

# LNC MEETING MINUTES, JULY 18-JULY 19, 2009, ST. LOUIS, MO

To: Libertarian National Committee

From: Bob Sullentrup

CC: Wes Benedict

Date: 7/29/2009

**CURRENT STATUS: AUTOMATICALLY APPROVED 11-25** 

# REVISED 2-28-2010. SEE AUSTIN MINUTES.

VERSION LAST UPDATED JULY 29, 2009

THESE MINUTES DUE OUT IN 30 DAYS: AUGUST 17, 2009

DATES BELOW MAY BE SUPERSEDED BY MAIL BALLOT:

LNC COMMENTS DUE IN 45 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

REVISION RELEASED (LATEST) 14 DAYS PRIOR: NOVEMBER 21, 2009

BARRING OBJECTION, MINUTES OFFICIAL 10 DAYS PRIOR: NOVEMBER 25, 2009

# \* AUTOMATIC APPROVAL DATES RELATIVE TO DECEMBER 5 MEETING

The meeting commenced at 8:33am on July 18, 2009 at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in downtown St. Louis, MO.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Chair Bill Redpath called for a moment of reflection, a practice at LNC meetings.

# OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Hill (NC) congratulated the LNC on its selection of Wes Benedict as Executive Director.

# PAPERWORK CHECK

Chair Bill Redpath asked the Secretary to confirm the binder's contents.

# REPORT OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Stewart Flood, Rachel Hawkridge, Dr. Lark and Jake Porter e-mailed statements of interest and are listed in the appendix.

#### ATTENDANCE AND CREDENTIALS

Attending the July 18-19, 2009 LNC meeting in St. Louis were:

Officers: Chair Bill Redpath, Vice-Chair Michael Jingozian, Treasurer Aaron Starr, Secretary Bob Sullentrup.

Parliamentarian: M Carling.

At-Large Representatives: Admiral Michael Colley, Pat Dixon, Lee Wrights, Dr. Mary Ruwart, Alicia Mattson.

Regional Representatives: Mark Hinkle (2), Rebecca Sink-Burris (3), Stewart Flood(4), Dr. James Lark (5-S), Dan Karlan (5-N), Julie Fox (6), Rachel Hawkridge (7). Tony Ryan (1) was not in attendance.

Regional Alternates: Rob Latham (1), Scott Lieberman (2), Jake Porter (6).

Alternates not attending were Bob Jackson (3), Heather Scott (4), Berlie Etzel (5-S), and Steve LaBianca (7)

Hardy Macia (5-N) has resigned as an alternate and has been replaced by Carl Vassar.

LNC Counsel Gary Sinawski did not attend but did participate in a Saturday conference call as did FEC consultant Paula Edwards.

Staff included Executive Director Wes Benedict, Director of Operations Robert Kraus and LP Communications Director Donny Ferguson.

The gallery included Barry Albin, Sean Haugh, George Phillies, Roger Gary, Tom Hill, Joseph Thompson, Glenn Nielsen, Julie Stone, Tom Knapp, Dave Brady, Gene Hawkridge, Damon Dillon, Chris Thrasher, Mark Bodenhausen, Ronald Beller, Chris Bennett, Jeff Dimit, Brendan Kelly and Steve Hellin.

The following table lists the composition of the current LNC as accepted at the May 26, 2008 meeting. Hardy Macia resigned in November 2008 as Region 5 North alternate. George Squyres

resigned as Region 1 alternate in December 2008. Rob Latham (UT) became the Region 1 alternate on March 17.

Region	Affiliates	Representative	Alternate
Region 1	Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming	Tony Ryan <sup>1</sup> (AZ)	Rob Latham
Region 2	California	Mark Hinkle (CA)	Scott Lieberman (CA)
Region 3	Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana	Rebecca Sink-Burris (IN)	Bob Jackson (MI)
Region 4	Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas	Stewart Flood (SC)	Heather Scott (TN)
Region 5 - South	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia	James W. Lark, III (VA)	Berlie Etzel (PA)
Region 5 - North	Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	Dan Karlan (NJ)	Carl Vassar (CT)
Region 6	Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin	Julie Fox (IL)	Jake Porter (MO)
Region 7	Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Washington	Rachel Hawkridge (WA)	Steve LaBianca (FL)
Orphans	Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Arkansas		

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  Mr. Ryan also has a residence in SD. He serves on the LNC as a resident of AZ.

The LP entered the meeting with the following agenda:

# Libertarian National Committee, Inc. July 18-19, 2009 Meeting Agenda St. Louis, MO - Preliminary

Call to Order	8:30 am (minutes
Moment of Reflection	1
Opportunity for Public Comment	10
Credentials Report and Paperwork Check (Secretary)	5
Report of Potential Conflicts of Interest	5
Approval of the Agenda	5
Standing Reports	
Chair's Report	15
Treasurer's Report	30
Secretary's Report	10
Staff Report	
Staff	60
Counsel's Report	15
Reports Previously Submitted in Writing	
Campus Organizing Report (Lark)	5
Various Regions	5 per
Action Items Not Previously Submitted in Writing – old business	
Confidentiality Agreement (held over from Charleston)	15
Strategic Plan Review (held over from Charleston)	30
Action Items Previously Submitted in Writing – new business	
Credentials Committee Selection	20
Sean Haugh Formal complaint to the LNC (Ruwart)	15
Resolution of Apology and Restitution (Hawkridge)	45
Action Items Not Previously Submitted in Writing – new business	
Sbcglobal.net email problems (Fox)	10
APRC (Ruwart)	10
Membership Analysis (Ruwart)	15
Financial Records Confidentiality (Ruwart)	15
FEC Report Information Gathering (Hawkridge)	10
LNC Convention Committee Report (Colley)	30

Audit Committee Report (Carling)	10
Discipline—or not—of Steve LaBianca (Karlan)	15
Policy Manual Amendment (Karlan)	5
Bylaws Committee. & Policy Manual Overhaul Subcommittee (Karlan)	10
Non-Disclosure Agreement (Flood)	10
Ballot Access Report (Redpath)	5
Telephone Discussion with LNC Counsel Gary Sinawski (executive session)	2pm
Telephone Discussion with FEC Consultant Paula Edwards (executive session)	3pm
Report on LNC Meeting Site Selection Process for December 2009	5
Opportunity for Public Comment	10
Adjournment	

Aaron Starr moved to transfer the Strategic Planning Review item until Sunday morning. With no objection, it passed.

Alicia Mattson asked if the Confidentiality Agreement and Non Disclosure Agreement were the same matter. Although the answer was yes, the body decided to leave them as is in order to provide time to digest the material between items.

Mary Ruwart moved to strike the item 'Discipline—or not—of Steve LaBianca'. The motion failed after Dan Karlan, after acknowledging this was on the border of propriety under Roberts, offered certain undisclosed 'surprises' that may have the effect of having the body come closer together.

Julie Fox moved to strike 'Sbcglobal.net email problems' since it was addressed in the staff report. There was no objection.

Alicia Mattson moved to strike the 'Sean Haugh Formal complaint to the LNC' and 'Resolution of Apology and Restitution'. A show of hands revealed an 8-8 tie. The chair broke the tie by voting to strike.<sup>2</sup>

Dan Karlan requested we swap the position of two items, taking 'Bylaws Committee & Policy Manual Overhaul Subcommittee' before 'Policy Manual Amendment'. There was no objection.

The resulting agenda read as follows:

# Libertarian National Committee, Inc. July 18-19, 2009 Meeting Agenda St. Louis, MO - Adopted

Call to Order	8:30 am
	(minutes)
Moment of Reflection	1
Opportunity for Public Comment	10

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pat Dixon requested his vote in opposition to striking these items be noted.

\_

Credentials Report and Paperwork Check (Secretary)	5
Report of Potential Conflicts of Interest	5
Approval of the Agenda	5
Standing Reports	
Chair's Report	15
Treasurer's Report	30
Secretary's Report	10
Staff Report	
Staff	60
Counsel's Report	15
Reports Previously Submitted in Writing	
Campus Organizing Report (Lark)	5
Various Regions	5 per
Action Items Not Previously Submitted in Writing – old business	
Confidentiality Agreement (held over from Charleston)	15
Action Items Previously Submitted in Writing – new business	
Credentials Committee Selection	20
Action Items Not Previously Submitted in Writing – new business	
APRC (Ruwart)	10
Membership Analysis (Ruwart)	15
Financial Records Confidentiality (Ruwart)	15
FEC Report Information Gathering (Hawkridge)	10
LNC Convention Committee Report (Colley)	30
Audit Committee Report (Carling)	10
Discipline—or not—of Steve LaBianca (Karlan)	15
Bylaws Committee. & Policy Manual Overhaul Subcommittee (Karlan)	10
Policy Manual Amendment (Karlan)	5
Non-Disclosure Agreement (Flood)	10
Ballot Access Report (Redpath)	5
Telephone Discussion with LNC Counsel Gary Sinawski (executive session)	2pm
Telephone Discussion with FEC Consultant Paula Edwards (executive session)	3pm
(Sunday) Strategic Plan Review (held over from Charleston)	30
Report on LNC Meeting Site Selection Process for December 2009	5
Opportunity for Public Comment	10
Adjournment	

# OFFICER REPORTS

# CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Bill Redpath provided an oral report noting he had done the following since the Charleston meeting:

- March 7, attended the Maryland Convention. John Buttrick spoke on the topic of 'The Irrelevance of LP'.
- March 23, met personally with George Will who requested to be on the LP media list
- April 11, the West Virginia favorable ballot access ruling came down, lowering the petitioning requirement to 7500 signatures
- April 15, was a speaker at the Reston, VA Tea Party rally
- April 18, was a speaker at the Georgia LP Convention
- In May there was a train trip from Hoboken, NJ to FL, commemorating the formation of the Federal Reserve. The chair requested Michal Badnarik forward an e-mail that the chair would forward to the LNC. While the chair could not attend, Dan Karlan, a Garden State resident expressed an interest in having participated.
- May 25, the chair was in Indiana meeting with IN chair Sam Goldstein, elected Libertarian Ed Coleman, LNC member Rebecca Sink-Burris and the Indy 500.
- May 30, thanked Pat Dixon for having stood in for him at the Arkansas Convention
- Early June, was on WWRL AM in NY discussing Sonia Sotomayor and later WBT in Charlotte about the bailout of General Motors
- June 11-13, attended the (surprisingly poorly attended) National Taxpayers Union conference where he was able to ask John McCain a question whether if he had it to do over again, would he have voted as he did last September for the bailout. "When you stand next to your president who says we need to do this, you do this." Accordingly, McCain admitted to the NTU he would have voted for the bailout. "It was the right thing to do, but it was poorly administered" the same argument for Iraq as the bailout.
- The attended the (very well attended 1400 to 1700) Freedom Fest in Las Vegas. This
  was a tremendous conference including political, finance and 'new media' (internet)
  items
- He attended the Campaign for Liberty event in Las Vegas.
- He testified at the DC election hearing on ballot access, pointing out DC has the fourth worst ballot access laws (per voter) in the country.
- He had two invitations to the Contessa Brewer Show on MSNBC that he was unable to work out
- He has met with and will soon meet with again the Chair of the Constitution party, Jim Clymer, on ballot access collaboration

- Austin Petersen is leaving the national office for Atlas Economic Research Foundation with August 14 being his last day
- Wes Benedict is the new Executive Director

Lee Wrights led the body's applause for the Chair having appointed the new ED.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Aaron Starr presented a treasurer's report for May 2009, including a statement of net assets and statement of operations previously e-mailed, and noted these items:

- We have roughly \$30k in cash and \$30k in short term liabilities.
- We have made money so far this year at a rate of \$6k/month
- Our payables are \$15k and are 'within terms'
- Four years ago in May 2005 we were in the hole by \$70k

#### AARON STARR MOVED:

TO ADJUST THE BUDGET TRANSFERRING \$5K FROM MEDIA RELATIONS TO OUTREACH.

