent out over their national wires, to all papers and radio/TV stations.

As a result of this publicity, over 50 people contacted Party HQ in the first week after the conference -- including several who phoned long distance. And inquiries are still coming in.

In sum, our first press conference generated more publicity for the libertarian movement than any other single event since the publication of *Atlas Shrugged* ... at least, as far as we know. This completely vindicates our original belief that libertarians can do more to reach the public by becoming involved in the political process than by any other means ... and demolishes forever the claim that political action is "futile" or "inconsistent with libertarian principles."

During the past month, the National LP has also been active in building organizational strength. A Temporary Executive Committee, made up of leading libertarians around the country, has been formed (see p. 2). State organizations now exist in Colorado, Texas, Utah and Wyoming, with California, Michigan, Florida and New York on the verge of organizing.

Membership has nearly doubled in the last 30 days, with our goal of 1,000 members by June now appearing conservative. But, our growth and progress depends almost entirely on your getting out there and hustling. Only you can reach the libertarians in your area; we'll provide material, but you must do the rest. And remember, those cash prizes for recruiting the most members can be yours as well as anyone else's!

We'll do our part; full-page ads are scheduled in *Reason*, *Individualist*, and *Abolitionist* (which is changing its name to *Outlook*). And we've sent out over 2,000 ad reprints, to date. Nonetheless, the bulk of the recruiting effort must come from you.

An example of what can be done is the leaflet produced by the Colorado Libertarian Party (enclosed). LP organizations and members in other states are welcome to copy this leaflet, with such modifications as they desire.

TANSTAAFL

Bush defines new Iraq policy: indefinite escalation

ON JANUARY 10, President Bush outlined his plan for an intensification of military activities in Iraq. He pledged to send an additional 20,000 American soldiers to Iraq and set the stage for an expansion of hostilities to additional countries in the region.

"Succeeding in Iraq also requires defending its territorial integrity and stabilizing the region in the face of extremist challenges," Bush said. "This begins with addressing Iran and Syria. These two regimes are allowing terrorists and insurgents to use their territory to move in and out of Iraq. Iran is providing material support for attacks on American troops. We will disrupt the attacks on our

forces. We'll interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria. And we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq."

In contrast to the Bush statement, Libertarians have long advocated that the United States should maintain a policy of non-intervention with all of the countries in the region. Instead of deploying additional troops in Iraq, we should be sending them home.

To justify his deployment of an additional five brigades, Bush noted that "Al Qaeda is still active in Iraq." He failed to note that the al-Qaida presence in Iraq has increased significantly while U.S.

forces have been engaged in military operations in Iraq.

"U.S. military actions in Iraq have had the unintended consequence of increasing the size of terrorist organizations, as opposed to decreasing them," said Libertarian Party Communications Director Stephen Gordon. "How many additional terrorists will be created as the result of an increased military presence in Iraq?"

In addition to public opinion surveys indicating that a majority of Americans disapprove of our offensive military policies in Iraq, an increasing amount of Democratic and Republican politicians and pundits are becoming more vocal in their opposition to the war. Many have criticized

Bush for not having a coherent Iraq policy with clear goals and a timetable for withdrawal.

"It appears that Bush has finally come up with a new strategy for Iraq, which is a policy of indefinite escalation," said Gordon. "Bush's policies will only increase the level of hostility directed at Americans in Iraq. By increasing the number of our enemies, Bush will have to continue to increase the amount of U.S. soldiers he sends to Iraq. It's a vicious cycle."

Our policy of nation-building hasn't worked; the Iraqis are now engaged in a civil war. The terrorists were few in number and contained mostly in Afghanistan at one time; we are currently fighting them as far away as So-

malia. Bush's policies have cost thousands of American lives and a significant amount of our tax dollars; his latest proposal will increase both the casualties and the national debt.

"At this time, complaining about the justification for Iraq is useless as Americans and Iraqis are dying each day in futile battles," said Libertarian Party Executive Director Shane Cory in a statement two weeks ago. "Bush and Republicans are looking to save face with talk of 'surges' and success, while Democrats willingly allow the violence to continue just to further diminish the Republicans. It's time to stop playing politics with human lives and end this occupation."

AFFILIATE NEWS

COLORADO:

Colorado Libertarians welcome the entire LP

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY announces it is holding its 2008 Presidential Nominating Convention in Colorado, the birthplace of the party. The week-long convention will begin May 20, 2008 with several days of committee meetings, leading up to four days of seminars, elections and nominations and end May 27, 2008 with the kickoff of the Presidential Campaign and seating of the new Libertarian National Committee. The site of the convention will be the Adam's Mark Hotel of Denver. Delegates will be greeted with a welcome reception on May 22 and will convene for business on the morning of May 23.

The Libertarian Presidential Nominating Convention will be held at no cost to the people of Colorado. Unlike the Democrat National Convention, whose committee asked for a commitment of millions of dollars from the people of Colorado, the cost of the Libertarian Party Convention will be borne entirely by the attendees themselves.

For more information on the convention contact BetteRose Ryan at (720) 341-2193 or the National Libertarian Committee office at (202) 333-0008.

Colorado is considered an ideal place for the convention. Denver has pleasant, mild weather and numerous attractions for the families of the delegates. Those attractions include: the 16th Street Mall (right outside the door of the convention hotel), the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Fire Museum, the LoDo District, the State Capitol, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and the US Mint within two to six blocks of the hotel; and Coors Field, the Pepsi Center, and Six Flags Elitch's within 2 miles of the hotel. Other attractions that are easily reached by public or private transportation and are less than 10 miles from the hotel include the Children's Museum, the Denver Aquarium, the Denver Botanic Gardens, and the Cherry Creek Mall. Also in this range and one short bus ride from the hotel is the Denver Zoo, which is next to the Museum of Nature and Science, the home of the IMAX and Planetarium.

