## LP.ORG



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**Quarter 3, 2021** 

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Vol. 51, Issue 3

# Cannabis Freedom in Wyoming Libertarian Led Ballot Measures Certified By Secretary of State

**Apollo Pazell** Political Strategist

Anyone who has been following the Libertarian Party in the news over the past few months has likely seen the buzz coming out of Wy-



oming: legalization and decriminalization of cannabis is gaining serious traction.

Under the leadership of State Representative Marshall Burt, the Libertarian Party, and coalition partner Wyoming NORML, two ballot initiatives were submitted to the Wyoming secretary of state's office in June. Those initiatives were written to accomplish two things: legalize medical cannabis and decriminalize cannabis for personal use.

Submitting the ballot measures to the secretary of state was strategic in nature. Wyoming lawmakers have repeatedly tried to pass legislation that would decriminalize adult cannabis use, but have failed to get the bill to move out of committee. Finally, in April of this year, a cannabis legalization bill cleared a Judiciary committee vote by a strong 6-3 margin, but the measure failed to make it to the House floor for a vote before session ended for the year. State Representative Burt, the Libertarian Party, and their coalition partners decided that they had waited long enough and it was time to bypass the Legislature and take the issue directly to Wyoming voters in the general election of 2022. Since then, this effort has garnered widespread support.

Over the past two months Libertarian Party Campaign Specialist Apollo Pazell has collaborated with Wyoming NORML and the Secretary of State's office to ensure the language in the ballot measures was legal so there would be no challenges if the measures pass. Apollo also worked with hundreds of backers of the measures, securing nearly double of the 100 required co-sponsorship signatures. On August 10 the effort cleared its second major hurdle when the Secretary of State's office announced that they certified the required number of co-sponsors and that the measures were approved to begin collecting petition signatures. The Wyoming affiliate sent out a press release later that week announcing the effort's success, gaining significant local media attention and even more momentum.

While two major hurdles have been cleared, two significant ones re-

#### See 'Cannabis' on page 11



State Representative, Marshall Burt L, addresses the media after submitting the cannabis ballot initiatives to the Wyoming secretary of state.

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#### FROM THE CHAIR

# Finding the Keys to Success in the Liberty Movement

# Whitney Bilyeu LNC Chair • chair@lp.org

he first time I ever set foot in the LP office in Alexandria, years ago, and upon meeting the then Chairman for the first time, he asked me if I had any desire to be LNC Chair. Though I don't recall



**Bilyeu** 

the exact words of my own reply, the sentiment is still very much with me - absolutely not.

Now that circumstances have led me to become the LNC Chair, I am asked questions like, "What have you even done?" Or my favorite, "You don't ever tweet — do you even care about the LP?"

When I joined the Libertarian Party back in 2012, I did so because I wanted to be a candidate — or so I thought. I responded to a FB ad placed by LPTexas that year and promptly became a member of my local and state affiliates. I ran for public office and quickly realized that my heart wasn't in campaigning for myself.

Since then I have found work to do as an active volunteer in my county and on my state executive committee. I have managed and coordinated Libertarian campaigns, served as the Region 7 LNC Representative for multiple terms, and was elected LPTexas Chair last year. I may not tweet about it, but I've certainly been working.

Through these various roles, I learned that my heart was in doing the work of the Party — being of service to those trying to keep the pilot light lit. I believed I was best suited for working behind-the-scenes developing the infrastructure our candidates need to do their jobs.

The pilot light metaphor was shared with me recently by someone who had worked for the LP years before I joined. The metaphor speaks to the relationship between the "liberty movement" and the Libertarian Party (pilot light). If we are to influence public policy, change the game and the rules thereof, we must have candidates (flames). Without the Libertarian Party, Libertarian candidates have no path to office without betraying us, and likely their own consciences, by running on old party tickets.

There is symbiosis, an interconnectedness, between the Party and the movement. They do not supplant one another. They should, however, supplement and complement each other. If the pilot light goes out, there can be no flames.

As LNC Chair, I commit to the work of a political party, while honoring and drawing from the greater liberty movement. It is time for banding together to promote the principles that unite us. It is time for standing side-by-side against the authoritarian policies that unite our opponents. It is time to recruit and support Libertarian candidates who will amplify the Libertarian voice.

We know very well that the old parties won't extol the virtues of Libertarianism, nor will they take too kindly to us promoting our principles on their tickets. Without the Libertarian Party as the political arm of the liberty movement, we would have to water down our message, dulling it for the delicate old party palates. As far as I'm concerned, that is not an option.

# LP News

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of the United States. Opinions
and articles published in this
newspaper do not necessarily
represent official party positions
unless so indicated.

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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# The 8 Things You Didn't Know About Regional Training

## Cara Schulz Candidate Recruitment

When I developed the first regional training a few years ago, I knew that it had the potential to propel the entire Party forward. Little did I know, however, that this year would be the year that it took off into something much greater than I could



**Schulz** 

even manage. We set attendance records, had a list of who's-who in top-level trainers, and we managed to get our hands on even better information on how to manage and win effective campaigns. It's something that every serious Libertarian should attend.

I'm sure some have heard of regional training and they may have even read the details on the website, but there are some things that you cannot find on our regional training initiative. For those of you who haven't made it yet, are still on the fence, or still don't know enough about regional training, here are some reasons why you should find out more:

1. The training is funded entirely by donors. While it's true that everything the LP does is funded by donors, regional training is funded directly by donors, meaning they invested directly in the effort. Further, our donors didn't just give money; they donated other resources like volunteer time and food. One donor even donated the facility we used for the Virginia Beach training so we could comfortably seat over 100 attendees.

Libertarians are investing in this training because they know this is how we will grow the Party.

- 2. It provides invaluable networking opportunities. Rarely can Libertarians meet up across state lines. It's even difficult for some state affiliates to get their members together. Regional training brings Libertarians together from nearby states. Breakout sessions provide the opportunity to connect with members in different state chapters and a 5 pm end time on Saturday allows everyone to continue networking and mingling throughout the evening.
- 3. Attendees are asked to take a survey upon the conclusion of the training and the results are good. Really good. The overwhelming majority of those who attend regional training highly recommend it to other Libertarians. It's the reason why word of mouth has driven engagement in the effort over marketing efforts. Angela Pence, who attended the Atlanta, Georgia training, said, "I thought that because I had worked on campaigns already, I would know a lot of the information, but I didn't. I encourage anyone who is looking to expand to take this training. It is an insanely valuable resource."
- 4. Members who complete the entire training graduate from the program are certified and listed on our website. Delegates have been asking for years for a way to know which candidates for leadership positions in the Party are dedicated and committed to implementing best practices and advancing candidates. Now, anyone can go to Lp.org/ (need site) and find an up-to-date list on who is certified in which track.