THERE WAS NO OBJECTION.

The effect of the motion was to reduce Media Relations from \$6k to \$1k and increasing Outreach from \$0k to \$5k.

Earlier, Lee Wrights had asked "from January until now, did the treasurer provide monthly financial statements to the chair that the board has not been privy to? The answer was no. Aaron went on to say he was happy to provide financials within a range from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of each month. There was a delay in 2009 at the beginning of the year waiting for audit results, and in the early months the compensation number looked wrong.

Aaron asked the body if his page on compensation and administrative details was useful. The body agreed it was.

AARON STARR MOVED TO ADD TO THE POLICY MANUAL ITEM 5 IN A3, S3:

ARTICLE III, SECTION 3: Position Description of National Treasurer

A. RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

. . .

5. TO PREPARE A QUARTERLY TREASURER'S REPORT TO BE MAILED TO ALL DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED THE LAST REGULAR CONVENTION AND TO ANY SUSTAINING MEMBER REQUESTING SUCH.

DAN KARLAN MOVED TO AMEND BY INSERTING THE WORDS 'WHO ARE SUSTAINING MEMBERS' AFTER THE WORD 'DELEGATES' IN ITEM 5.

LATER, DAN KARLAN OFFERED A SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT

REPLACING THE WORDS 'ALL DELEGATES' IN ITEM 5 TO "TO ANY SUSTAINING MEMBER WHO EITHER A) WAS A REGISTERED DELEGATE AT THE MOST RECENT REGULAR CONVENTION OR B) REQUESTS SUCH REPORTS".

There was no objection to the substitution, and the main motion, Item 5, BECAME:

TO PREPARE A QUARTERLY TREASURER'S REPORT TO BE MAILED TO ANY SUSTAINING MEMBER WHO EITHER A) WAS A REGISTERED DELEGATE AT THE MOST RECENT REGULAR CONVENTION OR B) REQUESTS SUCH REPORTS.

THE MOTION PASSED 12-4.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

AARON STARR, STEWART FLOOD, JULIE FOX, ROB LATHAM, DR. JAMES LARK, DR. MARY RUWART, LEE WRIGHTS, DAN KARLAN, ADMIRAL COLLEY, RACHEL HAWKRIDGE, ALICIA MATTSON, MARK HINKLE

OPPOSED:

MICHAEL JINGOZIAN, REBECCA SINK-BURRIS, PAT DIXON, BOB SULLENTRUP

The LNC entered executive session to discuss executive director compensation.

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Sullentrup noted the mail ballots introduced since the Charleston meeting included:

- Sent 3/6/2009. *Be it resolved that the LNC hereby appoints Mark Rutherford as general counsel.* The Chair introduced the ballot and thus did not require co-sponsors. Fails 8-8, 1 abstention.
  - Voting in favor: Pat Dixon, Lee Wrights, Mary Ruwart, Tony Ryan, Mark Hinkle, James Lark, Julie Fox, Rachel Hawkridge
  - Opposed: Michael Jingozian, Bob Sullentrup, Aaron Starr, Michael Colley, Alicia Mattson, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Stewart Flood, Dan Karlan
  - o Abstaining: Bill Redpath
- Sent 3/6/2009. *Be it resolved that the LNC hereby appoints Gary Sinawski as general counsel.* The Chair introduced the ballot and thus did not require co-sponsors. Passed 9-6, 2 abstentions.

- Voting in favor: Michael Jingozian, Bob Sullentrup, Aaron Starr, Michael Colley, Pat Dixon, Alicia Mattson, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Stewart Flood, Dan Karlan
- Opposed: Lee Wrights, Mary Ruwart, Tony Ryan, James Lark, Julie Fox, Rachel Hawkridge
- Abstaining: Bill Redpath, Mark Hinkle
- Sent 3/21/2009. The Charleston minutes are approved. Co-sponsors: Rachel Hawkridge, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Bob Sullentrup, Dan Karlan. Passed 13-1, 3 abstentions.
  - Voting in favor: Michael Jingozian, Bob Sullentrup, Aaron Starr, Michael Colley, Pat Dixon, Alicia Mattson, Tony Ryan, Mark Hinkle, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Stewart Flood, Dan Karlan, James Lark, Rachel Hawkridge,
  - o Opposed: Julie Fox
  - o Abstaining: Bill Redpath, Mary Ruwart, Lee Wrights
- Sent 4/16/2009. Because the Libertarian National Committee has passed no vote to remove Lee Wrights from his position as an At-Large Representative, he remains an At-Large Representative, his name shall be reinstated to the Libertarian Party Leadership webpage, and his e-mail access to the Libertarian National Committee discussion list be restored. Co-sponsors: Mary Ruwart, Rachel Hawkridge, Tony Ryan, Julie Fox. The Chair ruled this motion out of order. It failed to gain quorum participation 5-1, 11 abstentions.
  - Voting in favor: Mary Ruwart, Rachel Hawkridge, Julie Fox, Tony Ryan, Lee Wrights<sup>3</sup>
  - o Opposed: James Lark
  - Abstaining: Bill Redpath, Michael Jingozian, Bob Sullentrup, Aaron Starr, Michael Colley, Pat Dixon, Alicia Mattson, Mark Hinkle, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Dan Karlan, Stewart Flood
- Sent 4/18/2009. Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained, ruling out of order the following motion: Because the Libertarian National Committee has passed no vote to remove Lee Wrights from his position as an At-Large Representative, he remains an At-Large Representative, his name shall be reinstated to the Libertarian Party Leadership webpage, and his e-mail access to the Libertarian National Committee discussion list be restored. Co-Sponsors: Mary Ruwart, Rachel Hawkridge, Mark Hinkle, Julie Fox. Passes 10-6, 1 abstention.
  - Voting in favor: Michael Jingozian, Bob Sullentrup, Aaron Starr, Michael Colley, Pat Dixon, Alicia Mattson, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Dan Karlan, Stewart Flood, James Lark

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Lee Wrights' sustaining membership lapsed on April 8, 2009 and was judged to be ineligible to continue serving on the LNC. This action was later reversed by the Judicial Committee. Accordingly, the votes of Lee Wrights on these matters are included in the lists above.

- Opposed: Mary Ruwart, Rachel Hawkridge, Julie Fox, Tony Ryan, Mark Hinkle, Lee Wrights<sup>4</sup>
- o Abstaining: Bill Redpath
- Sent 4/18/2009. R. Lee Wrights is appointed to serve as an at-large member of the Libertarian National Committee. Co-Sponsors: Tony Ryan, Michael Jingozian, Rachel Hawkridge, Bob Sullentrup. Passed 13-0, 4 abstentions.
  - Voting in favor: Bill Redpath, Michael Jingozian, Bob Sullentrup, Michael Colley, Pat Dixon, Mary Ruwart, Tony Ryan, Mark Hinkle, Stewart Flood, James Lark, Rachel Hawkridge, Julie Fox, Lee Wrights<sup>5</sup>
  - Opposed: none
  - o Abstaining: Aaron Starr, Alicia Mattson, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Dan Karlan

Rachel Hawkridge floated a mail ballot on July 11 to compel staff to bring financial records to the St. Louis LNC meeting, and attracted two additional co-sponsors. These records had already been certified by auditors. A fourth co-sponsor was required for launch. Balloting would have ended July 26<sup>th</sup> or later, making the edict apply to an event that would have by that time passed and its effect to have been moot.

Bob also noted he is producing the 1059 platform plank ballot packets for the 2010 St. Louis convention. All ballots have been printed. All envelopes have been printed. 991 packets have been produced – this involves separating the ballots and stuffing the envelopes <sup>6</sup>.

As a member of the Convention Oversight Committee appointed by Admiral Colley to secure speakers, Bob reported we have the following speakers arranged for 2010:

- David Nolan
- Gary Nolan
- Dr. Mary Ruwart
- Bob Barr
- Jeff Davis
- Neal Boortz
- Dr. James Lark will speak at the Torch Club breakfast
- Incoming chair

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> ibid.

ibiu.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Dan Karlan, on July 18 at the residence of Bob Sullentrup, after enjoying a Missouri specialty of barbecued pork steaks, helped finish separating, collating and stuffing the remaining 68 ballots.

Bob also prepared a preliminary convention schedule for Admiral Colley.

Thanked the St. Louis County LP and Missouri LP for providing continental breakfasts to the LNC at the meetings.

# STAFF REPORTS

Robert Kraus, Donny Ferguson and Wes Benedict addressed the body fielding questions.

#### Of note:

- Wayne Allyn Root's book is coming out this week
- Wayne Allyn Root's media appearances always generate spikes of interest and phone calls to the national office
- Michael Jingozian's book is coming out shortly
- Wes Benedict, the new Executive Directory, pledged to focus on fundraising and ballot access and expects to be happily overworked in the days and months to come
- EFTS from checking accounts is a lot cheaper than credit card contributions
- Affiliates should let Donny Ferguson know of elected Libertarians; in addition, LP News should feature an interview of at least one elected Libertarian each issue.

# GARY SINAWSKI COUNSEL'S REPORT

The chair noted the group will entertain a conference call with counsel at 2pm, and declared this item covered for the time being.

# CAMPUS ORGANIZING AND REGIONAL REPORTS

Dr. Lark began with expressing a debt of gratitude to Austin Petersen who will be leaving in August to accept another position.

LATER IN THE DAY DR. LARK INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

THE MEMBERS OF THE LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OFFER OUR APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO AUSTIN PETERSEN, NATIONAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, FOR HIS FIND WORK ON BEHALF OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY, AND WE OFFER OUR BEST WISHES TO HIM IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

THIS MOTION PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION SUNDAY MORNING.

Dr. Lark also noted that the organization Students for Liberty (SFL) is doing a great job, and that he is a member of the Board of Advisors of SFL. Some people may have looked at the LP budget and noted that the amount budgeted for campus outreach is \$0.00. This is because Dr. Lark pays for campus organizing expenses out of his own pocket, and that the actual amount spent on campus organizing is actually several thousand dollars.

Lee Wrights saluted Dr. Lark for his leadership in areas that are adjunct to his service on the LNC.

# **REGION REPORTS**

Several regional reports are provided to the LNC in the binder.