The 16th Street Mall boasts of entertainment including a multiplex theater, one of the nation's

top comedy clubs and food ranging from Subway to Ruth's Chris Steakhouse. Shopping is available up and down the mall and in LoDo. A free shuttle runs the length of the mall every few minutes during the day and every 15 to 30 minutes late in the evening.

Transportation from the Denver Airport (DIA) to the hotel is available by Super Shuttle for a cost of \$19 per trip (\$34 round trip) or by public transportation for \$8 each way by bus (advance round trip \$14). The Super Shuttle drops you at the door of the convention hotel. The bus, an interstate motor coach style bus, drops you at the downtown station where you pick up the free shuttle that drops you at the corner of the hotel. Convention planners are investigating other transportation options.

INDIANA:

IWU student brings Libertarian ideas to campus stage

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY is well known for its outstanding education and deep Christian tradition. However, the dedication of a few strongly libertarian student leaders may soon give the school a fond reputation for its Libertarian student body.

On Monday night, IWU College Libertarian President Brian Bither took center stage in front of a packed house of 300 students, faculty, and community members to debate a fellow student opposed to the College Libertarian's right to exist on campus. Bither has been a leading activist for Libertarian ideas at IWU for well over a year, organizing a well-known "8 Trillion Dollar Debt Day Party" on campus last year to highlight the deficiencies in current fiscal policy.

A National Champion Bible Quizzer and Biblical Literature Major, Bither took issue with misleading notions of Libertarian ideas at IWU. "I am absolutely confident that the Bible does not permit Christians to physically impose their beliefs on other groups," noted Bither. His comments come in response to a number of articles authored by a fellow student questioning the College Libertarians right to exist on IWU's campus. Bither's opponent argued that the College Libertarians should be banned because Libertarians are opposed to the infringements on liberty that occur when certain moral values of a few are forcibly imposed upon others.

The campus debate, coined the "Brian Bither vs. Patrick Grindlay

Debate," had been the buzz on campus in the week leading up to the showdown of student philosophies. The auditorium, initially set for an audience of 250 people, ended up packed to standing room only capacity by the time the debate began.

If the question and answer session is any indication of who sparked the most interest amongst the student body, Bither decidedly won the debate. Audience members posed 35 questions for Bither, who also happens to be a State Champion Debater, while his opponent received less than a dozen. "I've already spoken with a half a dozen people who said that the debate may have changed their views toward Libertarianism," said Bither of the atmosphere on campus after the debate.

The IWU College Libertarians are just one of a number of active Libertarian organizations on Indiana college and university campuses today.

MARYLAND:

Petition signatures submitted

"THE MARYLAND LIBERTARIAN PARTY has finished its petition drive to be back on the ballot, and submitted the petition," reported Richard Winger at ballot-access.org. "This is the fifth petition that has been submitted around the USA in the last three months, to gain or regain party status. The others have been the Constitution Party in North Dakota, the Green Party in Maryland, the Libertarian Party in North Dakota, and the Independent Party in Oregon. It is very unusual for parties to submit such petitions for an election so far in the future (i.e., 2008), but it shows that people are already energized for that election."

NEVADA:

State convention to be held in Vegas

THE NEVADA LIBERTARIAN STATE CONVENTION will be held on February 10th, 2007 at the Italian American Club in Las Vegas. One may visit www.LPNevada.org for tickets and directions.

A business session and a banquet have been planned. Between these activities, Nevada Libertarians will be hosting a Presidential Debate. All announced candidates have been invited. Those currently committed to attend are (in alphabetical order) Gene Chapman, Dave Hollist, Steve Kubby,

Robert Milnes and George Phil-lies. The format for the debate will be a modified town hall style, so audience members will be able to directly ask the candidates the questions of their choice.

NEW JERSEY:

Separate but equal is not good enough

NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIANS are urging their legislators to pass a marriage bill which will offer all married couples the same rights.

"Some religious denominations will never sanctify the marriage of same sex couples, and that is their right," reads their press release. "The state, however, must treat its citizens equally. The Libertarian Party strongly supports marriage equality. While we half-heartedly support Governor Corzine and the leadership of the Assembly and Senate for allowing 'separate but equal' civil unions we urge them to immediately pass a law providing true equality, leaving no doubt that any couple is free to marry in New Jersey."

OKLAHOMA:

Ballot access case moves closer to resolution

"LIBERTARIAN PARTY ORGANIZATION v. CLINGMAN, the ballot access case filed by the Oklahoma Libertarian Party in 2004, has moved a baby step closer to resolution," reported Richard Winger at ballot-access.org. "It is pending in the State Court of Appeals. That Court has just assigned the case to the Tulsa Division. A hearing date and the identity of exactly which 3 judges will hear the case will be announced later."

Oklahoma's ballot access laws are so notorious even the Libertarian Party was unable to field a presidential candidate there in 2004.

OREGON:

State convention to be held at Sunriver Resort

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF OREGON will hold its 2007 business convention at Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, Oregon on March 9-11. Heavily discounted lodging and economical convention packages are available on line at www.lpor-egon.org. The convention will feature three candidates for U.S. president: Mike Jingoian, Steve Kubby and Christine Smith, as well as former LNC Chair and

current board member Jim Lark. See the Oregon LP website for more information.

VIRGINIA:

State party endorses paper voting system

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF VIRGINIA announced its endorsement of verifiable voting for the second straight year, putting its weight behind a new coalition for paper trails in the Commonwealth's elections.

"Virginia voters have a right to a transparent democracy, and this coalition is the best way to support that right," stated LPVA Chairman Leonard T. Harris.

The LPVA joined the Virginia League of Women Voters, Common Cause, New Electoral Reform Alliance for VA, Virginia Verified Voting, Virginia Organizing Project, and Southern Coalition for Secured Voting in forming the Verifiable Voting Coalition of Virginia. Coalition members will support legislation in the 2007 Virginia legislative session to mandate paper trails and an election audit system throughout Virginia.