- 5. Attendees receive a binder full of material including worksheets, one-sheets, and graphics. These documents compliment the training and allow attendees to take notes and develop their own campaign and affiliate plans in real time. There are also materials in the binder that are not covered in the training due to time constraints, but nevertheless provide value to the reader.
- 6. Regional training compliments the train ing that will be offered at the 2022 national convention. This year's training will give attendees a high-level overview of what is needed to run a successful campaign and run an active state affiliate. Next year at the national convention, the training will be much more specialized.
- 7. We are already seeing affiliates and candidates acting on the information they've learned and getting serious results. Candidates are experiencing a higher rate of return on their fundraising efforts and many affiliates are experiencing increased membership.
- 8. It's not too late to attend a regional training, but spaces are limited. Four trainings remain: Des Moines, IA on September 18 and 19 (waitlisted); Shreveport, LA on September 25 and 26; Atlantic City, NJ on October 9 and 10; and Indianapolis, IN on October 16 and 17.

For more information on how you can sign up for to attend a training, or if you are interested in donating to the initiative, please visit our website at my.lp.org/2021-regional-affiliate-and-campaign-training-initiative/



Over 100 Libertarians were certified in either Campaign Fundamentals or Affiliate Leadership Fundamentals

# Hreha Joins LP Staff Andrew Hreha aims to grow membership, lead ALE project

#### Tara DeSisto

**Development Director** tara@lp.org

LPPA member and recent candidate for state rep, Andrew Hreha, joined LP staff in June of this year. Mr. Hreha will serve as stewardship associate, working in the Development Department. He will be tasked with expanding LP's membership as well as managing ALE or the Association of Libertarian Educators and planning their annual conference to be held in Boston this December.

A younger Libertarian, Hrera graduated in May of this year from Waynesburg University

in southwestern Pennsylvania with a degree in



communication and a minor in political science. At Waynesburg, he was a four-year active member of our campus newspaper, television and radio stations, student senate, and the remote sports production

program. He rounded out his time at Waynesburg as the Executive Editor of The Yellow Jacket Newspaper, receiving two Communicator Awards for column writing.

Hreha became involved in the Party as activist Libertarian in college, first volunteering for the Dale Kerns for U.S. Senate campaign in 2018. He officially joined the party in 2020 after interviewing then-presidential candidate and current Western Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, Sam Robb, for his show, The Waynesburg Effect.

After the COVID-19 Pandemic eliminated

an opportunity to intern with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Drew reached out to the LPPA about becoming their first intern. He joined on, spending last summer affiliating his home county of Armstrong and volunteering for the Jo Jorgensen presidential campaign.

In March of 2021, the state representative in Hreha's home district resigned, opening the opportunity for him to become the Libertarian candidate for Pennsylvania's House of Representatives in the special election for District 60.

On joining the Libertarian Party, Drew said that "it is an honor to be working with a group of extremely talented and hard-working individuals on staff. I can't say enough good things about my experience so far, and I'm very excited to be working toward a world set free in our lifetime in this new capacity."

To contribute to ALE, please visit lp.org/ale

# The Frontier Summit Celebrates The Frontier Project's Many Successes

#### **Mario Presutti**

Libertarian Frontier Project

On June 11th, in front of the capitol building in Cheyenne Wyoming, the Libertarian Frontier Summit kicked off with a press conference and the official filing of two cannabis-centered ballot initiatives. Libertarian State Rep. Marshall Burt spoke at the press conference, where he discussed the historic cannabis legislation he worked on in the 2021 session. That legislation eventually was refused to be heard, and Burt said that these ballot initiatives "would allow everyone in the state to have a voice, where the legislature did not."

Tyler Harris, National Executive Director of the Libertarian Party also spoke at the conference, saying that these initiatives are "about one simple thing, sending the people of Wyoming the same basic rights that are already enjoyed by so many others." Following the press conference, the initiatives were officially filed, where Shawn Johnson, chair of the Wyoming Libertarian Party, signed them and took the reins as the chairman on both measures.

With these monumental tasks completed, the celebration could finally start. The Frontier Summit hosted a cannabis mixer and party at Cheyenne's Little America Hotel and Resort, where activists, patients, and libertarians from across the state came and mingled. Over the course of the evening, many different leaders came up and spoke on behalf of the Frontier Project and these new cannabis initiatives. Rep. Marshall Burt gave the keynote that night, drawing huge rounds of applause and laughter from everyone in attendance. He spoke about his path to public office, the first legislative session he had just finished, and the bright and hopeful future the party has to look forward to in the coming years. A great night was brought to a close, and with that, the second day began.

The second day began with

socializing and a plated breakfast. After this, guests separated into different breakout rooms of their choice, each having different events, topics, and speakers. One of the highlights was an elected official forum with Kalispell Councilman Sid Daoud, Clarksville City Councilwoman Trisha Butler, Ketchikan School Board Member Paul Robbins, and Wyoming State Representative Marshall Burt. Moderated by Apollo Pazell, a former

councilman himself, the officials recounted the ups and downs in their elections, their proudest moments governing so far, and how it feels to be the only voice for liberty in a governing body that is always pushing against it, along with so much more. Other rooms consisted of a variety

of different things, such as remarks from the Libertarian National Committee Chair, readings of the two filed cannabis initiatives, and campaign trainings for current and potential Libertarian candidates! The summit came to a close following this full day of events, and the festivities ended with a resounding success for both the event and the fight for liberty everywhere.

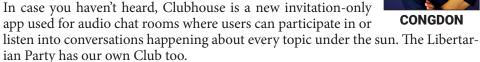


# Clubhouse & The World

#### **Bekah Congdon**

LPHQ Development Associate

Have you joined Clubhouse?



I've only been on Clubhouse for a few months, but I've already witnessed something incredible.

After tensions and violence were on the rise once again between Israel and Palestine, a major attack was carried out on May 10th of this year that brought the global conversation back to this conflict. What was heard from the mainstream was nothing new. Typical voices argued that one country or the other was to blame, radicals from opposing worldviews made their case why only their preferred side deserved to exist.