Of note is Oklahoma, a state currently orphaned by established LNC regions, which may soon be under the wing of Region 4. Since the interval for region formation has passed, OK would not be a member of Region 4, but served by them.

# EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH LNC COUNSEL GARY SINAWSKI

The LNC entered executive session to hold a telephone discussion with LNC counsel Gary Sinawski.

# EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH FEC CONSULTANT PAULA EDWARDS

The LNC entered executive session to hold a telephone discussion FEC consultant Paula Edwards.

# CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

Stewart Flood introduced a non-disclosure agreement.

This item, held over from Charleston.

# CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE SELECTION

16

Candidates nominated for the Credentials Committee, with resulting first-ballot votes, included:

Barry Albin	
Mark Bodenhausen	11
Tad Britch	2
Jeff Dimit	12
Beth Duensing	5
Steve Galpin	1
Michael Houze	11
Scott Lieberman	11
Cristiana Mayer	11

**Cory Nott** 

**Emily Salvette** 

Janine Steck

1

On the first ballot, Emily Salvette and Jeff Dimit were elected with 16 and 12 votes respectively.

There was a four-way tie for third place. Mark Bodenhausen, Michael Houze, Scott Lieberman and Cristiana Mayer tied.

On a subsequent ballot, Mark Bodenhausen was selected with 12 votes, along with Scott Lieberman and Cristiana Mayer with 10. Michael Houze stands as an alternate with 8 votes.

Jeff Dimit, Christiana Mayer and Mark Bodenhausen were considered as interim chair. With 10 votes (show of hands), Jeff Dimit was selected as interim chair.

#### **APRC**

MARY RUWART MOVED:

THE LNC DIRECTS THE APRC, WITH THE INPUT OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TO REWORK ARTICLE 6, SECTION 3, PART F OF THE POLICY MANUAL BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING.

SEVERAL AMENDMENTS ENTERTAINED WITHOUT OBJECTION (WHILE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE BALLOTS WERE BEING TABULATED) PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

THE LNC DIRECTS THE APRC, WITH THE INPUT OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TO REWRITE ARTICLE 6, SECTION 3, PART F OF THE POLICY MANUAL BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING FOR BOARD APPROVAL.

THE MOTION PASSED 9-8.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

MICHAEL JINGOZIAN, STEWART FLOOD, JULIE FOX, ROB LATHAM, MARY RUWART, LEE WRIGHTS, RACHEL HAWKRIDGE, MARK HINKLE, BILL REDPATH

OPPOSED:

AARON STARR, DR. JIM LARK, DAN KARLAN, ADMIRAL COLLEY, PAT DIXON, REBECCA SINK-BURRIS, ALICIA MATTSON, BOB SULLENTRUP

THE CHAIR'S VOTE BROKE THE TIE.

# MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS

Mary Ruwart presented the results of her membership analysis. The bottom line is that we are gaining more new members than our budget projects, but our renewals are only 65% of projections.

Dr. Ruwart also calculated our projected monetary returns on our January 15<sup>th</sup> direct mail piece. Her analysis indicated that we will not recover the loss we sustained on this mailing even after 14 years. Some members of the Committee challenged her assumptions and calculations.

There was no action item associated with the presentation. Dr. Ruwart's purpose was to alert the committee of issues regarding 2010 budgeting.

# FINANCIAL RECORDS CONFIDENTIALITY

MARY RUWART MOVED "EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY LAW, ALL DONOR RECORDS WILL BE TREATED AS PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL".

Dr. Lark moved to postpone the matter until Sunday morning to give board members a chance to digest it. The proposal failed 6-many, with no accurate count of opponents, it being close to the end of the day.

ALICIA MATTSON MOVED TO CREATE A 5-MEMBER COMMITTEE NAMED BY THE CHAIR TO STUDY THE ISSUE AND BRING IT BEFORE TO THE BODY BY DECEMBER (EITHER BY MAIL BALLOT OR AT THE DECEMBER MEETING).

Mary Ruwart moved to amend, having the chair appoint a 3-member rather than a 5-member committee.

THE VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT FAILED.

THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO COMMITTING THIS ISSUE TO THE 5-MEMBER TO BE NAMED BY THE CHAIR WITHIN A WEEK.

# LOOKING AHEAD TO SUNDAY

Lee Wrights asked the board to abut the audit report agenda item with the FEC reporting item to consolidate executive sessions. There was no objection.

Dr. Lark thanked the gallery and the video team for their efforts and attention on Saturday.

# Sunday AM

Chairman Bill Redpath gaveled the Sunday session to order on time at 8:30 am.

Austin Petersen resolution penned by Dr. Lark (above) passed.

# STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

AARON STARR MOVED TO DELETE THE STRATEGIES ON THE 2001 STRATEGIC PLAN ONE AT A TIME. THIS INCLUDES A TWENTY-FIRST STRATEGY ITEM ADDED IN CHARLOTTE, NC.

Dr. Lark noted the Policy Manual, page 23, directs the LNC to review the strategic plan.

DAN KARLAN MOVED TO SUBSTITUTE BY REMOVING ARTICLE 4 SECTION 4 IN ITS ENTIRETY:

THE LNC SHALL REVIEW THE STRATEGIC PLAN ANNUALLY, TO SET METRICS AND MONITORS FOR FUTURE YEARS, AND AMEND, AS NEEDED, THOSE PARTS OF THE PLAN THAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LNC OR STAFF.

- A. AMENDMENTS TO THE GOALS OR STRATEGIES IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN MAY BE MADE BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE LNC.
- B. AMENDMENTS TO TACTICS, METRICS AND MONITORS MAY BE MADE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY AT A SINGLE MEETING.
- C. WITHIN THE STRATEGIC PLAN DOCUMENT, AN APPENDIX SHALL MAINTAIN A RECORD OF WHEN ALL SUCH CHANGES WERE MADE.
- D. A STRATEGY CAN BE DELETED BY A ONE-THIRD VOTE OF THE LNC

THE SUBSTITUTION PASSED 12-4.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

MICHAEL JINGOZIAN, JULIE FOX, ROB LATHAM, MARY RUWART, JIM LARK, LEE WRIGHTS, DAN KARLAN, ADMIRAL COLLEY, PAT DIXON, RACHEL HAWKRIDGE, REBECCA SINK-BURRIS, MARK HINKLE

OPPOSED:

AARON STARR, STEWART FLOOD, ALICIA MATTSON, BOB SULLENTRUP

THE AMENDMENT BECAME THE MAIN MOTION. THERE WAS NO OBJECTION.

LEE WRIGHTS THEN MOVED TO FORM A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF DR. LARK, DR. RUWART, DAN KARLAN, WES BENEDICT AND MICHAEL JINGOZIAN TO REVIEW THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND REPORT AT DECEMBER MEETING.

THIS MOTION FAILED 5-10-1

VOTING IN FAVOR:

MICHAEL JINGOZIAN, MARY RUWART, LEE WRIGHTS, DAN KARLAN, RACHEL HAWKRIDGE

OPPOSED:

AARON STARR, STEWART FLOOD, ROB LATHAM, JIM LARK, ADMIRAL COLLEY, PAT DIXON, REBECCA SINK-BURRIS, MARK HINKLE, ALICIA MATTSON, BOB SULLENTRUP

JULIE FOX ABSTAINED.

# LNC CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Admiral Colley discussed items surrounding the 2010 Convention in St. Louis. Highlights include:

- Admiral Colley declared the hotel, which the entire LNC had the opportunity to see, was quite suitable
- He intends to conduct another awards program at the convention
- An area for improvement regards signage from the parking lot to the hotel registration desk.
- Bob Sullentrup has arranged for convention speakers and produced a preliminary 2010 convention schedule.

The Admiral interviewed three groups on Friday who would act as hired convention organizers. Items remain to be worked by the convention organizer include vendors, bags, books, convention materials, advertising, signage, website, registration, A/V, ribbons and so on.

LNC Convention Oversight committee members include the Admiral as chair, Bob Sullentrup, Pat Dixon, Rachel Hawkridge, and Stewart Flood. The committee is addressing pricing and other matters.

For 2012 Admiral Colley mentioned possible sites including Charlotte, Nashville, DC, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh. Admiral Colley drove to St. Louis and will travel on to Cincinnati before returning home to inspect facilities in that town.

# CHANGE OF AGENDA

At this point the body decided to change the agenda to move executive session items last, allowing the gallery to stay for public items.

# DISCIPLINE - OR NOT - OF STEVE LaBIANCA

Dan Karlan noted on May 1, Steve LaBianca in an e-mail declined to comply with Policy Manual items that indicated members will certify they have reviewed and will abide by sexual harassment guidelines. Mr. LaBianca refused to comply and challenged the LNC to make him into an example.

Dan introduced the following motion:

# **RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION**

WHEREAS, THE POLICY MANUAL ARTICLE I: GENERAL POLICY, SECTION 8: HARASSMENT AND OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOR PROHIBITION, STATES (PAGE I O), "TOWARD ENSURING THAT ALL LNC MEMBERS ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR NOT ONLY WITH THIS POLICY BUT ALSO THE RAMIFICATIONS OF IT, THEY MUST PARTICIPATE IN A STANDARD PROGRAM OF EXPOSURE TO THE ISSUES RAISED BY THESE CONCERNS. ... VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THE PERPETRATOR INCLUDING REMOVAL FROM THE LNC"; AND

WHEREAS, FAILURE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE LNC EXPOSES THE LNC AND THE LP TO SUBSTANTIAL AND CATASTROPHIC RISK IN THIS LITIGIOUS SOCIAL CLIMATE; AND

WHEREAS, REGIONAL ALTERNATE STEVE LABIANCA, IN A GENERAL DISCLOSURE TO THE LNC DATED MAY I, 2009, DECLARED THAT HE "REFUSE[D] TO READ AND/OR ACKNOWLEDGE READING THE ALLEGEDLY REQUIRED SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY OF THE LP AND/OR LNC"; AND

WHEREAS, SAID REGIONAL ALTERNATE FURTHER STATED, "I AM READY TO BE MADE AN EXAMPLE OF, I AM READY TO BE 'DISCIPLINED'"; AND

WHEREAS, IT APPEARS THAT MR. LABIANCA'S CHALLENGE TO US IS SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AS TO ABSOLVE THE LNC FROM ANY LEGAL EXPOSURE FOR HIS REBELLIOUSNESS; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT REGIONAL ALTERNATE STEVE LABIANCA IS HEREBY COMMENDED FOR HIS WILLINGNESS TO TAKE THE HEAT FOR HIS PERSONAL AND PRINCIPLED OBJECTION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LNC POLICY MANUAL.

After some discussion, Dan withdrew the motion with no objection from the body.

# BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Dan Karlan noted the Bylaws Committee has been busy crafting Bylaws proposals. In addition, the website has garnered over 1000 respondents. The comments have been useful and led to changes to rectify weaknesses. While the site is currently down, it will be back online soon through August 31.