"The government exists to serve the people, and the people cannot know that their will is being implemented without having confidence in their elections. Paper trails and audit systems keep the power of democracy in the hands of voters, and prevent the election fraud and hacking that are risked without them," said Harris.

Last year Delegate Tim Hugo and Senator Jeannemarie Devolites Davis introduced HB1243 to mandate voter-verifiable paper audit trails and require regular random audits. The Coalition will work to pass similar legislation this year.

"Anyone who believes that every vote deserves to be counted should write their state legislators this year and tell them to support a verifiable audit trail for electronic voting machines," urged Harris. "Our votes are our biggest means of power against unchecked government; we shouldn't take the word of those in power that they are counted accurately."

WASHINGTON:

Instant runoff voting passes in Pierce County

IN NOVEMBER, the voters of Pierce County, Washington passed Charter Amendment 3, which will replace the existing election system with Instant Runoff Voting.

See IRV Page 10

LIBERTARIAN GOALS

Special Section: Libertarian goals for 2007

MANY OF US make personal New Year's resolutions. These provide goals for us to follow, such as losing weight, quitting smoking, or making our first million bucks. We thought it would be helpful to share the goals of various Libertarian organizations for the next year.

In the recent Libertarian National Committee meeting held in Alexandria, Virginia, the LNC established a set of six goals for their term of office, which concludes at the Libertarian National Convention (see Page 1) in May 2008. The LNC divided their primary goals into three categories: financial, political and organizational.

The two concrete financial goals are to increase active donors to 25,000 and to be in full compliance with the financial reserve requirements required by the LNC policy manual. The political goals were to increase elected office holders and to obtain 45 state ballot access. The organizational goals are to have 51 active state-level affiliate organizations and to restructure the LNC's Reward and Recognition System.

We asked each state chair to provide some ideas of what they plan for the following year. We've dedicated this portion of LP News to the responses we received.

GEORGIA: Local campaigns and affiliate building

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF GEORGIA intends to recruit and run at least seven candidates for local nonpartisan offices, such as city council and school board. Additionally, they intend to raise money for their Ballot Access Fund to pay 100 percent of the filing fees for their local candidates.

Georgia Libertarians also intend to work diligently to elect at least two local candidates through the strategic allocation of party resources to those races where there is a realistic chance of winning as determined by a committee appointed by the Executive Committee to evaluate races.

The Libertarian Party of Georgia

plans to engage in activities to maintain, support, redevelop and (sometimes) develop their affiliates across Georgia.

The Atlanta metropolitan area affiliates include Cobb County, Fulton County, East Metro Area, Douglas County, Paulding County, Clayton and Fayette Counties, Cherokee and Pickens Counties, Hall County, Henry County, DeKalb County, Gwinnett County, Forsyth County, West Metro Area (Carroll, Haralson, Heard, Coweta, and Troup), and the Athens Area (Clarke, Jackson, Banks, Barrow, Oglethorpe, Oconee, and Madison).

North Georgia Libertarian affiliates include the Blue Ridge Area (Fannin, Gilmer, Union, Towns, and Rabun), the Dahlonega Area (Lumpkin, Dawson, White, Habersham, and Stephens), the Highlands Area (Floyd, Bartow, Chattooga, Polk, and Gordon) and the Northwest Area (Whitfield, Catoosa, Murray, Walker, and Dade).

Middle and South Georgia affiliates include the Augusta Area (Richmond, Columbia, and Burke), the Savannah Area (Chatham, Effingham, and Bulloch), the Macon Area (Bibb, Houston, Peach, Twiggs, Jones, Monroe, and Crawford), the Columbus Area (Muscookee, Harris, and Chattahoochee), and the Valdosta Area (Lowndes, Colquitt, Brooks, Cook, Berrien, Lanier, Echols, and Clinch).

The Libertarian Party of Georgia will be hosting an open house on January 22 from 6 PM - 9 PM at their state headquarters in Atlanta for members to meet with the state party's leadership and discuss the 2007 Strategic Plan and 2006 Annual Report.

IDAHO: Campaign leads to future goals

ACCORDING TO CURRENT LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF IDAHO Chair Rob Oates, the Libertarian philosophy received a tremendous amount of positive exposure within Idaho during the past election cycle. This was due almost entirely to the work of Ted

Dunlap, former state chair and the Idaho candidate for governor. Dunlap and his wife Missy traveled to many appearances statewide and did the necessary work to qualify for the two debates that were televised across the state.

Moving forward, Idaho Libertarians intend to "stay the course" and continue to encourage and support candidates for local and state office. In Idaho, running for public office has proven an excellent vehicle for spreading libertarian ideas. They also plan to continue to educate 'the public' at local events using the Operation Politically Homeless booth format. Writers in Idaho plan to keep the LP name visible through letters to the editors of the local papers.

Through these and other efforts, the Libertarian Party of Idaho plans to remain visible with liberty-oriented solutions to the complex and expensive mess created by Idaho's version of statism.

INDIANA: Running in smaller districts, candidate training and recruitments

2007 IS A GREAT YEAR for Indiana Libertarians because it is the end of a four-year cycle and time for municipal elections in Indiana. Our experience in 2003 during the last municipal election is that when we run for these offices in smaller districts, and have good candidates and comparable resources, we are competitive and even win. In 2003 we won six of these offices, narrowly lost in another race and lost in two other races with 40 percent or more of the vote. What was common between these nine candidates was that they worked hard and had comparable or even better resources than their opponents.

Their goals for 2007 are strengthening our county affiliates, greatly increasing the quality and reach of our candidate training, and to recruit good candidates to run hard in smaller districts where our resources are comparable to those of the candidates with the big government parties.