However, one week later, something different happened.

On Monday, May 17th, a Clubhouse room was opened called simply, "Meet Palestinians & Israelis". When I entered I found myself in the middle of something I immediately felt was changing the world. I sat quietly and listened to the voices of Muslims in Palestine, Jews in Israel; people raised to see each other as enemies. And yet, the voices were not filled with hate. For days I listened to stories filled with heartache, love, fear, strength, hurt, empathy, desperation, hope. Intentional moderators gently guided conversations away from accusations and arguments and encouraged every individual to just tell their story and listen to others share theirs. I heard stories from a Palestinian farmer, a Jewish woman and her Arab husband, a doctor in Gaza, and dozens of people in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and beyond who have fled or been displaced due to the violence. One story that I haven't been able to shake was from a Palestinian man who watched a YouTube video from a popular American Conservative organization that said all Palestinians hate Israelis. He fought back tears asking why someone would say this about him when he seeks to bring love to people whenever he can.

These stories continued without end for fourteen days as tens of thousands of people passed through this room. At the two week mark, they chose to close the room for the first time, and now open rooms for shorter and more focused conversations. Anyone can still sit in and listen when they open the room.

This app and this room has already done what governments and regimes have failed at again and again. For the first time that I've observed, people on opposite sides of perhaps the most well-known conflict are sitting at the table together. They are showing respect to one another while standing firm in their truth. They come with confidence and pride, yet earnestly and honestly seek common ground and healing.

"Meet Palestinians & Israelis" is libertarianism playing out before our eyes. Old and young, rich and poor, Arab and Israeli alike are declaring that their governments have failed them and that they are taking this into their own hands; without weapons, but with open minds and hearts. While the US government continues to act like a solution exists in billions spent on providing weapons and aid, the actual victims of the never-ending war we have made ourselves accessory to are writing a new page that history will not forget.

The Libertarian Party is clear in our defiance to the general sentiments of war held by both Republicans and Democrats in the government. Just as we see in the US, the warmongers of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are more interested in power than in solutions that would ease suffering and save lives.

We will continue to stand firm on the side of non-aggression and peace just as we have done for half a century.

# Your content here.

We are currently looking for Libertarian writers and content creators (i.e., news stories, features, opinion pieces, photos, videos, artists, etc. — sorry, not memes) who would like to contribute to official Libertarian Party publications, including the LP News, Liberty Pledge, LP.org and others.

If you're interested, please join our Facebook Group today!

facebook.com/groups/LPPublications





**LOOKING BACK TO 50 YEARS AGO** 

A LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS SPECIAL SECTION

**FOUNDED DECEMBER 11, 1971** 

Welcome to this very special section of the LP News! As we gear up to celebrate 50 years of the Libertarian Party, we are turning back the clock.

# THE AMERICAN VOTER NEEDS A BETTER CHOICE! THE LIBERTY YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN!

Please sign your name and address as it appears on your voter registration and solicit your friends and neighbors to sign. Your signature does not obligate you in any way.

#### THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY IS:

- FOR—THE RIGHTS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL, BASED ON EACH MAN'S RIGHT TO HIS OWN LIFE—and the repeal of laws and executive powers that make us anything less than free citizens.
- FOR—FREE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE The foundation of personal liberty, and the source of economic prosperity, a system of laissez faire capitalism.
- FOR—A SOUND DOLLAR REDEEMABLE IN GOLD — The citizen's best protection against inflation, and the best basis for international trade.
- FOR—A NUCLEAR DEFENSE TO DETER TOTALITARIAN AGGRESSION.
- FOR—THE ELIMINATION OF ALL LAWS CRE-ATING "CRIMES WITHOUT VICTIMS."

- AGAINST—GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME IN ANY FORM.
- AGAINST—FOREIGN AID No foreign nation has the right to claim the resources of the American Citizen, and trying to buy friends is a foolish policy which we have lived to regret.
- AGAINST—OUR PARTICIPATION AND SUP-PORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS — We are a nation of sovereign individuals and we will NOT subordinate our interests to any international body.
- AGAINST—INVOLVEMENT IN FOREIGN WARS THAT DO NOT SERVE THE SELF-INTEREST OF THE U.S. CITIZENS.
- AGAINST—ANY FORM OF INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE — Specifically the military draft or any other national service program.

#### BE INFORMED ...

Learn what the LIBERTARIAN PARTY is doing and why. Anyone sending a contribution of \$1 or more will be sent our information packet. Contributions may be used to reduce your income tax. Watch for the coming of our Political Candidates to New Mexico.

Pd. Political Adv. by LP of N. Mex., Bab White, Treas., Maurice McDonald, Chairmon



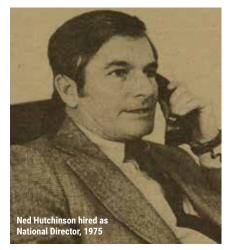
#### WHAT IS THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY?

WHITHER YOU TIND to support liberals or conservatives, you will probably admit one thing: the politics of today are a diseaster. The left hongers for ever-larger economic controls, bases, and subsidies for its social welfare projects, while the right seethes with a compution to build honge military programs and creak down on draft registers, drug users, and others. The left regulates and relieves you of your earnings in the name of "ascial obligation"—the right does the same for "duty, honer, country" or some

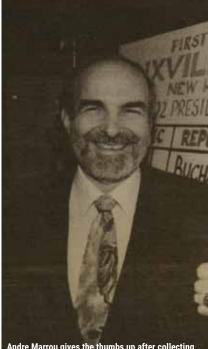
your sovereignty. No party has held that your pursuit of happiness is an end in itself, rather than a tangent to "social welfare" or "national security." No party has said that the use of force to accomplish any end blatantly denies your right to grouse happiness. It was not to accomplish any end blatantly denies your right to grouse happiness. It was not to accomplish and the party feel of the party feel of the party feel of the

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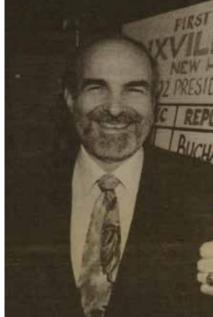