# POLICY MANUAL OVERHAUL

Dan also presented the work product of a committee that has overhauled the LNC's Policy Manual. The committee went over the current Policy Manual with a fine-toothed comb and did the following

- Reorganized the sections into
  - o Special rules of order
  - Standing rules
  - Enduring staff orders
  - Enduring executive orders
- Identified and consolidated redundancies
- Identified and resolved contradictions
- Identified and eliminated dependencies, such as those rendered unnecessary having been covered by Robert's Rules
- Moved items eliminated to an adjunct document of exclusions

Dan invited the body to study the new Policy Manual, with the expectation the adoption of the work product will be put to a vote by mail ballot or in the December LNC meeting.

Lee Wrights praised Dan Karlan for presenting such an amazingly well organized document. It was obvious to all that a large amount of work had been invested in this project. Aaron Starr, on the subcommittee that overhauled the document, praised Dan for his leadership.

# POLICY MANUAL AMENDMENT

Dan Karlan noted that LNC motions frequently are crafted on the fly can be flawed. Moreover, they can be difficult to 'repair', and the memory of what was moved is often inadequate to support action based on the motion so flawed.

His solution was to require all motions to be pre-written to 'get out the bugs' as early as possible, and encourage the members to give more serious consideration to the precise wording of such motions.

DAN PROPOSED: ADD THE FOLLOWING AS ARTICLE I: GENERAL POLICY, SECTION 2: MEETINGS. SUB-SECTION F: MOTION PROTOCOL (PAGE 5. AFTER E: AGENDA):

"Main motions must be submitted in writing to the Chair before being moved."

IN THE PROPOSED OVERHAULED POLICY MANUAL, THIS SHOULD BE LOCATED IN ARTICLE I, SECTION I .O2: MEETINGS, AS NEW SUB-SECTION (5): MOTION PROTOCOL. AND THE FOLLOWING ENDNOTE MUST ACCOMPANY THE TEXT:

"SEE RONR, PAGE 32: "A RESOLUTION OR LONG OR COMPLICATED MOTION SHOULD BE PREPARED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE, AND SHOULD BE PUT INTO WRITING BEFORE IT IS OFFERED."

THE MOTION PASSED | 2-2-2

VOTING IN FAVOR:

MICHAEL JINGOZIAN, AARON STARR, STEWART FLOOD, JULIE FOX, ROB LATHAM, DR. LARK, LEE WRIGHTS, DAN KARLAN, ADMIRAL COLLEY, ALICIA MATTSON, MARK HINKLE, BOB SULLENTRUP

#### OPPOSED:

PAT DIXON, RACHEL HAWKRIDGE

ABSTAINING WERE REBECCA SINK-BURRIS AND MARY RUWART.

# NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

Stewart Flood led the follow-up discussion on the NDA. Wes Benedict noted some questions he had with the document. The next step in t he process will be for Wes to broach those questions with counsel. No motion or action was intended at this time.

# **BALLOT ACCESS REPORT**

Bill Redpath noted there are several states we can get started petitioning including North Dakota, Alabama, Arkansas, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Alaska, Nebraska, South Dakota.

In West Virginia a measure passed in the legislature by two votes that reduces signature gathering requirements from 15k to 7.5k, and reestablishes ballot access with a 1% vote for governor in 2012 and later years.

Bill will meet with the Constitution Party Chair in Harrisburg (at a minor league baseball game) discussing ways to collaborate on gaining ballot access in Oklahoma. Bill used his LNC discretionary sum, \$1k / quarter, as well as his personal funds to sustain the Oklahoma OBAR lobbyist.

Alabama will be tough, requiring 30k signatures.

Arkansas requires 10k signatures. A 3% gubernatorial vote would eliminate this requirement.

In New Hampshire a 4% vote for governor or senator would secure ballot access.

In New Mexico, 4061 signatures are needed for 2010 and 2012.

#### REPORT ON LNC MEETING SITE SELECTION PROCESS FOR 12-2009

The next meeting site has not been determined. Possibilities include Cincinnati, Philadelphia and DC.

Bob Sullentrup suggested Omaha as an LNC site, for precisely the reason that the suggestion was derided (e.g. Nebraska always has been my favorite vacation destination – not). Omaha is a charming, growing, centrally located, relatively inexpensive destination.

The site will be selected within the next two weeks.

# OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Brendan Kelly (whose pen name is Justin Case Yucare and who distributed copies of his book *Ya, I'm Talking to YOU!*) noted the LNC is not an activist organization and entertains a good deal of infighting, all the while ignoring external opportunities such as Tea Parties and Restore our Right rallies.

Gene Hawkridge noted he was pleased the LP promotes and recognizes its elected officials, and recommended the Party do more of that.

Tom Knapp thanked the LNC for coming to St. Louis and for selecting it as its convention site.

George Phillies noted his Freedom Ballot Access organization secured 1000 West Virginia signatures. He noted current LP trends indicate membership will dip to 13k by year end and 9k by the next presidential election.

Dave Brady noted that Tea Parties were started in the LP of Illinois in December 2008 but were usurped by Republicans. In addition, the 'End the Fed' movement started in the LP.

Dr. Lark thanked St. Louis as well as the LP members who traveled to the meeting from all over the country for their interest and their participation<sup>7</sup>.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

M Carling pointed out the last paragraph of the auditor's report

In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. as of December 31, 2008, and change in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The LNC entered executive session for the purpose of addressing regulatory and compliance matters.

# ADJOURNMENT

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> If the two LP chairs, Messers Lark and Redpath, failed to have a good time in St. Louis, it was their own fault. They had tickets to the Redbird Club on Friday evening provided by a St. Louis Libertarian, on a night when player-of-the-decade Albert Pujols crashed two home runs en route to a 6-1 Cardinals victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks. Temperatures ranged from 15 to 25 degrees cooler than typical for July in the Gateway City. Dr. Lark was reported to have enjoyed a monstrous bratwurst, brimming with sauerkraut and replete with pickles, beaming ear to ear with beer in hand as he settled into his premier vantage point between home and first.

The LNC adjourned at 1:00pm.

# **NEXT MEETINGS**

The LNC will meet on the following dates:

December 5-6 TBD

February 27-28 Austin (LSLA joint meeting)

May 28 St. Louis

The financial statements normally found here in the minutes will now be distributed quarterly to sustaining members who request them or who were delegates at the last convention.

# Operation's Director Report (Acting ED)

by Robert Kraus

"The Libertarian Party... can be the organizational structure that gives this movement an ideological home and a base from which to grow." - Freedom Fest report from Curtis Harris of www.defeatcongress.org

#### Overview

Since the last LNC meeting, LPHQ has continued its focus on what issues will resonate with our donors in 2009, and how we can help our affiliates grow.

Issues that appear to energize our donors besides the bail-outs and government takeovers of major industries and companies such as Government Motors include: Overspending, over-regulation, taxes and of course ObamaCare. We will continue to hammer away at these abuses in federal power and spending. Criticizing the new Obama administration and congress when appropriate while demanding transparency in how these funds are being spent.

Times are tough financially, yet people continue to give what they can and we must show our appreciation for even the smallest gift. Customer service is the key and Louise and Casey continue to be on the front lines and receive compliments from our donors for their outstanding work. Meanwhile, we continue to remind our members that there is much they can do that doesn't involve a financial contribution including:

- 1) Encouraging our members to send us their Libertarian related news and commentary, or to express an opinion on something we wrote, by sending us an email addressed to: editor@lp.org
- 2) Reminding them to get active and volunteer with our party at the local and state level and to join a Meetup Group in their area
- 3) Persuading them to write the editor of their local newspaper or call talk radio and tell them about something we wrote in our press releases or blogs
- 4) Finally, letting our members know that one of the best ways to become a hero to the Libertarian cause, have their voices heard, and get our message out, is simply to run for office

As I previously shared with you, this years \$17.76 Challenge produced the following:

\$8896 total received from 183 donors (including \$1776 from the challenge sponsor). This also resulted in 2 new \$1000 Life Members!

Here are some of the comments we received:

Five times \$17.76!! \$88.80 Michael C AL (Thanks MC)

Happy 4th of July everybody. Guess we need to celebrate our Independence and Freedom more then every. \$17.76 Michael K IL

Harry Browne said something very similar to this. It still fits today. Government doesn't work. It is too big. It spends too much. It taxes too much. It regulates too much. It has its nose in places that would make the founders of this country rolling over in their graves. \$17.76 William J IL

I was desperate to find a third party that speaks for my values. Now I have. Happy 4th! \$25.00 Deborah C OH

I want to be a part of a party that heeds the peoples will. A party that is truly based on upholding the constitution. A party that does not believe it is its job to be the care taker of all but will guard the framework that allows individuals to succeed (or fail) by their own initiative. As a result I have made this decision on the 4th of July to join the Libertarian party. \$25.00 Steven M AZ

I think the Libertarian Party represents the best and most effective way of promoting Jeffersonian policies. Happy Fourth of July, we will be reading the Declaration as the fireworks go off, and remember the principles this country was founded on, and how far we have to go to get back to those principles. \$25.00 William M TN

I have tried to be a loyal member of the Republican Party. I am disillusioned with their lack of backbone and am concerned with the state of our nation under this new administration. My hope and prayer is for our nation to once again become the country that abides by the Constitution of the United States. \$25.00 Robin B FL

I will run for ANY office, write software, or do whatever else in my power to help. \$1,000.00 Darryl H NC

It's not a lot. I don't have much. But I give what I can to stop the impending communism in the USA and support something I believe in. \$5.00 Jason B WI

Please, please keep on with the good fight. When I moved to this country, I fell in love with the American respect for freedom and the independent spirit. All of this is being destroyed. I love this country and don't want to see the things which are best about it vanish. \$17.76 Aaron B OK

POWER TO THE PEOPLE \$1,000.00 James W PA

Your message is necessary now more than ever. We are all headed for a California-like collapse if runaway government largesse is not brought under control. Make relentless, reasoned arguments. We're counting on you. \$25.00 David T NJ

Additionally, staff is looking forward to having Wes Benedict in the office as our new ED and introducing him to DC! As always, please feel free to address any issues not

covered in the staff reports at the upcoming LNC meeting and we will do our best to address your questions or answer any concerns.

# **Staff Update**

Our staff levels remain at appropriate levels and includes a larger than usual assemble of unpaid professional summer interns thanks to Austin's hard work recruiting and keeping our interns active and busy.

Austin Peterson will be leaving us to take on New Media for Cato effective Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. He has already implemented a transition plan and has started training both Casey and Donny to take over his area of responsibilities. Most of the political tasks Donny will take on since this is one of his areas of expertise. Casey will be tackling the volunteer, intern and affiliate management tasks (some of which he is already assisting on).