IOWA: Organizing Des Moines

"GETTING AN ACTIVE LP GROUP in Des Moines, Iowa's largest population center, has been a priority with the state party for many years," according to Libertarian Party of Iowa Secretary Kevin Litten. "In 2007, there is a good chance that this may finally happen. There are other things that need doing or that we would like to see happen, but an active Des Moines presence would be the big thing."

MICHIGAN: Lofty goals

SOME MICHIGAN GOALS were a bit different than some other states. Libertarian Party of Michigan Chair Scotty Boman listed ending all tyranny and ending war as his top two priorities. Some more immediate goals included educating Libertarians and non-libertarians about "what we stand for and what freedom is" and "why initiating force is bad."

Also listed as goals were to improve communication between the state and national party and to restore membership to the level it was before the Unified Membership Program was disbanded.

They hope to find a way to get the mainstream media to pay closer attention to them. The Michigan LP hopes to establish a year-by-year history of their state's affiliate, including all officers, elected officials, candidates and award winners.

Boman was also interested in finding a "principled Libertarian presidential candidate who knows how to get, or already has national media exposure."

MISSOURI: Top seven for '07

THE MISSOURI LIBERTARIAN PARTY reports a great deal of success in working closely with and organizing issue advocacy groups. They plan to make this one of their priorities for 2007. In so doing, they will be able to achieve many of their goals.

Missouri Libertarians have announced their "Top Seven for '07":

- 1) Recruit candidates for local offices, partisan and non-partisan elections in '07 and '08, as well as credible candidates for statewide and federal offices for '08 elections.
- 2) Continue gaining media attention with candidates, as well as activists fighting the issues at hand.
- 3) Massive fundraising efforts to ensure our ability to buy media coverage in '08.
- 4) Open a Missouri Libertarian Party headquarters.
- 5) Hire full-time and part-time staff members for headquarters
- 6) Create a legislative committee to work with county and state officials
- 7) Double our membership and activists by December 2007.

MONTANA: Organization, education, communication and candidates

"MONTANA'S GOALS IN 2007 include more organization, education, communication, chapters, getting more people involved and more candidates for office," according to state party Chairman Mike Fellows.

NEVADA: Calling for volunteers to expand 2006 accomplishments

THE NEVADA LIBERTARIAN PARTY achieved many of its goals for the 2006 election cycle. Their state legislature candidates doubled their vote totals, averaging more than nine percent across the board. They also maintained ballot access and the LP's 2008 presidential nominee will be on the ballot in Nevada.

"Now is not the time to rest on our past accomplishments," said state party Chairman Jim Duensing. "We all worked hard through September and October

Continued on next page

LIBERTARIAN GOALS

Continued from previous page

for our results in November. But remember, while elections are fought in September and October, they are won in December. We are already preparing for the next go-round (that's National Finals Rodeo speak for next election). We could use your help in many areas. There is enough work to do that whatever your skills and time constraints; there is some little thing you can do that will help the cause immensely."

NORTH DAKOTA: *Ballot access is the priority*

THE MAIN GOAL of the Libertarian Party of North Dakota is to successfully obtain ballot access for the Libertarian Party for the 2008 election, said Libertarian Party of North Dakota Chairman Richard Ames. "The petitions are at the Secretary of State office awaiting signature validation. Next we need to find good candidates to run for office."

OHIO: *School board races highlighted*

"IN OHIO, school boards are multi-seat, non-partisan elections," according to Libertarian Party of Ohio Secretary Robert Butler. "Candidates can win with 20 to 30 percent of the vote, spending less than \$1,000. In 2007, we will have a program to encourage and assist school board candidates. Our goal is to have 100 candidates and win 20 seats."

OREGON: *Constitutional amendment and re-election campaigns*

IN THE COMING LEGISLATIVE CYCLE, the LPO will be working to advance a bill which would propose an amendment to the Oregon constitution in the 2008 election.

The amendment would make privacy an explicitly stated right.

Libertarians are also preparing for Oregon's 2007 local non-partisan elections, with at least two candidates running for re-election. A group of Libertarian investors is also in-

vestigating the purchase of the building in which the LPO office is situated. If the purchase goes through, the LPO will receive rent relief and help to bring more financial stability to the organization.

PENNSYLVANIA: *Party building in 2007*

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA is looking forward to 2007 as a year of grassroots party building. As it is a municipal election year, they do not face the burdensome signature drives to get statewide candidates on the ballot. This gives Pennsylvania Libertarians the opportunity to focus on outreach and build support in local communities.

They plan to expand their candidate recruitment program to get more Libertarians involved in their municipalities. Pennsylvania Libertarians are also in the process of adding to our network of county organizations. Their efforts over the past year have indicated growing support for the LP among the general electorate, but have also highlighted some issues they need to address.

They will continue their efforts to reform ballot access and election laws in Pennsylvania. All of our citizens should be able to freely choose their elected representatives in government, not have their choices limited by two political parties. The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania plans to promote the vision presented by our nation's founders that government exists to secure the rights of the individual, and this year they intend to do this neighborhood by neighborhood.

TEXAS: *Formal political, organizational and financial goals*

IN TEXAS, Libertarians established a formal set of goals. They were adopted by their state committee in June 2006 to be achieved by June 2007.

Texas Libertarians adopted three political goals for the next twelve months. They planned to deploy 5,000 signs and 100,000 door hangers for November

elections, to recruit five serious candidates for non-partisan offices in May 2007 and to present a bill that gets to the state house for a floor vote.

Their financial goals are to establish a financial reserve plan, establish a financial reserve, increase the recurring gift amount to \$5,000 per month, increase the number of pledge participants to 150 and to increase their donor base by 50 percent.

For organizational goals, they intend to clean up their database, establish one or more counties with Bylaws and a standing Executive Committee in each state senatorial district, develop a county organizational guide and form a Publications Committee and create a newsletter or other form of communication.