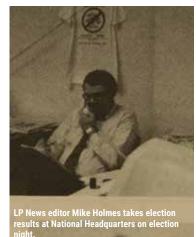












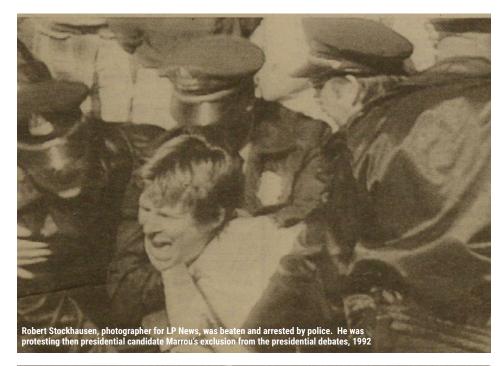




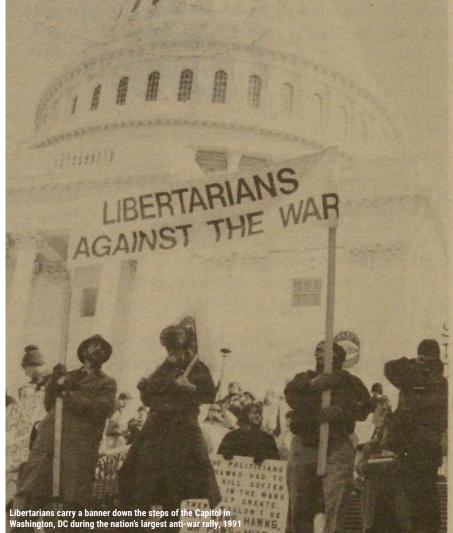




















### NEWS RELEASE THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 1997

For additional information: Bill Winter, Director of Communications ◆(202) 333-0008 Ext. 226

# **Tempest in a toilet bowl!**

Why politicians should repeal the 1.6-gallon toilet bowl law — and put a lid on their meddling in American bathrooms

 $\label{eq:washington} WASHINGTON, DC - Angry about politicians in your bedroom? Don't look now, but they're in your toilet, too, Libertarians say — and you shouldn't have to take \textit{that} sitting down.$ 

The latest government intrusion comes from Energy Department bureaucrats who mandated smaller-capacity toilet tanks starting in 1994. The smaller tanks caused a flood of consumer complaints about backed-up toilets — and spurred a booming black market in the old-style toilets. So now Congress is considering legislation to repeal the law.

"Politicians who claim the era of big government is over are busy regulating the volume of water in our toilets," said Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party national chairman. "Talk about being bowled over by government intervention!"

As part of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, which took effect in 1994, Congress outlawed toilet tanks with the standard 3.5-gallon capacity and mandated 1.6-gallon tanks in all new homes. A new bill sponsored by Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) would repeal the law.

But whether it is repealed or not, the "War on 3.5-Gallon Toilet Tanks" has created yet another class of government-mandated winners and losers, noted Dasbach. The losers:

**Consumers:** They are stuck with a product that many of them hate, and can be fined \$2,500 if they try to buy an old-style toilet that actually works.

The environment: Homeowners may actually waste more water than they save because they have to flush the new toilets multiple times to make them work properly.

The bathroom fixtures industry: It spent millions of dollars retooling factories to accommodate the new law — money which will be wasted if the mandate is repealed.

And the winners? **Black-market toilet bootleggers:** They're making big profits by selling a popular but illegal product — old-style toilets.

**Politicians:** They get to pose as friends of the environment, even if they end up wasting water instead of preserving it.

"The Constitution talks about the need to create a more perfect union. Politicians have interpreted this to mean that they have the power to mandate a more perfect flush," Dasbach said. "When it comes to imposing mindless, meddlesome regulations, what will it take to get politicians to put a lid on it?"

Watergate Office Building ◆ 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100 ◆ Washington, DC 20037

MINUTES OF 1974 LIBERTARIAN PARTY

REGULAR CONVENTION, IRVING TEXAS

JUNE 11-15, 1974

[RECORD OF FORMAL]

ACTIONS ONLY]

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TREASURER'S REPORT - BOB MER FUND PAISING COMMENTS - JIM MILLER CREDENTALS REPORT - LINSTON DUKE

MOTHER BY ED CLARK (CHAIRMAN, CALIFORNIA) TO SUBSTITUTE FOR ABSENT DELECATES:

ABSENT: K. MERRICK, D. MERRICK, C. CUNNINGHAM, B. STALLER, K. CISCO SUBSTITUTE: E. GARRIS, J. BROWN, GOELL, SANDIN, L. KINSKY, R. POOLE.

MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION BY DELETIES ALTERNATION.

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# (CONDENSED VERSION)

#### REGARDING GOVERNMENT:

- 1) WE FAVOR THE ABOLITION OF DAMN NEAR EVERYTHING.
- WE CALL FOR DRASTIC REDUCTIONS IN EVERYTHING ELSE.
- 3) AND WE REFUSE TO PAY FOR WHAT'S LEFT!

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Smash the state Have a nice day

# Libertarians Take On Poverty

# How Chris and Cally Rogers Solved Food Insecurity In Their Community

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday morning, the garage door is opened at the home of Chris and Cally Rogers in the North Dallas Suburb of Richardson, TX. They set up a canopy, a large fan, and long white tables filled with fresh vegetables and kitchen equipment. Inside the garage are several shelves filled with canned and boxed food, household and hygiene sup-

plies, and toys and games. Against one wall is a refrigerator and freezer holding a variety of fresh and frozen foods. This is the Wake Drive Community Food Pantry. Shortly after noon, cars begin arriving. After explaining the experience to new guests and greeting returning guests, they are given baskets and

allowed to shop from the pantry for whatever food or supplies they need. No names or IDs are needed. Nobody is asked for a back story, though many volunteer it.

Chris Rogers is the Public Works Director for the Vermin Supreme Institute and decided to open this pantry out of his garage as a proof of concept for a larger initiative to open more pantries like this in neighborhoods across the country.

"We have all manner people who stop by. You never really know if someone is dropping off donations or picking up some supplies. Often, it is both at the same time. It really has become a fascinating example of mutual aid."

According to Chris, they initially announced the existence of this pantry via the Nextdoor app and a local neighborhood group on Facebook.

"The community response has been nothing short of amazing," Chris remarked. "We seeded the pantry with about \$300 worth of food from the 99-cent store. That sort of halfway filled the shelves for

the first day. By then end of the first day, our shelves were totally filled, and we had stacks of donations in our house. Sort of a reverse flow. And the donations are still coming in after several months of being open. In addition, Cally goes out on the Saturday before the pantry is open and buys fresh fruit and vegetables for the produce table."