Below are our current staffers and summary of their current job responsibilities/overview of what they do on a weekly/daily basis – the duties Casey and Donny will be taking on from Austin are in parentheses):

- ❖ Robert Kraus, Acting ED / Operations Director:
  - Fiscal Management (a/p, a/r, general bookkeeping in QuickBooks)
  - Working with Bill Redpath & Aaron Starr on financial issues
  - Maintaining compliance with government policies including FEC filing
  - Management of LP Staff (human resources including payroll and benefits administration)
  - Oversight of database management & cleanup (Raiser's Edge)
  - General purchasing and procurement
  - Customer service (internal and external communications with board members, affiliates, donors, etc.)
  - ➤ Working with the Chair, Donny Ferguson and others to get out a cohesive Libertarian message across to the public
  - Facilities and equipment planning and maintenance
  - > Preparation of financial and membership reports
  - Administrator of lp.org & hq.lp.org email and group list servers
  - Management of our higher donor direct solicitation endeavors (such as our telemarketing program with Bruce Cohen who recently replaced John Swallow)
  - Managing our ballot access lawsuits with Bill Redpath and getting them ready for the next phase of declaratory relief
  - Creating and overseeing various initiatives to establish a "cause célèbre" for our donors (such as Operation Elect-US to expand our political stature by increasing the number of elected Libertarians in office)
- Donny Ferguson, Communications Director:
  - Scan national media for topics for press releases, blog entries, and Email messages
  - Draft press releases, blogs, email / direct mail solicitations, email messages to members
  - Answer press inquiries and book media appearances for party officials
  - Answering email questions about the Party and its positions
  - Write content for Web site, when needed Design graphics for Web site, emails, blogs, advertisements and newsletters

- Develop content for monthly newsletter and newspaper layout and design monthly newsletter (and soon, perhaps, LP News)
- Administrate and monitor the LP's Facebook and MySpace accounts, adding content and updating information
- Function as the intermediary between the Party and the public
- Working with Bill Redpath, state parties and local activists to get ballot access reform bills introduced in state legislatures, and developing lobbying strategies for them
- > Essentially, responsible for any in-house communication with the outside world

# ❖ Louise Calise, Direct Marketing Manager

- Maintain accuracy of monthly giving program (donor calls and email changes; contact donors for updated information)
- Process monthly gifts for members of monthly giving program and evaluate transactions that do not go through to find out why including contacting the donor for updated information
- Oversee Member Service Specialists in the sorting incoming mail, updating membership information and caging of donations
- Re-checking of daily deposits and cash audits
- Work with vendors for house and acquisition appeals (copy, art, print, mailshop)
- > Editing and proofreading of written materials such as Pledge News or LP News
- Analyze results on all mail appeals and select segments from house file for each house mail appeal, and order lists for each acquisition appeal
- Data pulls from donor database for house mail appeal and for omission in acquisition appeal
- Data pulls for membership cards, acknowledgments and cultivation
- Oversee printing and mailing of membership cards; print and mail acknowledgments; search for creative ideas to cultivate high dollar and loyal donors
- Work with Aaron Starr on the Board Member Solicitation program

#### ❖ Austin Petersen, Volunteer Coordinator

- Respond to letters and email requests from volunteers (Casey)
- > Follow up with people who have expressed a desire to run for office, starting by introducing them to their state party Chair or their designee (Donny)
- Track candidates' activities and offer them one-on-one support for their campaigns (Donny)
- Research, and dissemination of what offices are available and how to file for them (Donny)
- Maintain and update the list of elected Libertarians and Candidates (Donny)
- Customer service to state and local affiliates (Casey)
- ➤ Edit LP.org website events, info, run for office and volunteer receipt lists (Casey)
- Network with other high level organizations, and politicians in DC to increase the stature and reputation of the party (Donny)
- ➤ Manage supply of work for 3-5 rotating interns (Casey)
- Research current affairs and provide creative material for advertisements to be posted (Casey)
- Provide education and training to the Libertarian community (Donny)
- Staff booths at LP events, direct recruitment of volunteers for affiliate events (Casey)
- Study opposition party tactics, emulate successes, learn from their failures (Donny)

- Susan Dixon, Member Services Specialist
  - > Process and cage all checks, credit cards and cash received via mail into RE
  - Photocopy checks before deposit
  - Process and cage all web transactions into RE
  - Process refunds and contribution returns
  - Update and maintain records in RE
  - Import new inquiry and volunteers from web and send prepare data for information packets
  - Prepare data for new memberships and renewals and print letters for membership cards
  - Prepare daily reports and do daily cash audits
  - Create new records for people who ask for information packets
  - Properly sort and file all source material to comply with FEC rules
- Casey Hansen, Member (and soon to be Affiliate) Services Manager
  - Answers and directs incoming phone calls
  - Accepts, opens and sorts mail/packages/couriers and supplies
  - Greets visitors
  - Produces and mails out LP Membership Cards
  - Produces and mails out LP Information Packets
  - Sorts and tags physical monetary contributions sent to the office (checks/money orders/cash)
  - > Deposits checks at PCN bank after Louise has verified deposit and cash audits
  - Updates member's address and contact information
  - Assists in general office upkeep, organization and maintaining office supplies
  - > Any other extra tasks as assigned by other LNC staff such as general filing, research, and responding to member correspondence
  - Primary assistant to Louise and Robert
- Mark Meranta (a GMU student), Affiliate Services & New Media Specialist
  - Produce, shoot, edit original videos for the LP. Continue creating infrastructure of permanent online web 2.0 material resources for training, education, inspiration, and recruitment
  - Work with state affiliates, and volunteers on event ideas, and creating opportunities for locals to be active

# **Operations**

Robert has been focused on preparation for the audit which occurred in May, reducing expenses and raising money.

# **Affiliates**

Austin and Donny have been in frequent contact with our affiliates. Data dumps continue to go out regularly.

We continue to see some major improvements on the information flow from states to LPHQ, especially from newer state chairs that appear to be more responsive in getting us data updates, events and news items. We encourage the regional reps to please continue to help us receive information from your states. Receiving news and event updates from our affiliates is an ongoing battle. Again, news worthy items (especially

when accompanied by high quality color photos) can be sent to <a href="mailto:news@lp.org">news@lp.org</a> while events simply can be sent to <a href="mailto:events@lp.org">events@lp.org</a>

# Finance and Fundraising

# **Phone-based Fundraising**

As mentioned last time, we are no longer doing any outside tele-prospecting, hoping to still replace this program with the Impact Movies from Anglevision. We did do as promised one profitable renewal round of telemarketing that did result in 271 renewed members. We are also trying robo call reminders for renewal purposes that have been averaging about 80 renewals a month for very little expense. We hope to repeat the renewal telemarketing campaign again in Sept. as well as a pledge drive to increase our monthly giving base.

# Finance

Accounts payable remained current from Mar-Jun and have been running from \$9,000-\$35,000 range which is still historically low for us. At the end of June we had \$28,100 in payables.

# **Membership**

The membership report for 06/30/09 is also attached.

# **Ballot Access Update**

Gary Sinawski report details current status of cases.

# **Addition Issues and Concerns**

A Board member has brought up a question concerning deliverability of our email blasts which we send through a service called Sparklist thru Lyris Tech (<a href="http://www.lyris.com/solutions/lyris-hq/email-delivery/">http://www.lyris.com/solutions/lyris-hq/email-delivery/</a>). We have tried several different companies over the 4 ½ years I've been with the LP and feel this service is giving us our best result (our service includes an email deliverability monitor and a black list monitor by IP). For example, here are the stats of our last email blast (Monday Message 07/13/09):

Total recipients: 63525

Successfully sent: 60431 (95.1%)

Soft bounces: 0 (0.0%)

Hard bounces: 1686 (2.7%)

Recipients remaining: 1407 (2.2%)

As you can see this email was delivered to 95% of the emails we sent this message to.

The top major ISP bouncers include: yahoo.com, aol.com, hotmail.com & bellsouth.net

None of these had greater than 1% bounce indicating we do not currently have any blacklisting issues with any major isp's (which is confirmed by the Blacklist Monitor).

Whenever someone reports a problem receiving our email blasts, we take a number of steps to correct the problem including:

- 1) Opening a service ticket to clear any holds on ips's with Sparklist
- 2) Clear any holds on the recipients individual email address in our email blast server
- 3) Report the block to Sparklist so they can work with the isp to resolve
- 4) Put a ticket in with the isp ourselves
- 5) Ask the recipient to ad <a href="mailto:info@lp.org">info@lp.org</a> to their address book

The board member was concerned that we were not getting messages to her isp, sbcglobal. We contacted both our provider (Lyris) and AT&T (owner of sbcglobal) and confirmed that our IP is not being blocked and that this may be a unique problem with the users email account.

We have a little over 2000 email addresses from sbcglobal (3.2% of our total email addresses are from this ISP) and I am only showing one bounced back (the board member's email address). We had 24 blocked by bellsouth.net which is a related company.

We have asked this board member to contact their own customer service since this appears to be a user level block (such as perhaps inadvertently tagging one of our emails as "spam").

Meanwhile, staff has asked for Stewart floods assistance in this matter since he previously owned an isp and has experience dealing with this type of issue.

# **Final Comment**

It has been my pleasure to serve as your acting ED for the last 14 months and I look forward to getting back to my role as Operations Manager. Wes will be replacing me on LNC Discuss effective Fri this week as well as on APRC list and the EC List. His new email is <a href="week-benedict@lp.org">wes.benedict@lp.org</a>

# **Communications Director Report**

Submitted by Donny Ferguson, Director of Communications

Libertarian National Committee Meeting

July 18 & 19, St. Louis, Missouri

"Consider a statement from the Libertarian Party, an unpopular-to-overlooked faction of American politics. But it can cobble together words of opposition that cling tightly to its principle and still fit comfortably in the political mainstream."

– The Kansas City Star, June 20, 2009

The Communications Director has been focused on shaping a broad-based Libertarian message on the issues voters care about, with the goal of building a larger Libertarian voter base and placing our candidates in an environment in which they can win.

That, for the most part, has been the LP's opposition to Barack Obama's proposed government takeover of health care, opposition to the Obama's proposed \$1.9 trillion "cap and trade" National Energy Tax and the LP's support of tax and regulatory relief measures that would provide real "stimulus" and create the jobs Americans need.

It also includes focused outreach to communities of well-organized and active voters with the proven power to consistently decide elections, such as gun owners and the emerging gay and lesbian vote (Despite the Prop 8 setback, powered by an unusual voter turnout, gays and lesbians are learning to organize and deliver large numbers of votes.)

Response to the overall media strategy has been nearly universally positive, with frequent e-mails from voters formerly independent or affiliated with other parties who wish to join the LP, and with media mentions complimenting the LP on its mainstream, more effective approach.

In order to consistently win three-way races, a party must capture something in the vicinity of at least 37 percent of the vote. Republicans historically do that on the strength the relatively large conservative vote, while Democrats historically do it by capturing independents.

The LP has a historic opening, as "conservatives" are no longer backing the Republican Party in the numbers they once did, and the "independents" who voted for Obama now find themselves in staunch opposition to his surprisingly (at least to them) liberal proposals. "Liberals" are the only voter bloc largely happy with their party right now, but we are working with the disaffected gay and lesbian community.

The Cato Institute, in a 2006 study, finds 13 to 20 percent of the electorate is "libertarian" (even larger according to some measures.) Given the fact the "libertarian" vote is either as large as or only slightly larger than the "liberal vote," we must not only convince "libertarian" voters the Libertarian Party is a viable, credible alternative but we must and add to it another 17 to 24 percent from the rest of the electorate.