WASHINGTON: *School board races highlighted*

AFTER THE PROFESSIONAL Guthrie for Senate campaign, the LPWA is busy planning for the 2008 campaign season by recruiting and training candidates, campaign managers and treasurers. They are reformatting their database to be more useful for fundraising and soliciting volunteers.

Their greatest opportunity will be in Pierce County (Tacoma) where, due to the efforts of long-time LP member Kelly Haughton, all future county elections will be by IRV (Instant Runoff Voting). The LPWA is also contemplating a statewide IRV initiative in 2008.

They have also recently moved into new and much more useful office space which is much more conducive for work parties and candidate support.

Achieving reserve compliance by Patrick Dixon

I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT to explain what I believe to be the most important goal of this LNC term: compliance with the national committee's reserve policy.

Our survival is not guaranteed. There are many that want us to disappear. We do not want to make the mistake of taking all our forces out to fight battles without defending our fort. If we spend all the money that our supporters provide in order to grow, but are not able to meet current expenses, debt can pile up and the party can disappear by default.

We have had difficult financial challenges through our history and have managed to persevere. It is not healthy to endure those times as it frightens away vendors and supporters, as well as taking extraordinary effort to get back on solid ground. It is far better to be proactive and manage the finances to avoid these episodes than to have to react to them.

That is why the LNC has a reserve policy. Many organizations that I am involved with also have reserve policies as a means to properly manage the finances. By establishing a cash reserve level, the organization has a buffer for those tough times so that action can be taken before the money runs out. Unfortunately, the LNC never has been in compliance with this policy and has not maintained adequate cash reserves.

Financial goals are good to have. It brings focus to our efforts and lets our supporters know what we are trying to accomplish. However, if these goals are strictly for the revenue side, there is no inherent fiscal discipline. While we should raise more money and invest it wisely to sustain and grow, we also need to end this

2-year LNC term with a sound financial basis for sustaining operations. We do not want to fall behind on accounts payables and tell vendors and staff that we can't pay them yet.

If we were to ignore sound financial management and run up debt, how are we better than the people we ridicule in Congress?

We must survive first, then grow, and then win. Achieving reserve compliance is a clear signal to outsiders that we are viable and worthy of their investment. It is a signal to staff and potential new hires that we can meet payroll. It mitigates the risk of losing the services of vendors that decline to serve us for lack of payment. The reserve is the key financial health metric the LNC needs to monitor over time to determine what it can afford to spend. Additionally, we do not send a compelling message that we can make government's finances healthier if our own financial condition is sick.

My role as champion is to have this goal formally adopted by the LNC and to remind the LNC of its pertinence while discussing budgets and expenses during our term. I have accomplished the first part and will continue to keep our eye on the ball as we go forward. With sound management, we can defend the fort and survive. With your continued support, we can grow. With the efforts of candidates and activists, we can fight strategic battles and win.

Patrick Dixon is the Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Texas. He also serves as an At-Large Representative on the Libertarian National Committee. Dixon also serves on the city council in his home town of Lago Vista, Texas.

The Libertarian National Committee would like to welcome Joe Scarlett and Edward Gomberg to the Chairman's Council for their most recent generous donations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Election results and strategy

Here, in my opinion, are the main hurdles that our party has failed to overcome in the past three decades:

1) Exposure. We can't win if no one has ever heard of our candidates. With the myriad opportunities provided by the internet (party and candidate websites, blogs, You Tube, etc.), we can no longer make the excuse that our opponents get all of the press coverage. We need to generate our own press.

2) Education. Of those Americans who are familiar with the term "libertarian", many - if not most - believe us to be "pot smoking Republicans" or worse, outright anarchists. It is imperative that our true beliefs and principles are made clear.

3) Debate. Politics makes for passionate arguments. Unfortunately, even in the friendly confines of the lp.org blog Libertarians regularly insult and attack one another- AND WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE! Each one of us must remember the issues and principles which brought US to the LP, and find effective ways to prove to others that our party represents what is best for America and its citizens.

In summary, if we can increase our party's and candidates' internet exposure (which will ultimately lead to mainstream coverage); educate the public about what we truly stand for (and what we do not); and hone the debating skills of those of us who are taking the fight to the front lines (meaning friendly conversations with friends, family, coworkers, bar patrons, et. al.), the rest should take care of itself.

2008 is our best opportunity ever. Let's take advantage.

Bryan Scofield
Tampa, Florida

Winning more races

How can the LP win more races?

Grassroots Political Organizations: Two things that the LP is really lacking in is money/ volunteers and those are the two main reasons LP candidates usually lose every election. Grassroots campaigns do not need a lot of money but they do need a lot of dedicated full/part-time volunteers.? But how do you get those numbers of volunteers? See the

next paragraph.

Education/PR/Internet: Americans either don't understand libertarian philosophy or have gotten incorrect info on the LP, so they do not take Libertarian candidates very seriously and since the mainstream media is controlled by Democrats or Republicans the LP rarely gets any good press, which again means that the general public doesn't hear the LP stance on the issues. The only way the LP can get the word out to the masses (without spending a lot of money) is through the Internet. More importantly, it will also reach younger people who are generally more accepting of different ideas like the ones of the LP; they are more willing to volunteer, and would become the backbone of the LP.

Unless you find a Libertarian Ross Perot, I wouldn't waste money on a LP Presidential candidate because few people ever hear about an LP Presidential candidate anyway. Right now and for the foreseeable future, an LP Presidential candidate will do little to help. Getting the masses educated on the LP is much more important because it will mean many more victories for all LP candidates in the future because they will be many more educated Libertarian voters. Relatively unorganized/no money LP campaigns of the last twenty years will not only not get any future LP candidates elected, they will turn voters off to the LP and make it look like some kind of joke.

Andrew Davies
Northern New Jersey

The lifeblood of politics

In this holiday season we can celebrate some election successes. From ballot access in some states to record vote totals, there were some real victories. Yet I must ask as a party, don't we want more?