Chris explained

that the process of opening the pantry was simple, though there is some upfront cost for shelves and seeding the pantry - something the Vermin Supreme Institute is willing to help with for people who are sincere about opening a pantry in their garage, neighborhood park, or some other



location.

Every 1st & 3rd Sunday, Chris and Cally Rogers hold a food pantry in their garage

"We didn't involve the local government in this," Chris explains. "We aren't selling anything or selling prepared food. In addition, our neighborhood is 100% percent behind us, so we basically are off the radar and have had no problems. But if you are going to set up in a public park or something, you might want to be careful and be sure you won't get harassed."

Since the project began in Late Spring of 2021, their daily turnout has gone from 2-3 people to a couple of dozen each time they open the doors. Chris and Cally routinely set out signs and pass out fliers to spread the word about the pantry, but most of the guests say they heard about it from a friend or neighbor. Additionally, other people are catching on and opening their own pantries. Just recently, Chris and Cally met with another couple who are opening a food closet in a local college and will soon be opening a garage-based pantry of their own in Farmers Branch, TX.

"We have had all kinds of people coming by," Cally explained. "Some are Seniors who are on a fixed income and are suffering as prices go up on everything. Others are affected by layoffs or just bad luck. When they hear about the pantry and how we are a no judgment zone, it's like for just a moment, some of the weight is lifted off their shoulders. Everyone is very grateful. It's empowering and satisfying to be able to make a difference, even a small one, in someone's life."

Chris added that he feels that the food insecurity problem can be solved.

"Ultimately, the hunger problem in the United States isn't a scarcity problem, it is a logistics problem. There's plenty of good food wasted all the time. We just need to figure out how to redirect the food that is being wasted and get it to the people who can use it."

The events of 2020 and 2021 have impacted just about everyone in a way that will be felt for many years. For some, these events have knocked the legs out from under them, leaving them jobless, broke, and starving. This has exacerbated an already major problem with food security in the United States. According to projections from Feeding America, roughly 12% of the population of the United States will be food insecure in 2021. That's 1 person out of every 8. And yet, access to free or low-cost food supplies via food pantries or food banks or other facilities has not improved. The Vermin Supreme Institute is working to change that.

If you have questions about this project or want more information about starting your own pantry, contact Chris Rogers at council@verminsupremeinsitute.com.



## Cannabis (continued from front)

main. The first is that petitioners will need to collect over 41,000 signatures to secure ballot placement. The second is to persuade Wyoming voters to vote affirmatively on the measures in the 2022 general election. The Libertarian Party will need to launch massive persuasion and get-out-the-vote efforts, because now the future of legalization rests squarely on

the shoulders of the voters.

Despite the work that remains ahead, the future of legalization in Wyoming looks very bright. "The Wyoming advocates behind this initiative have worked very hard to draft ballot measures that will work for the people of Wyoming," observed long-time medicinal cannabis activist Christine Stenquist.

"We are excited to begin the signature gathering process to let everyone in Wyoming have a voice."

The Libertarian Party has been leading the discussion on legalization and decriminalization of cannabis for nearly 50 years. To donate to this effort or to the Frontier Project, please visit ...

# Ballot Access Success in Arkansas!

#### Laryssa Gaughen

**Director of Communications** 

On July 20th, the Arkansas Secretary of State notified the Libertarian Party of Arkansas that its petition campaign to form a "new political party" was successful: Of 14,593 signatures that the Party submitted on June 28th, 11,886 were determined to be from valid registered voters. The threshold the Party faced was 10,000 valid signatures.

"This is a significant accomplishment," said LP State Chair Michael Pakko, "the Libertarian Party will now be able to nominate candidates on every level of the 2022 ballot, all the way from Governor down to Township Constable."

This is actually the sixth consecutive election cycle in which Arkansas Libertarians have successfully petitioned to become a "new" political party. In order to maintain political party status in Arkansas, the party's candidate for governor or president must receive 3% of the vote. So for ballot-retention beyond 2022, the Libertarian candidate for Governor next year will have to garner 3%. In 2018, the Party's Candidate for Governor, Mark West, came agonizingly close, earning 2.9% of the vote. In 2020, the 3%-rule applied to the presidential race, in which Jo Jorgensen received just 1.1% of the vote in Arkansas.

"The ballot-retention rules in Arkansas remain a big problem for us," noted Pakko. "The race at the top of the ticket is always contentious, making it harder to convince voters to vote their conscience and vote Libertarian. And for that matter, it's not a very good measure of the true impact of a statewide political party. We give voters a choice in races all across the state, and the voters seem to appreciate it. In 2020, our candidates received 14.7% of the total votes cast in the races where we ran candidates."

Part of that total included votes for the Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, Ricky Dale Harrington, Jr., who received nearly 400,000 votes—over one-third of the total votes cast—in his race against incumbent Senator Tom Cotton.

Harrington has announced his intention to run for the key ballot-retention race of Governor in 2022.

There is a backstory on the Arkansas petition campaign that illustrates another uphill struggle: This was the second time that the Party's efforts were supported by a federal injunction to prevent the state from making it even more difficult for the Libertarian Party to get on the ballot. In 2019 the Arkansas legislature raised the petition threshold from 10,000 signatures to 3% of the most recent gubernatorial vote—approximately 27,000. The Libertarian Party of Arkansas sued in federal court and obtained an injunction to retain the original 10,000-signature requirement. The injunction was upheld by the 8th District Court of Appeals, making it possible for the Libertarian Party to field candidates in the 2020 election.

As the lawsuit drags on, the 2019 injunction remained in force for this year's petition campaign, retaining the 10,000-signature requirement. The case is presently in its final stages, with both the sides having submitted motions for summary judgement.

"I'm confident that the final ruling will be in our favor," said party chair Pakko. "We challenged some fundamental aspects of Arkansas election law regarding new political parties. We'll see how far the ruling goes, and then the question will be how the legislature responds to the decision. We're going to have to be involved in the process of discussing electoral reforms in Arkansas."

As for the success of this year's petition campaign, Pakko emphasized that the party was grateful to the donors and volunteers who made the petition effort a success. "We have a lot of people to thank. It wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of local donors, national support from the LNC, and from our volunteers."