Delivering a consistent message that the LP will take credible, practical action on the issues and values voters care about is how you build a larger voter base. Our principled and politically-effective media outreach is focused on doing just that.

#### MEDIA COVERAGE SINCE THE LAST LNC MEETING

# PRESS RELEASES FROM THE LNC

# Appendix B. Robert Kraus, HQ Staff Report, St. Louis, MO, July 18-19, 2009

\* With unemployment skyrocketing, Libertarians suggest real stimulus (7/9)

# JUNE

- \* Libertarians remind Obama of his "firm pledge" not to tax health care benefits (6/30)
- \* Libertarians reach out to gay, lesbian Democrats picketing DNC fundraiser (6/26)
- \* Libertarians urge "no" vote on \$1.9 trillion Waxman-Markey tax hike (6/23)
- \* Libertarians recommend Senate defeat Koh nomination (6/23)
- \* LNC Chairman statement in response to President Obama's AMA address (6/16)
- \* Libertarians say "cancel stimulus spending" (6/10)
- \* Libertarians condemn Obama's still-skyrocketing unemployment numbers (6/8)
- \* Libertarians urge Supreme Court to toss out Illinois gun bans (6/3)
- \* Statement on General Motors bankruptcy filing (6/1)

# MAY

- \* Libertarians blast Sotomayor pick (5/26)
- \* Libertarians: "Cap and tax" destroys jobs, punishes working families (5/20)
- \* Poll: Independents reject Obama, agree with Libertarian Party (5/11)
- \* Libertarians praise Maine, D.C. marriage bills, but urge better policy (5/6)

# APRIL

- \* Libertarians urge Obama to control border to stem "swine flu" (4/29)
- \* AP poll shows independents not sold on Obama (4/23)
- \* Libertarians: Obama health care rationing plan makes America sick (4/21)
- \* Libertarians call out Obama for fake gun stats (4/17)
- \* Libertarians urge Obama: Stop blaming America and start opening markets (4/16)
- \* Barr blasts deficits, urges "tea partiers" to stay involved (4/15)
- \* ADVISORY: Bob Barr will speak on "Tea Parties," anti-bailout backlash at 2:00 p.m. at Watergate HQ (4/15)
- \* Libertarian "Prosperity Plan" repeals income tax, ends corporate welfare (4/14)
- \* Libertarians applaud steps toward marriage equality (4/13)
- \* Libertarians back secret ballot voting rights in union elections (4/9)
- \* Libertarians cordially invite you to a Tea Party (4/8)

#### Appendix B. Robert Kraus, HQ Staff Report, St. Louis, MO, July 18-19, 2009

\* LNC Chair statement on FY10 budget passage (4/3)

#### MARCH

- \* Record number of voters back LP tax approach (3/30)
- \* Missouri legislators honor Libertarian (3/19)
- \* Libertarians ask, 'What is Obama ashamed of?' (3/11)
- \* Libertarian poll: What is Obama trying to distract us from? (3/4)
- \* Libertarians urge Obama to veto pork-ridden spending bill (3/3)

# **MEDIA INTERVIEWS** (Partial list, tally spreadsheet malformed)

- \* WTVN AM 610 Columbus, OH, The Bob Connors Show (DEF on earmark reform)
- \* WBT AM 1110 Charlotte, NC, The Pete Kaliner Show (Redpath on the GM takeover)
- \* KNZR AM 1560 Bakersfield, CA, The Ralph Bailey Show (DEF on Obama/Limbaugh, the Libertarian Party)
- \* WAVZ AM 1300 New Haven, CT, The Perfect Trigger (DEF on gun rights)
- \* WUSB FM 90.1 Long Island, NY (DEF on education reform)
- \* KNZR AM 1560 Bakersfield, CA, The Preston Nash Show (DEF on the LP)
- \* WBGZ AM 1570 Alton, IL (DEF on economic policy)
- \* WLIB New York, NY (Redpath on Sotomayor and the LP)
- \* KWRE St. Louis, MO (Redpath on the LP and multiple issues)

# SIGNIFICANT MEDIA MENTIONS (PARTIAL LIST)

- \* Glen Beck: "I'm more and more libertarian," The Miami Herald (3/3)
- \* White House: Focus on Limbaugh was 'counterproductive,' *The Washington Times* (3/4) [*Reports on LP's criticism of White House using Limbaugh as distraction*]
- \* Libertarians like protests, too, Cincinnati City Beat (4/8)
- \* Tea parties planned around Gwinnett, Gwinnett Daily Post (4/12) [Metro Atlanta]
- \* Obama 'bitterly clinging' to his fake gun numbers, The Las Vegas Review-Journal, Vin Suprynowicz (5/10)
- \* Americans mixed on Obama's big government gamble, *The Portland Oregonian*, Elizabeth Hove (5/11) [*The Oregonian is the largest newspaper in the American Northwest.*]
- \* In health debate, words are weighty, *The Kansas City Star* (6/20)
- \* "Why Libertarians Are Courting Gays and Lesbians," KPBS, San Diego, CA (7/1) [13 minutes on the LNC press release on the DNC fundraiser and DOMA, with Jesse Thomas, Chairman, Libertarian Party, San Diego County]

### Appendix B. Robert Kraus, HQ Staff Report, St. Louis, MO, July 18-19, 2009

The Communications Director, with previous experience as a professional agency copywriter and as Chief of Staff to a grassroots political organization with a larger budget, membership and direct mail program than the LNC, works with the Direct Marketing Manager and Executive Director on fundraising. No national grassroots political organization can be successful without a strong direct mail fundraising and prospecting program. Activities includes, but are not limited to:

- Scheduling e-mail fundraising appeals
- Scheduling direct mail house and prospect fundraising packages
- Writing copy for e-mail fundraising appeals
- Writing copy for direct mail house and prospect fundraising packages
- Selecting issues and packages with a track record of successfully raising funds
- Staying in contact with colleagues at direct mail firms, fundraising agencies, campaign consulting firms and major parties to find out which issues, techniques and appeals are currently working

With nearly 15 years of experience with major party Congressional, Texas-wide and state legislative and other races, the Communications Director is also working with the Director of Outreach and Executive Director on campaign support operations. That includes, but is not limited to:

- Assisting states with candidate recruitment
- Conducting independent candidate recruitment drives
- Researching and drafting candidate training materials
- Monitoring polling and voter trends to find mainstream issues that work
- Fielding calls from candidates and providing free advice
- Researching and drafting candidate support programs to run from LPHQ. A short proposal on three is attached to this report.

# PROPOSED VOTER ID AND MOBILIZATION and VOTER MAIL PROGRAMS

The only thing worse than a Libertarian losing an election with 1% of the vote is when a Libertarians loses because he or she only got 49.9%. Strong Election Day GOTV, absentee balloting, 96 hour and voter mail programs turn what would have been narrow, disheartening losses into victories.

Conducting successful voter identification and mobilization, or successful voter mail, programs begin with collecting as much data as possible on our candidates, their districts and their races.

Since there is no such thing as a "typical" campaign, below is simply a rough outline of successful campaign support plans that can be run by a political party. Detailed information and full draft plans, tailored for specific candidates, can by provided by Donny Ferguson.

- 1) Libertarian candidates will be sent a questionnaire from HQ asking for information on their campaigns that will be used to determine which get LPHQ assistance. A candidate with no chance of winning, or running a poor campaign, will not be assisted. The Political Director (PD) will ask for information such as:
  - Past turnout for this race
  - Number of precincts and polling locations
  - Previous campaign spending on this race by all candidates
  - Past results on this race
  - Current registration trends
  - Current issues
  - Candidate qualifications and experience for holding this office
  - Qualifications and experience of other candidates
  - What has opposition research/private investigation on the opposition found
  - What has opposition research/private investigation on *yourself* found
  - Is there something the candidate has done in the past we should know about (the candidate may then make a private and confidential phone call.)
  - Partisan makeup of the district
  - Information on other candidates in the race
  - What other races/issues are on the ballot
  - What is the candidate's ballot position
  - What issues is the candidate running on
  - What issues is the candidate hitting the opposition on
  - How much money has the candidate raised
  - How many volunteers does the candidate have
  - Is the candidate making phone calls every evening to potential donors
  - Is the candidate spending every weekend and every weekday afternoon knocking on the doors of registered, active, potentially-supportive voters to ask for their vote
  - How is the candidate identifying which voters are likely to turn out
  - How is the candidate making contacts with those voters
  - How many contacts/name IDs will the average voter see by election day
  - What is the campaign budget
  - What is the campaign calendar (not the public "Upcoming Events," but the daily action plan starting with election day and working backwards.)
  - Does the candidate have a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) plan
  - Does the candidate have an early/absentee vote application plan
  - Does the candidate have an early/absentee vote chase plan
  - Does the candidate have push card staff scheduled for each Election Day polling location to pick up down-ballot undecideds
  - Does the candidate have runners scheduled to coordinate Election Day GOTV and poll manning
  - Does the candidate have pollwatchers at each location to check the voter turnout rolls against lists of campaign commitments, and work with runners to get out remaining votes

- 2) Based on this information, the PD will identify races in which the Libertarian has a reasonable chance of winning, and in which the votes generated by a canvassing plan, GOTV phone bank or voter mail project would be the difference between a narrow loss and electing another Libertarian officeholder.
- 3) The PD will also determine which would be most effective, generally based on which of the three the candidate is doing the least of. (For example, if a candidate is going door-to-door each evening and weekend and has volunteers calling identified supporters to remind them to vote on the specific date and time and at the specific location, there is no need to take up a canvassing or GOTV plan. The PD will proceed with a voter mail plan.)
- 4) The PD will also work with state and local election officials to determine reporting, disclosure, disclaimer and other legal requirements and restrictions.
- 5) The PD will then proceed as follows:

# GENERAL OUTLINE OF A CANVASSING PLAN

# Details can be provided in a non-public document

- The PD will secure a full, current voter registration list for the district, with voter addresses, precincts, party registration (where party registration exists) and past election history.
- The PD will calculate Potential Libertarian Voting Strength for each precinct based on registration trends and voting history, taking into account current candidates and messaging.
- The PD will run the usual selects to isolate active, independent and Libertarian voters. Inactive voters and Republican/Democrat voters will be weeded out (Except in the case of a two-way race, where voters of the opposing candidate's opposition party will be given priority.)
- The PD will rank the voting potential of every individual voter, using indicators and information found in programs such as the RNC's "Voter Vault" and the DNC's "Demzilla," taking into account the issues the Libertarian is running on. Top-tier voters will be flagged and prioritized.
- The PD will prepare canvassing walksheets to e-mail to campaign organizers.
- The PD will prepare a postcard notification program.
- The PD will assist the campaign in preparing a voter canvass program, as well a preparing a "96 hour" GOTV canvass operation.