I believe there are many of us who see an America with Libertarians in office, an America where Libertarians lower taxes and restore freedoms. Yet, how do we bridge the gap from promising election progress to true change? The answer is money and how we as Libertarians support our party in this fight.

If the card in your wallet that says Libertarian means anything to you, this is your call to arms to give more money today. Set up

a monthly withdrawal today. If you already give monthly, this is your call to give more today. Not tomorrow, not next week, but today.

Changing the course of this nation and this party will require more money today! If you are wondering what I give, I admit that I will just now be setting up my monthly withdrawal today.

Why? Because I am tired of sending money every time the party needs money. I want headquarters to perform the party's business, not beg me for a check.

I close this call to arms (dollars) with one more request. Give something monthly that hurts a bit fiscally. Give something that makes you give something up monthly. Give enough that it reminds you what we are fighting for, but give it today!

Matthew Sabath
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Credible candidates

The success of the Libertarian Reform Caucus at this past summer's convention has led me back to the party. As we start to discuss meaningful political ideas like strategy and abandon abstract debates over irrelevant philosophy, I have an idea for libertarian electoral success that I'd like to throw into the mix.

Right now the average libertarian candidate for higher office is someone who is fluent in political philosophy but lacking in political experience. While this is a great recipe for members of think tanks, it's not the correct recipe for a political candidate.

Credible political candidates are born through gobs of personal wealth, appointments at the state or federal level, independent popularity gained in another arena (such as entertainment), or experience in politics at the municipality or county level. For those libertarians looking to run for office, the fourth option on my list seems the most viable way in the door, and it is that option on which libertarian candidates should focus.

If you want to run for office, get involved in your local or regional government. Attend meetings for at least a year to get familiar with the issues. Get involved in charities and fraternal organizations to gain credibility. Try to get appointed to one of the many boards or commissions that often have vacancies. All of these actions prepare you for the initial goal or running for local or county office. Once you've made your media contacts, established

local credibility and devised a set of realistic and publicly acceptable ideas capable of addressing local issues, your odds of getting elected increase by orders of magnitude.

And once you hold office at the local or county level, you gain the credibility to run for the statewide or federal positions that libertarians claim to be so important to our party.

Justin Somma

Election reform

I feel the first and foremost goal of the Libertarian Party should be to promote election reform. Approval or Condorcet voting would put an end to the vote-splitting nonsense that takes place in every race we enter.

This would increase our electability far more than any amount of money or media exposure.

Curtis Barrett
Chicago, Illinois

Expanding our base

The problem is that LP candidates inherently cannot win elections to higher office solely on the libertarian vote. We simply do not have the numbers. The purpose of campaigning is not outreach. The purpose of campaigning is to win election to the office for which you are campaigning. And to do this, candidates need to win the vote of citizens who call themselves Independents, Republicans and Democrats.

The problem is our presentation. Do not campaign as a Libertarian. Do not philosophize. Campaign as a concerned citizen. Select no more than three issues, issues which are of immediate interest or concern to the voters in your district. Develop a libertarian position on these, but do not present them as such. Do not philosophize. Take a pragmatic approach. Explain how these issues will have a direct impact on the daily lives of those you wish to represent by being elected. Do not philosophize. For example: The reason you want to be elected is to support the Fair Tax Initiative and to introduce Fair Tax Legislation.

Do not avoid other issues, but minimize your response. A standard response for sideline issues might be to explain that you will support any legislation which decreases government and oppose any legislation which increases government. Do not philosophize. Always return to the em-

phasis of why you want the voter to vote for you. Remind the voter that if they are unhappy with your voting record, they can replace you in two years. But keep returning to the pragmatism of your selected issue and why you want to be elected. Campaign as a Concerned Citizen - not as a Libertarian.

George Harper
Brazoria County, Texas

Ranked choice voting

One thing that got scant press coverage but can only benefit the Libertarian Party in places it has been enacted down the line is that on November 7th 3 cities and 1 county enacted Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Now, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Davis and Oakland, California and Pierce County, Washington will hold their elections using preferential voting rather than the winner-take-all method.

Rather than debate the finer points of libertarian philosophy or the LP platform, if there was one thing Libertarians should exclusively pursue getting enacted is Ranked Choice Voting at the city, state and county level. This way it makes it easier to elect Libertarian candidates to office and eliminates the 'spoiler effect' Libertarians, unfortunately, have attached to us at present.

I am told LP Chairman Bill Redpath is a member of the Center for Voting and Democracy, which supports enacting RCV. I would urge Mr. Redpath and the LNC to hold off on pursuing electing LP candidates to office until such time that RCV is enacted on a wider scale.

Doing so, in my view, would be a better use of the Libertarian Party's time and resources.

Mike Renzulli

Blue about our coverage

I'm glad to see that you're accepting LTEs again, as long as they don't show the LP in a bad light. However, I think you may be guilty of that same offense.

On page 1 of the [Nov.-Dec. '06 issue] you present a map of the US with Montana and Missouri in blue. The caption in red says, "Libertarian Victories Turn Senate Blue." I'm always eager to hear about Libertarian victories, so I couldn't wait to read all about it.