Pakko noted that the volunteer effort had been the best yet in the party's decade of petitioning, with recent growth in membership and activism building momentum. "We had a well-organized volunteer effort that we can now carry forward into the campaign season."

Arkansas LP Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa Cacaw, described some of the party's initiatives: "We had many volunteers that are extremely passionate about liberty that really wanted to help. We made it fun by having a designated weekend for petitioning with a trophy for the volunteer that obtained the most signatures for the weekend. We also implemented an incentive program for volunteers that seemed to draw in several folks. Any volunteer that obtained at least 10 signatures received a custom t-shirt."

Although the volunteer effort was a crucial element of the campaign, the overall effort also required a significant monetary outlay. "With the ongoing COVID pandemic, we faced obstacles," noted Pakko. "Festivals were cancelled, college campuses were deserted, and people were shopping and paying bills online. We had to bring in additional paid petitioners to get the job done, and that was expensive."

"Now we have to scrounge up the resources to recruit and support candidates for the upcoming elections," concluded Pakko, "but we accomplished the first step: We're on the ballot!"



# **Upcoming State Conventions**

Sep. 17-18 Oct. 8-10

Nov. 13

Montana Illinois So. Carolina

List was current as of press time, but is subject to change/errors. Please check with your state affiliate's leadership directly to verify.

# EDITORIAL

#### The Big Tent of Libertarianism

#### **Caryn Ann Harlos**

**LNC** Secretary

This is said so often it is almost a Party cliche, and I sometimes wonder if we really stop to think about what this means. It obviously does not mean that all ideas are equally Libertarian and welcome. For example, our platform and membership pledge clearly reject the use of force to achieve social or political goals. So if this tent is not encompassing of all ideas what is it? It is encompassing of all people. Everyone is welcome. Even those who may have some ideas that are not perfectly Libertarian.

However there is a sense in which this does apply to a swath of ideas even if it is not all ideas. I read with consternation an opinion piece in the 3rd quarter issue of LP News in which it was stated that all Libertarians believe there is a need and role for government (i.e., the state). This is simply not true. It is not true of all Libertarians, and that is not the official position of the Party, at least since 1974.

What happened in 1974? Our Statement of Principles was fundamentally amended so that the official position of the Party on the ultimate

existence of government is agnosticism. Certainly members can and do have firm positions, but as far as the Party is concerned minarchism and anarchism are equally perfectly Libertarian ideas, with the Party deferring taking a position until such time that is the last issue to be decided. We are far from that blessed day.

Our Statement of Principles assigns no positive role for the government but categorically states that any existing states must not violate individual rights. Members may debate this vigorously but when we are representing the Party position, we must be careful to be clear that the Libertarian tent fully includes both minarchists and anarchists. And that is a great thing.

#### Building a Community Culture

#### **LJ Hemreck**

Perennial Candidate, Kansas

Hello, my name is LJ Hermreck. I ran for Kansas House of Rep. District 103 in 2020 and Wichita City Council District 6 this year. Sadly I did not win, but both times I was able to pull over 6% of the vote. I plan on running again next year, to keep consistent and my name in the minds of voters.

Running for an office, especially as a Libertarian is a lot of work. But with that comes a lot of great opportunity and meeting some amazing individuals. Stay active in your community is my biggest tip to give anyone running. Getting out and volunteer to help the homeless or cleaning up around your area. Start a social media page and keep it active. I've had my page Liberty ICT for a little over two years and I've reached a following of 33,700. This has definitely helped me get my name and the message of liberty out to a big local crowd. You can run a race on your own, I have. But you definitely need a team to help out with the multiple jobs that need to get done for a successful campaign. I've had people tell me I should run as a Republican or Democrat next time. But I could never see myself with the authoritarians or not defending the individual liberty. My platform is easy, it's the Libertarian platform.

# What's on your mind?

Send letters to the editor to **lpnews@lp.org**.

# Fight Against Mask Mandates Renews In Urban Kansas

#### **Mary Gerlt**

3rd District Deputy Coordinator, LP Kansas

Government response to the Covid-19 pandemic has no doubt given Libertarians across the country plenty of activism opportunities, namely with mask mandates, which many have found to be one of the most audacious violations of bodily autonomy pushed on the general public in our lifetime. The state of Kansas, comprised mostly of rural counties has been somewhat fortunate in that the 2020 decree by Democrat governor, Laura Kelly to force masking in public spaces gave all counties an option to not follow the state mandate as long as they devised their own county ordinance to deal with the virus. As a result, many counties chose not to bow down to the governor and did not force their citizens to wear masks against their will. Residents of the few urban counties however, were not so lucky.

Kansas' three top population counties, Johnson, Sedgwick and Wyandotte all chose to follow the governor's mandate that finally ended in the spring and summer of 2021, with all three now either discussing or already enacting new mandates in light

of the alleged rise of the Delta variant. Wyandotte county, with a population of 165,000 people actually went a step further on August 5th, creating a criminal ordinance forcing mask-wearing with possible penalties of up to \$500 in fines and 30 days in jail. However, one bright spot has emerged. Firstly, Wyandotte county has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the state, especially among urban populations. While this was claimed by the county commission to be one of the driving forces to forcing masks again, it seems telling that although vast and varied opportunities exist to serve free vaccines to the largely low-income population of this county, many are turning down the jab. This could be due to the Unified Government, or "the UG" of Wyandotte having a reputation as corrupt organization that routinely only pays lips service to the desires of its citizens. If residents of Wyandotte are turning down free vaccines for this reason, it seems likely many will not take kindly to the new mask ordinance this time around.

In neighboring Johnson county, with its far more affluent population, the majority are vaccinated (by some estimates) yet their commission still opted to force a mask mandate recently as well, but only on children and staff in public and private schools.

In both Wyandotte and Johnson county, dozens and even hundreds of citizens protested at the commissions' mandate meetings and far outnumbered those in favor of mandates, yet both counties voted to force masks once again, a clear sign leadership is listening to someone other than their constituents.

Despite the appearance of force winning the upper hand this round, those of us in Kansas fighting for freedom are encouraged by the increase to our numbers lately. Social media groups with anti-mandate themes are flourishing in our urban areas and those of various political stripes are able to unite and take a stand against the tides of tyranny, despite most local newspapers and TV stations reporting our actions with statist bias. We hope all Libertarians across the country will continue pushing back against their state and local governments on all uses of force for masking or vaccination.