# GENERAL OUTLINE OF AN EARLY VOTE/ABSENTEE/GOTV PLAN

#### Details can be provided in a non-public document

- LPHQ will schedule volunteers and interns to begin phone calling from HQ on the date when absentee ballot applications will be accepted.
- LPHQ will also secure a copy of the absentee/early ballot application forms and instructions and mail them to all contacts.
- Beginning with the start of applications for early/absentee ballots, LPHQ volunteers will telephone contacts and urge them to cast absentee ballots for (name of candidate.) LPHQ will press the contact to fill out the absentee form mailed to them, or either refer the contact to the local electoral board to get their application, give them an Internet link to access an online copy of the form or offer to e-mail a copy of the form. LPHQ will also urge voters who do not wish to vote absentee to vote early, and will be provided by the PD with a list of early voting locations for that district.
- The PD will contact the local electoral board to secure a daily update of voters who have requested absentee ballots or voted early and conduct a mail and telephone Chase Program.
- When early voting begins, the program will also ask voters who have not requested, or do not wish, absentee ballots to instead vote early. The PD will secure an accurate and current list of early voting locations.
- Once early and absentee voting has ended, volunteers will then switch to urging remaining contacts to vote in person on Election Day.
- LPHO should telephone every prospect at least twice a week until Election Day.

# GENERAL OUTLINE OF A VOTER MAIL PLAN

#### Details can be provided in a non-public document

- Based on polling data and major, mainstream issues at play in the race, the PD will determine which issue the LNC shall conduct an independent voter mail campaign on. (For example, if the Libertarian candidate is running in a district where the local oil refinery is the major employer, and the opponent is endorsed by The Sierra Club, the PD will attack the opponent on their opposition to energy jobs.)
- Based on polling data, how far back the Libertarian is and each candidate's strengths and weaknesses, the PD will also determine whether to promote the Libertarian or attack the opponent. Generally, negative mailings are far, far more effective with voters than positive ones.
- The PD will lay out draft versions of mailings and run them by the LNC counsel to determine if there are any legal issues (such as federal restrictions on naming candidates, and restrictions in states such as Montana with citations and party identification.)
- The PD will bid out printing and mailing. The PD shall also secure a full, current, voter registration list, cull inactive and partisan voters as well as voters who have already cast early or absentee ballots. Every uncommitted, active voting household should be on the list.
- The PD will "birddog" the mailshop to ensure the mailing is printed correctly and on time, postage is paid ahead of time and addresses are correct and inkjetted/lasered correctly.
- The PD will make sure the mailing drops at the post office on the Thursday or Friday before the election (preferably Friday,) so voters receive it in their mailboxes BEFORE Tuesday but not early enough to give the opponent a chance to respond in the media. A Monday hit is most effective, especially with negative mailings.
- The PD will ensure the mailing is properly red-tagged for prompt delivery, the mailing is ZIP segregated and all paperwork is in order.

These are simply rough descriptions. A detailed layout of sample GOTV, early voting and voter mail plans can be confidentially provided by Donny Ferguson, as well as information on calculating potential Libertarian voting strength and projected turnout for specific voting precincts.

The PD may prepare a slideshow/print presentation on these programs to be presented to major donors in personal visit solicitations to raise the necessary funds for these vital campaign programs.

The PD will prepare his own election calendar, starting with Election Day and working backwards, laying out specific daily activities that will be completed to ensure the success of questionnaire solicitation, securing voter lists and ballot forms, ordering printing and all other campaign activities.

The PD is also expected to make repeated phone calls to each candidate to ensure candidates who actually have a chance of winning are spending every day on the phone with donors and knocking on the doors of active, potentially-supportive voters.

### **Direct Marketing Manager's Report**

### By Louise Calise

#### Overview

In my last report I indicated that since national elections are over LPHQ needs to address different issues for our 2009 house solicitations. This is addressed below in house appeals.

I believe our house appeals are strong; but we do need to do prospecting and now is the time to do this. If we miss this opportunity it will take the LP a long time to recover.

In the interest of saving money, I investigated commingling our mail. So far in 2009 I have commingled our appeals (house, monthly pledge and renewals) and saved \$1,389.90 – not a lot of money but enough to pay for postage of another pledge and renewal appeal.

#### **House Appeals**

Previously I spoke about strategy in breaking down the house file deeper than what was previously done to analyze results and not waste mailing. In doing this I realized that most of the donors/members who give to us in one month do not give again in the very next month. Therefore, in the house appeals for May, June and July I did not mail to donors/members who gave within the prior month. This strategy allows me to save money on mailing smaller quantities; but more importantly, I do not annoy members in mailing a solicitation to them every month.

I use a similar strategy as stated above for our life members and monthly giving (pledge) members.

In looking for different ideas and issues to mail on, we have mailed (and propose to mail - italic) the following:

January Government Bailout

February Annual Report

March Annual Report Followup

April H.R. Bill 1207 – Audit Federal Reserve

May Candidate Recruitment

June There Ain't No Such Thing as a Free Lunch

July Survey in gatefold form

August Urgent Gram

September Membership Upgrade

October Get Out the Vote

November Ballot Access

December Year End Appeal

LP News with the wallet BRE inserted is still bringing in more funds (\$4,724 so far in 2009) than what it costs to print the BRE (\$2,200 so far in 2009) and have it inserted. Therefore, I will continue with this program.

#### Prospecting

So far in 2009 we have mailed only one prospect appeal in January. The results of this appeal are 0.49% (92 new members) with an average gift of \$31.30. In reviewing the Direct Mail Projects spreadsheet you will see another appeal under prospecting. This mailing was to 20 individuals who responded to the January appeal with survey responses, but no money. So I mailed them a letter in May saying thank you for your survey responses, and asking them to become members. In the past this strategy has worked well for the LP. Unfortunately this time only one person responded and became a member. The good news is that almost half of all the new members have given more than one gift again; so in reality the \$11,804 negative on the report for prospects is really only approximately \$4,000.

And then there are the inquiries – so far in 2009 we have mailed 2,371 and received back 2.53% (60 new members) with an average gift of \$31.85. For the entire year of 2008 we received back 3.99%, with an average gift of \$38.10. So hopefully the rest of our 2009 inquiry mailings will be more profitable than 2009.

The percent received back on the inquiries is higher than the prospecting, but that is only because these people have asked for information; whereas, the other new members are cold mailings.

At this time I would like to appeal to the board to allow more direct mail prospect appeals to be done for without it we can be a body without arms. In the short term we may see not mailing prospect appeals as saving money; but in the long term we will be loosing a lot of money. As members die or drop their membership, they need to be replaced and LP history has shown us that financially the best way to do this for the LP is through direct mail. Abandoning acquisitions can (and more than likely will) create catastrophic and lasting financial impacts in the form of depressed fundraising for years to come.

I presently have permission from list owners to exchange their data with ours – different data than we have mailed in the past and I believe will work better – and negotiated with the printer who won the bid to agree to a 90 day pay period for all printing. So the only money we would need to put up front would be postage.

#### Telemarketing

In May we did a telemarketing campaign to lapsed members. The outcome was successful – 5.32% renewals (267 members) with a <u>net</u> earning of \$2,175.00; and the returns are still coming in as the vendor sends out reminders and members mail in the reminder with their contribution.

Also, some of the members called by the telemarketing company advised that they wish to receive something in the mail (not that they haven't already) rather than renewing on the telephone. For these members I have marked their record in the database as not to receiving telemarketing (for future campaigns) and I then mailed them a letter advising that we will fulfill their wishes, and at the same time asking them to renew. The result for this mailing is 6.11% renewals, average gift of \$25.00, and a <u>net</u> income of \$195.80.

So all in all the telemarketing campaign was very successful for our renewals; and we therefore anticipate doing another campaign in the fall for an additional gift (which has also worked in the past).

#### **Internet Fundraising**

#### Appendix B. Robert Kraus, HQ Staff Report, St. Louis, MO, July 18-19, 2009

Although our web donations have not reached the half way mark of the entire year 2008, our white mail is more than half at this point in time in 2009 than for the entire year 2008. White mail is contributions coming into HQ through the mail, with no direct mail or inquiry reply card. So it is believed that some of the new members coming in through white mail have been receiving email blasts from HQ; and in believing that this is the case our email blasts will continue to be sent out.

#### 2009 Mail Schedule

Please see attached, along with a detailed spread sheet for 2008 and 2009 direct marketing campaigns.

#### Conclusion

As always I am working on ways to cultivate our members to keep them active, and I am looking at an appeal to possibly upgrade member's giving; always negotiating with vendors to get better prices; and speak with members to grant their membership wishes (while staying within the boundaries of our by laws) so they will remain active.

Recently I have purchased lapel pins for Life Members and at this time would like to present these to the following board members who are also Life Members:

Admiral Michael Colley Patrick Dixon

Stewart Flood Mark Hinkle

Robert Jackson Michael Jingozian

Dan Karlan Steven LaBianca

Dr. James Lark Scott Lieberman

Alicia Mattson Dr. Mary Ruwart

Tony Ryan Aaron Starr

**Bob Sullentrup** 

William Redpath: it was my pleasure to present a pin to Bill when he visited LPHQ.

I hope the other board members who are not Life Members will consider becoming Life Members.

I look forward to working with Wes Benedict, our new Executive Director, in identifying and cultivating new members through the relationships they already have in their lives. Casey and I straightened up our back office and it is now comfortable (or at least as comfortable as a guest office can be), so I would like to invite all our board members to come by and visit.

Thank you all, Louise

#### CAMPUS ORGANIZING REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, July 4, 2009

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III

Region 5S Representative, Libertarian National Committee

This report will provide some information concerning efforts to build and support Libertarian campus organizations. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in St. Louis should additional information become available.

As in my previous report, I wish to acknowledge the fine work of Austin Petersen, Director of Outreach and Affiliate Relations. He has provided substantial assistance to me in my efforts.

- 1) I continue to respond to inquiries from people who want information about the LP campus outreach effort. I am usually able to respond within 24 hours of receiving an inquiry. During the 2008-2009 school year, we received several inquiries each week from students who wanted assistance in starting a Libertarian group on their college (or high school) campus.
- 2) I continue to work with the Advocates for Self-Government to provide material (e.g., "Operation Politically Homeless" kits) to campus organizations. (I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Advocates.)
- 3) Once again I am in the process of revising the campus organizing material that I distribute to those interested in campus outreach. I am pleased to report that this material is generally considered very helpful to those trying to build campus organizations.
- 4) I continue to work with various state and local LP organizations to assist their campus outreach efforts. I gave speeches on the subject of campus organizing during the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance conference in Charleston and the LP Washington convention in late March.

In addition, several state LP organizations have expressed interest in my conducting organizing tours during the Fall 2009 semester. In particular, I am working with representatives of the Libertarian Parties of Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas to arrange brief tours in those states this fall.

5) I continue to work with Students for Liberty to promote libertarian groups at high schools and colleges. (I am a member of the Board of Advisors of SFL.) I participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of SFL in Fairfax, Virginia on June 2.

As part of this effort, members of the SFL board and I (along with Mr. Petersen) are working to find ways in which the LP can use the many services available from SFL. We must be careful in so doing because we do not wish to jeopardize the 501c(3) status of SFL.