Unfortunately, the "victories"
See LETTERS Page 10

The Libertarian National Committee welcomes our newest members^{*}

Life Members:

David Tucker

Sponsoring Members:

Matthew McNally

Supporting Members:

John Ashley
Chris Aubuchon
Debra Audrey
James Ayton
Biem Bakker
Kevin Balser
Jason Bandura
Blake Bielfeldt
David Blakesley
James Boesenberg
Christopher Bondy
Valerie Booth
William Bordelon
John Bosdell
Thomas Bradford
Eric Brown
Jeffrey Brusie
Kevin Burke
Patrick Bushman
Alex Byron
Jeffrey Canton
Joseph Carter
M. Chapman
Lee Chard
Brian Cheek
Cory Chenard
Frank Clark
Franklin Clark
John Clark
Michael Clark
Brian Collins
Joel Cox
Edward Crawford

Jamie Dam
Anne Davis
William Dennis
Tom Dewitt
Gregory Dickson
Andrew Dietler
Jimmy Edwards
Donald Elliott
JD Evans
Bert Fall
Carl Folden
Will Ford
Jay French
Paul Gaffney
Richard Giles
Jason Griffin
Andrew Groth
Craig Hall
Sue Hall
Stephen Hammit
Jacob Harper
Christen Hedge
Theodore Hercules
Leigh Hershey
Ryan Hershey
Patrick Heyrman
Matthew Hutchens
Jonathan Huth
Ken Ikeda
Angela Izzo-Peppe
Effin Jablonski
Alexander Jakosa
Neal Jokell
Larry Jones
Michael Jones
Jeff Kazbek
Logan Kennedy
Ken Kitchen
Thomas Knapp
Igor Kravchenko
Catherine Kuck
Robert Landis
James Landrith
Kenneth Lane
Jon Latorella

Richard Lazear
Lewis Lehe
Robert Lewis
Nicole Lewk
Gregory Limpert
Justin Logan
Samuel Lorusso
Rebecca Madden
William Madden
Jim Majorowicz
Brent Mandujano
Dustin Marema
Steven Marrell
Kevin Marsh
Michael Mcconachie
Jim McGee
Everett McInt
Jim McWilliams
Tammy Michaelle
Curt Milam
Ray Mileur
Clark Moeller
Anthony Monteleone
Matthew Moreland
Dennis Morris
Timothy Mullen
Jeffrey Munn
Wilson Myers
Cody Myrkel
Jay Nielsen
Darren Nolan
Kyle Olmstead
Maureen O'Malley
Andrew Pace
William Palmer
Gaylon Patterson
John Perna
Lance Pfeifer
Stan Pollard
Patrick Pongracz
Scott Pursley
Richard Ramsey
Peter Renzo
John Ridder
William Robinson

Ted Roehrs
Ryan Rogers
Greg Rothernberger
Adam Ruth
Robert Ryan
Willard Salemink
Matthew Sanders
Nathan Schatt
Brett Schechter
Michael Schmieman
Erik Schneider
Nick Scholer
Reid Scott
William Sherb
Bob Siegel
Mark Slivkoff
Attilie Smith
Steven Smyth
Phyllis Spital
Brian Stefanko
Peter Stenbakken
Greg Surbey
Anthony Surman
M. Tabun
Christopher Thomas
Robert Thuerck
Richard Tippens
Amy Triplett
Peter Tschirhart
Michael Velez
John Ventura
Michael Wanchick
Hussain Waseem
George Washington
Scott Webb
Troy Weems
Tom Wiley
Scott Williams
Jerry Winemiller
Edward Wright
Kenneth Young
Jeffrey Yunes

^{*} new memberships from November 22, 2006 to January 3, 2007

Libertarian goals for the new year

by Stephen Gordon

THE BEGINNING of the New Year is a good time to reflect on goals for personal improvement. It is likewise a good time to establish new goals which will help our communities, our states and our country to become truly freer places.

All of us could do more to help advance the libertarian movement, and I'll try to break it down into three general categories. Some of us simply need to do more. Others do plenty for the freedom movement, but are in sore need of adding additional organization or efficiency to our efforts. And some of us spend more of our time and energy attacking our allies than in fighting the true enemies of liberty.

I can't count the times I have sat in front of my television and yelled at some politician or another. Guess what? Such screaming didn't accomplish anything. It took getting up out of my easy chair and getting involved.

For those of us who fall into the first category, the easiest thing to do is to simply become more involved in some Libertarian organization. To simply attend the next county or local Libertarian meeting or event is a great starting point. If you don't have time to attend, there are probably many other ways to become in-

volved at the local level. Simply contact your local or state party.

For those of us who already attend local meetings, perhaps it is time to take on a more responsible role. While everybody doesn't have the time to run for some party office, there are always projects or tasks which need to be accomplished at the local level. There are always tasks which need to be accomplished, ranging from data entry to stuffing envelopes.

If party functions aren't your cup of tea, there are plenty of other things you can do. Some people don't like being involved in the administrative duties of party management and prefer action. There are plenty of action-oriented Libertarian groups out there. In Georgia, for example, both the Libertarian Action Network and ThinkLibertarian are supportive of the Libertarian Party but are generally more oriented towards grassroots political activism. There are also national issue-specific groups, Outright Libertarians serving as one example. If you can't find a Libertarian Party group for your issue or concern, simply start one. It's easy.

For those of us who aren't interested in working with groups or organizations, here is another simple idea which is easy to implement into our daily lives. One

positive thing all of us can do is to make some simple pro-liberty statement each day. Comments about the size or intrusiveness of government are easy to make while standing in a grocery store line, an elevator, or hair salon. Better yet, provide a Libertarian solution to the problem.

The Internet also provides an easy way for us to make pro-liberty statements. Blogs and other electronic forums provide easy ways for us to leave a fast comment promoting the Libertarian Party or our favorite Libertarian candidate. It only takes a couple of minutes and it makes a difference.

For people like me, efficiency is an important issue. While it may not sound like the most important political objective, simple things like updating my address book and cell phone contacts will save me significant time in contacting the various Libertarian activists and officers I call upon. Towards this end, one of my New Year's projects was to upgrade my cell phone to a PDA and train myself to be more organized.

From an organizational perspective, organization is important, too. Maybe it's time to take a look at some of our local party contact information, update party websites, and ensure that our mailing and media lists are

in order. Perhaps it's time to hold a meeting to organize a local affiliate in some town or county where there has been little Libertarian activity. Helping to organize a campus Libertarian group is always important, as the students of today not only become tomorrow's Libertarian leaders, they also ensure the future and stability of our party.