The views and opinions expressed by opinion authors are theirs and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or platform of the Libertarian Party or the Libertarian National Committee.

# Updates from our local affiliates

#### **OKLAHOMA**

#### **James Beau Thouvenel**

Oklahoma LP Chair

At the 2021 OKLP State Convention in March, party membership voted to task each of its four At-Large Representatives with specific responsibilities to forward the goals of the Oklahoma Libertarian Party. These responsibilities are in line with what in other affiliates are managed by Political, Legislative, Field Development, and Development Directors. The result has been of tremendous benefit not just to the State Executive Committee -- whose work is now shared across a wider spectrum of talents, abilities, and personalities -- but to the entire organization and its outreach efforts on every front.

Let's meet this team of new OKLP At-Large Representatives and learn about what each has done since being elected just under five months ago.

#### Jake Spann: Political

Jake, the Cleveland County Libertarian Party Vice-Chair, is a long-time sales professional turned property manager. He specializes in forecasting, data trends, and just good ole get-er-done grit. Jake's mission as Political Director is to locate people within the party network who have aspirations of being a candidate and campaigning on our platform, then consulting with them on their goals and where they fit into an upcoming campaign cycle.

"Oklahoma isn't Rhode Island or Vermont," Jake explains. "Someone from Oklahoma City won't be able to readily devote themselves in Tulsa which is two hours away. Thus, we are attempting to have campaigns in all quadrants. In theory, we will have all statewide races filled with active campaigns and each one can cross-campaign for the other in their home territories, cutting down on individual candidate costs and developing stronger communities in our established county affiliates."

In addition to candidate recruitment, Jake provides resources and contacts, and volunteers his own efforts to Libertarian candidates in whatever

Submit affiliate news to **lpnews@lp.org**.

role needed for their campaigns once established. He is currently assisting Oklahoma gubernatorial candidate Natalie Bruno (L), and aims to have eight additional campaigns covered between statewide and county partisan races by the end of this year.

To assist in getting information about Libertarian candidates out to our members and the public, Jake created a broad stroke opinion scaling questionnaire for our candidates to complete for distribution to everyone in our network. Questions cover an array of concerns with a focus on issues of importance to Oklahomans. "The best part," Jake believes, "is that with the template and document now established, we can add or remove questions as needed to provide our people with a current and valued view into the mindset of, say, Bethany Vice-Mayor Chris Powell, who has been a stalwart for our state party since being formally recognized by Oklahoma in 2016."

#### Will Daugherty: Legislative

Born and raised in Stillwater, Oklahoma, Will was active duty in the Air Force from 2013 to 2017. He began learning about libertarianism through a Ron Paul debate in 2007 and joined the Libertarian Party in 2014.

Since his election to the Legislative At-Large seat, Will has spoken for cannabis freedom, criminal justice reform, and against mask mandates at several protests and community events. "I love speaking for liberty every chance I get," he said.

Will is a member of the OKLP Social Media committee and has largely assumed responsibility for the creation and publication of content across our social media platforms, resulting in increased attention to, interaction with, and Followers on each. His approach is open and engaging, with a mind to gaining an understanding of people's perspectives and concerns, looking for common ground from which to establish productive dialogue and ultimately pique interest in liberty.

The OKLP Discord legislation channel is Will's home base for disseminating information concerning and provoking discussion about legislative action being taken in Oklahoma. He is currently recruiting sponsors within the state legislature for proposed legislation to end civil asset forfeiture and to make firearms and ammunition purchases taxfree, and looks forward to the implementation of an annual OKLP Lobby Day for face-to-face interaction between membership and state legislators.

#### Clint Rapp: Field Development

Clint, a husband, father of two, and Chair of the Cleveland County Libertarian Party, hasn't lost any time stepping into his role as Field Development Director.

Clint's term has seen growth in the OKLP through the chartering of new county and regional affiliates, and he was one of the leads in the Mises Caucus "Big Three Initiative" to organize the three largest counties in the state. His responsibilities include being in communication with these affiliates and assisting them in obtaining supplies, literature, and volunteers to aid in local community outreach.

In order to increase the OKLP's presence in our communities, Clint complied an expansive list of community events occurring across the state for our membership and affiliates to consider for participation, including parades and tabling/literature distribution opportunities. Forthcoming are opportunities to set up at county fairs and, in the future, at the State Fairs in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

#### Jeff Fortune: Development

Jeff is a married father of three who owns his own business and is profusely repentant for having been a neocon for far too long. As Director of Development, Jeff has worked with Treasurer Todd Hagopian to launch a fundraising drive called, "Become a Card Carrying Anarchist," which features a durable and stylish metal business card beautifully decorated in gold and black. Additionally, they have effected a combined membership and fundraising drive featuring the same classy metal cards: "Become a Card Carrying OKLP Member." These efforts have brought in \$2,074 so far, with six weeks to go in the fundraisers. You can support either or both of these efforts using the following links:

Become a Card Carrying Anarchist: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/become-a-card-carrying-anarchist-tickets-160100636313

Become a Card Carrying OKLP Member: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/become-a-card-carrying-oklp-member-tickets-163275855479

Jeff is also working on establishing the Oklahoma Libertarian Party merchandise store, featuring the latest in liberty messaging on great products!

With over 25 years of software development experience, Jeff is developing an interactive can-

vassing software application that will allow OKLP members to assign physical areas to target registered Libertarians for invitations to join the OKLP, growing the movement with boots on the ground and by talking to people face-to-face.

The OKLP congratulates Jake Spann, Will Daugherty, Clint Rapp, and Jeff Fortune as four of the newest members to the State Executive Committee, and thanks them for the service they are providing our state affiliate. As Mr. Spann said, "Efforts like these may seem small, but that's the only way you eat a horse. One bite at time. And if you haven't noticed, the OKLP has many ravenous liberty lovers with an appetite for change."

#### **UTAH**

#### **Barry Short**

Utah LP Chair

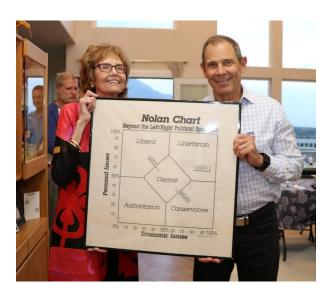
The past months have been a time of dynamic growth for the Utah Libertarian Party. 2021 began with no organized

county level parties. By the time of our convention in April, we had the three largest population counties organized, accounting for over 62% of the total state population. The next three most populous counties are now in the developmental stage of organization, which would bring the population covered up to 80%. The rest will go more slowly, as only one of the remaining 23 counties holds more than 2% of the total population, and only 5 have more than 1%, but we are optimistic about reaching 85% of state residents with a county party by the end of 2022.