Finally, something some of us need to work on this year is the ability to work together better. Believe it or not, some Libertarians spend more of their energy attacking other Libertarians than in taking on the Republicans and Democrats. This tends to become very counter-productive. Not only could the "attacker" spend his or her time more efficiently by going after our political opposition, but the person or group which was attacked wastes time in political self-defense. Like cancers, these attacks tend to grow larger, with the carcinogenic vitriol being spread first on e-mail groups, then metastasizing on blogs for the whole public to see.

Libertarians don't agree on all issues or even on general priorities or strategies to carry out what we do generally agree upon. Some of us are more left-oriented, others are more right-oriented.

Some are more focused on candidates, others on message. And we certainly don't all agree one hundred percent on each and every political issue.

We do have to agree to work together in a lot more friendly and efficient manner, though. By doing so, we will greatly increase the cumulative amount of our political output. Remember, it takes a lot less energy to destroy something than to build it. If we channel our political energy toward our political opposition, as opposed to our allies, we'll all have a more politically prosperous New Year.

Perhaps this year, we can all work on forging better relationships with our political allies, being more efficient in our fight for freedom, and becoming more active in various Libertarian affiliates and organizations.

Pierce County IRV

Continued from Page 5

ing for county level offices. Since Instant Runoff Voting allows voters to reveal their first choice, second choice and third choice, voters in Pierce County will be able to vote Libertarian or Green without wasting their vote.

The elimination of the wasted vote syndrome in partisan elections will change the dynamics of these elections. Libertarian vote totals are almost certain to increase, but we don't know if that will be enough for a Libertarian to win a seat.

The *Tacoma News Tribune* endorsed Amendment 3 and will likely be covering the different strategies of the political parties in this new system in 2008. Libertarians in the state are already focused on running as many candidates in Pierce County in 2008 as possible to see what the impact of the new voting system is on Libertarian vote totals and media coverage of the candidates. Affected races in 2008 include County Executive, Assessor-Treasurer, Sheriff and several County Council positions. Running in these races is very different from running in standard partisan races, so Libertarians in Pierce County will be learning how to campaign in a world where they do not have to deal with the wasted vote argument.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 8

turn out to be illusions. All that really happened was that two Democrats beat out two Republicans by narrow margins, while in each case a Libertarian got more votes than the difference between them. The only way you can argue that the Libertarian voters had any effect on the outcome is by assuming that most of them (or almost all of them, in the case of Missouri) would have voted Republican if they hadn't voted Libertarian.

This is a victory only if you assume the Libertarian voters believed that the two new Democrat senators would share our Libertarian values and further the cause of freedom. In that case, however, if they had not voted Libertarian their votes would only have enhanced the Democrat totals, leaving the election results the same.

I was attracted to the Libertar-

ian Party a dozen years ago because, as the "Party of Principal," they appeared to support free inquiry and intellectual honesty. As I see it, that map and its caption negate those ideals. I cringe to think how many potential Libertarians will be turned off if they see it, read the accompanying article, and think even a little bit about the implications.

Richard B. Crawford
Roy, Washington

Professionalism

I read with pride an article in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* which mentioned how professional the staff and leaders of the Libertarian Party are. Our candidates in 2007 seemed more professional than in the past, too.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the national

office and the LNC for their tireless efforts. It is great when we notice good work, but it is even better when the mainstream media notices. Good job.

Betsy Young

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LP CONVENTION

Planning early for the 2008 convention

ARE YOU COMING to the 2008 Libertarian National Convention? Are you bringing your spouse, children, or friends that are not all that interested in being a part of this exciting convention? Do they want to do something besides platform review and bylaw changes? Maybe you plan to arrive a day early or leave a day late and are looking for something close to do. Here are a few choice suggestions of things to do in or near downtown Denver.

Within walking distance of the hotel are a number of attractions as well as shopping.

The US Mint is two blocks from the hotel and does free tours but reservations are required. These can be made up to two months in advance.

The Denver Performing Arts has three theaters with various performances. It is one long block and six short blocks away. You may also take the free shuttle and walk two blocks to the complex. There you may be able to see a Broadway show or hear the Denver Symphony as well as off Broadway shows.

Looking for a museum? The Denver Art Museum and the Colorado History Museum are actually just across the Civic Center park which is one block from the hotel. The Denver Fire Museum is also just a few blocks from the hotel. Don't forget the Children's Museum, a museum designed for young children and is located about two miles from the hotel.

Within three miles of the Adam's Mark Hotel there is Coor's Field, which has tours provided there is no baseball



■ Denver Pavillions on the 16th Street Mall has 50 shops and restaurants under a dramatic block-long "Denver" sign. Photo by Stan Obert, Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

game scheduled and Six Flags Eliches, a great theme park.

Taking a short bus ride or car trip, you can visit the Botanic Gardens (about 4 miles) and the Denver Zoo and Museum of Nature and Science (about 5 miles) which includes an IMAX and Planetarium.

If you just want to relax with a movie, there is a multiplex about three blocks from the hotel or catch the free shuttle and go door to door.

The 16th Street Mall, where the free shuttle runs boasts of restaurants of all types, shopping for everyone, and various street entertainment. A nationally acclaimed comedy club is located one block off the mall.

All and all, there is plenty to see and do just outside the doorstep of the hotel. But Denver and Colorado have so much more to offer. Watch for updates and things to do to make this a vacation for everyone in your family.

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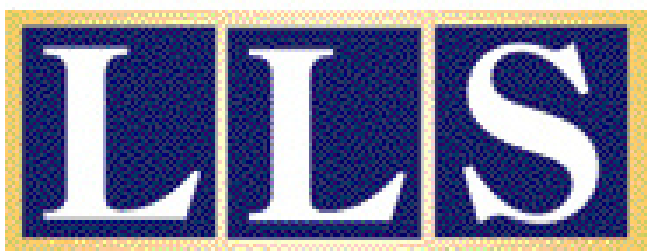
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