Regular monthly meetups are now taking place in Salt Lake, Utah, Davis, Weber, Washington and Cache counties. Salt Lake County held a well-attended barbecue to celebrate Juneteenth, at Liberty Park in Salt Lake City. Davis County also had a booth, at Layton's July 5th Liberty Days. We have volunteers actively working to connect us to the CRM, and to significantly upgrade the consistency of our outreach. We have established a Communications Committee to focus our messaging to the public, and have volunteers working on membership growth and fundraising strategies. Utah has the third highest Libertarian voter registration percentage among states which have partisan registration, behind only Nebraska and Alaska, but the number who are state party members is only a fraction of that so we are planning multiple forms of membership drives.

Utah was privileged to host two great events in July. First, on Friday, July 16, we hosted the David Nolan Archive Celebration, noting the completion

of the multi-year project to digitize and organize the content of the decades of Libertarian history collected by our founder, and then to see it off to its new home in the Library of Congress. The party was held at the home of Joe and Cindy Buchman in Alpine, with close to 50 people attending for a time of good food and much conversation. The Guest of Honor was Elizabeth Nolan, David's widow, who from all reports was completely delighted by the evening. Also attending, to accept the donation of the archive to the library, was Congressman John Curtis and his wife, Sue.



#### **FLORIDA**

#### **Steven Nekhaila**

Florida LP Chair

# The Libertarian Party of Florida hires Development Contractor!

The Libertarian Party of Florida celebrates hiring its newest fundraising development contractor!

On Sunday August 16th, 2021, the Libertarian Party of Florida Executive Committee voted in a contractual position dedicated for fundraising, for the first time since 2017 when the Party brought in \$40,000 thanks to Marc Golob. His successor packs a punch and comes well equipped to serve the LPF.

Celicia L. Slafter has been chosen as the fundraising development contractor thanks to the generous donations by several Libertarian's towards the development project.

Celicia has been a member of the LPF since 2016, beginning with joining the Libertarian Party

of the Florida Keys and participating in committees on the State and National Level.

Celicia's major focus is to create and implement a three-year Development plan to stabilize and further the party's capacity toward its goals. Her plans include appeals for recurring membership giving, appeals of annual giving to major donors, and incorporating a stewardship strategy into long-range fundraising plans. The ultimate intention is to develop long-term relationships with the LPF for planned giving.

With 7 years of experience raising investment capital, Celicia has raised over \$700,000 for mortgage and real estate investments throughout Florida and the United States. Most recently, she helped to raise more in one-time contributions at this year's Annual Business Meeting and Convention than ever before. She has been learning from LP Development Director Tara DeSisto since March, and the party's net profits for the first two quarters is up 980% from the previous year!

As a Florida resident since leaving active-duty military service, liberty has become her top priority and passion. The lockdowns of 2020 crashed her musical theater career as a woodwind musician, and she is grateful for the support and development from Tara DeSisto and members of the LPF into this new career path. Celicia comments, "I am excited and ready to be in a position to drastically expand the means of this party. It is my sincere hope and expectation that through the results of my efforts, this decision will be looked upon as a pivotal moment for the exponential growth of the LPF."

LPF Chair Steven Nekhaila says, "This is a cornerstone moment in our Party's history, my vision is to keep and maintain a permanent place for professional fundraisers as a part of the Libertarian Party of Florida's growth. Without consistent and predictable increases in fundraising numbers, we cannot do all of the amazing things we set out to do. We have a major opportunity for fundraising in Florida and this is just the beginning. I am excited to welcome Celicia to the team as a professional and look forward to the good work and results she is sure to bring."

The Libertarian Party of Florida's plans for 2021 include launching the Operation First Step Incentive program that accompanies the original Operation First Step candidate recruitment program, which incentivizes affiliate with cash prizes for meeting certain milestones in and out of local office. We also wish to expand the State's affiliate coverage leveraging the Affiliate Support Committee and CRM to aggressively create new startup affiliates and support experienced ones. Next, we plan to plot our legislative action agenda by visiting Tallahassee with our professional lobbyist and training our members on effective and reality based lobbying efforts. Plus, much more.

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#### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

Matthew Thexton

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Nick Dunbar

#### **STATE AFFILIATE DEVELOPMENT**

**Andy Burns** 

#### **STATE AFFILIATE PROJECTS**

David Aitken

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

Christopher Clemence Andrew Hreha

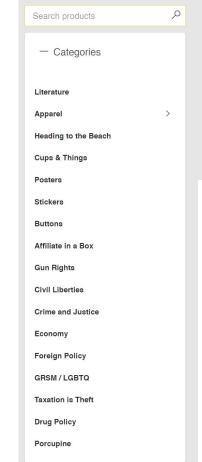
#### LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

LP.org/Inc-leadership

# Thinking about running for office?

Go to **LP.org/run** and send us your inquiry. You'll receive information from your state LP affiliate or from the national LP headquarters that you need to get started on your campaign.











## Libertarians have great fashion sense.

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But now we've revamped LP Store to bring you:

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- Customizable accessories
- Limited edition anniversary merch
  - AND SO MUCH MORE!

We've relaunched our store and are offering all of our members a major discount to celebrate. Enter WELCOMEBACK20 at checkout to receive 20% off your entire order between now and September 30!

Check us out at https://24-7.master-print.com/libertarians/UserJLogin.aspx

On May 26-29, 2022, we will be hosting our annual **National Convention in Reno, Nevada** at the Nugget Casino Resort.

The Nugget is a iconic casino and resort that offers fun for your family, plus the convention plans to repeat our previous convention's Kids Camp and start a 'coffee klatch' for partners of busy delegates.

Our gala evening celebrating our Golden Anniversary promises to be the event of the year. From the opening celebration to the closing reception, we will an all-star lineup of guest speakers, in-depth trainings, breakout sessions, and so much more!

Sponsors get great exposure for their cause or business and sponsorships include exhibit tables in the high traffic foyers of the events floor at low prices.

Go to LNC2022.com for details, to purchase tickets, and to vote on our convention theme.