- 6) I am working with Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) on programs of mutual interest. My article on tips for improving advocacy skills for libertarian activists appeared in the first issue of *Young American Revolution* (March 2009), the YAL publication.
- 7) As mentioned in previous reports, several libertarian organizations (e.g., Cato, Reason Foundation, Institute for Humane Studies, International Society for Individual Liberty) are working to coordinate their student outreach programs. I participate in meetings of representatives of these organizations when my schedule permits; Austin Petersen also attends the meetings.
- 8) Mr. Petersen, Jeff Orrok (Front Range Outreach Director, Libertarian Party of Colorado), and Alexander McCobin (executive director, Students for Liberty) are working to organize Libertarian outreach booths at concerts in the Van's Warped Tour series. At this time I have not received information concerning the success of this outreach effort so far.

### **Region One Report**

#### Montana

Montana had an entry in the Butte Montana 4th Parade. It's the largest parade with over 29,000 people who watch the parade, plus there was TV and Radio coverage. We are also working on two fairs coming up. One is the Western Montana Fair in Missoula and the Ravalli County fair in Hamilton. We have a table at the Missoula GUN Show next month as well. The gun show occupies our university field house. We are planning on getting into a couple more parades in the next two months. Then there is the Missoula Hempfest in September, as well as Jury Rights Day, September the 5th. We just need to get more people involved

In Liberty,

Mike Fellows

MTLP

## **Region Two Report**

**REGION 2 REPORT MISSING** 

# Region 3 Report for February 2009

Submitted by: Rebecca Sink-Burris

### **INDIANA** Chair: Sam Goldstein

Although there are no elections for public office in Indiana this year the LPIN has been very active since our state convention in May.

The state office sent out the first state-wide fundraising letter in several years and it has brought almost a 4-1 return on investment to date to help fund our daily activities and to pay our Executive Director.

Outreach efforts have been strong so far this summer with affiliates attending such diverse events as the Indy Pride Day Parade and Festival, the Tippecanoe County 4-H fair and the 2009 Vans Warped Tour. Many other events are planned through Labor Day.

The LPIN has announced a goal of recruiting candidates for 2010 to fill every available race for the Indiana House of Representative and Senate. This effort was prompted by the disastrous lack of effort by the old parties during both the regular and special sessions this year which barely resulted in them accomplishing their only legally required duty, passing a state budget.

The LPIN continues to be a very active and organized political party with the goal of electing Libertarians to public office. You can check out the breadth of activity across the state by going to the Indiana website: LPIN.org. Below is an example of the LPIN's newest fundraising effort:

### LPMC Poker Tournament



Sunday, July 26, 2009 4pm to 10pm Judy Judy's Restaurant 2210 E 54th Street Indianapolis, IN

Initial Buy-in: \$100

Required Registration Deposit: \$10 (refundable only if the event is canceled)

One additional \$100 buy-in allowed within the first hour.

PRIZES (assuming 100 players)

1st: \$3000 (30%) 2nd: \$2000 (20%) 3rd: \$1000 (10%)

Indiana Charity Game Night License Nbr. 118214

Register or more information at <a href="www.indylp.org">www.indylp.org</a>.

Authorized by the Libertarian Party of Marion County.

### Michigan Chair: Emily Salvette

Libertarian Bruce Gosling was re-elected as a Glen Oak Community College Trustee in the May 5 election. Also in that election the Kent County Families for Fiscal Responsibility, a political action committee created by members of the Libertarian Party of West Michigan, provided the opposition necessary to send the Grand Rapids Transit Authority "Silver Line" millage down to defeat, 52% to 48%, even though they were outspent 100 to one. This redundant bus line would have taxed several communities that would not even have been included in it's service.

The LPM state convention was held May 23rd where new officers were elected: Emily Salvette, Chair; Dan Johnson, Vice Chair; Erin Stahl, Treasurer; and Tom Bagwell, Secretary. Five directors were elected: Greg Stempfle, Brian Wright, Greg Creswell, Andy LeCureaux and former state chair Bill Hall, who takes on the duties of political director.

Our emphasis is to promote the Libertarian Party to the masses of disaffected Michiganders who have been badly used by the two older parties. Not surprisingly, the TEA Party movement is very active in our depression-ridden state where the federal government is running two of our major employers. We are very busy answering inquiries, welcoming new volunteers, and networking with other liberty-oriented groups. Thanks to Austin Petersen at LPHQ and his intrepid volunteers who developed a special flyer on the Michigan economy for us to use, and for help with calling our members.

We have candidates running in this November's election: incumbent Andy LeCureaux for Hazel Park City Council, incumbent Mark Byrne for Port Huron City Council, and Greg Merle, who is running in a special election to fill the Dist. 19 State Senate seat. We are also active recruiting candidates for 2010 and building up our affiliates so they are ready to support those candidates during election season.

### **Ohio** Chair: Kevin Knedler

Key thing we are doing now is starting to network with other liberty-minded advocacy groups. We want to let them know that we can be the "political arm" of their movements. We are doing less advocacy work, because we are changing the culture in the LPO to get liberty-minded candidates elected with the LP label.

Annual Summer Cookout at the LPO state office is August 15.

#### **Political Division:**

Ballot Access NOT addressed by Ohio Assembly so ½ of the law is gone (the petitioning part). Therefore, the LPO is still on the ballot as a party for 2009 and most likely 2010.

Still looking for a candidate for Governor in 2010. No choice but we have to run someone for Governor—that part of the Ballot Access law is still in place. No other trigger available to keep B.A.

As many as 30 candidates will run with LP brand in year 2010.

#### Communication Division:

Web site is being updated yet again and remains very robust. Weekly poll added.

Social networks is the next target and we will create improved MySpace, FaceBook, and Youtube.

#### **Finance Division:**

Big challenge is fundraising, yet our finances remain steady.

Monthly pledges more than cover cost of office rent, but we need a bigger office.

We have a golf outing "Tee-Party" planned for early October

#### **Field Development Division:**

Big challenge is finding more people to be Regional Liaisons (6 to 11 counties per LPO region)

We continue to help local groups get started.

Focus is also on helping local groups coordinate local county fair.

State party is willing to help supplement some financing for booth space at county fairs, if the local group is well organized with a plan

Just purchased an \$800 EZ Up pop-up unit—heavy duty—in red, white, and blue colors. Will be used for outreach events.

Note attached will be not only the chair vision but the overriding vision of the LPO for the future.



## **FOCUS and VISION:**

## **Ballot Access**

With ballot access we have power on the political playing field

### **Elect LP candidates**

The LP is a political party with principles of LIBERTY

## **Fundraising**

Funds are needed to support the candidates and organization

### **Build the LPO organization**

Building the local & state party structure in order to help candidates and address local and state issues

## Communicate to the masses & liberty-minded groups

We must network and build the movement in a pragmatic fashion

<u>www.LPO.org</u> - check us out!

Kentucky	Chair:	Ken	Moellman
----------	--------	-----	----------

LPKY Report:

Open items:

Forming new state structure, working to codify a structure which covers everything from state to district to county to city parties within KY. Also getting District execoms running. LPKY districts align with Kentucky's US Congressional Districts.

LPKY/3 has been functional for over a year. LPKY/4 and LPKY/6 are almost there. Next focus will be to get LPKY/2 online, and a few county parties within 2, 4 and/or 6. (LPKY/3 is only one county/city - Louisville)

Trying to put an emphasis on working to win local offices rather than "shooting for gold" every time.

Have a number of candidates currently coming forward for LPKY3 races. Working on finding more and still accepting applications to run for US Senate and US Congress in any district in 2010.

We had our awesome joined convention with LPIN and I highly recommend such things be encouraged elsewhere. Pooling resources made us able to bring 3 great speakers who each have a niche within the LP, and therefore we had something for everyone, and didn't lose money. I think LPKY ended up just under \$1 in profit from the convention.

After organizing we will continue to recruit members and state/local candidates, and then move to fundraising efforts.

## **Region Four Report**

## REGION 4 REPORT MISSING

#### **REGION 5S REPORT**

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, July 4, 2009

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III

Region 5S Representative, Libertarian National Committee

This report will provide information concerning activities of the Libertarian Party state affiliates in Region 5S since the LNC meeting on Feb. 28 – March 1. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in St. Louis should additional information become available.

Since the LNC meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, I spoke in my capacity as LNC member and former national LP chairman to a meeting of the Libertarian Party of New Zealand (Libertarianz) in Wellington (the national capital) on May 26. Also, I appeared in my capacity as an LNC member on WINA radio (1070 AM in Charlottesville, Virginia) on June 22 to discuss eminent domain and the Kelo case. On July 4 I shall address the Independence Day rally in Roanoke, Virginia in my capacity as LNC member and former national LP chairman.

#### Delaware

Jim Rash (Jim@rashteam.com), Libertarian Party of Delaware chairman, provided the following report (which I have edited slightly).

We held our state convention on May 2 and I believe we had 21 attendees. We elected state and county officers. Not much has changed at the state level but the county-level positions are beginning to take shape. Paul Thompson was reelected State Vice Chair, Brad Thomas was reelected State Treasurer, and Gwendolyn Jones was elected State Secretary. I was reelected State Chair.

New Castle County: George Barnett was elected County Chair and we elected a County Secretary but I'm not sure of the name and will provide that in a subsequent e-mail.

Kent County: both seats are still vacant.

Sussex County: Brian Shields was elected County Chair, Margaret Melson was elected County Vice Chair, and Gwendolyn Jones was elected County Secretary.

We discussed funding the LPD by donations, rather than dues. Bill Morris initiated reinstituting the Century Club that would be made up of those who donated \$100 to the

party and I instituted the Explorer Club that one would become a member of with the donation of \$1,000 or the donation of volunteer time (100 hours) or a combination of the two, e.g. \$500 and 50 hours. Mark Parks, the LPD's 2008 U.S. House candidate, will track volunteer time (which could be completed for the LPD, a local library, a hospital, etc.). I think we've had contributions in both clubs at this writing.

We discussed a strategy for party building which included showing (2004) Libertarian Party Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik's *An Introduction to the Constitution* DVDs at multiple locations throughout the state as well as Operation Politically Homeless from the Advocates for Self Government. We also discussed crafting a platform and how taking those planks to our local politicians to implement would let us know which ones we would be able to work with and which ones we should target to run a LPD candidate against in the next (and subsequent) general election, depending on the action (or lack of action) taken by the then-current seat holder. We wanted to implement changes to our bylaws but too many questions arose so we've tabled any amendments until next year's convention so the State Board (Executive Committee and County Representatives) could meet with the Bylaws Committee and resolve as many issues as possible prior to those amendments being voted on by the entire body.

We've had two meetings, both in Sussex County, so far to show the Badnarik DVDs. The first was on May 6 in western Sussex and had four attendees plus Brian Shields and myself. On May 7 we met in eastern Sussex and, in addition to Brian and me, had 17 in attendance. To get the word out about these meetings I e-mailed the active members from the party's Delaware data dump and sent out press releases to newspapers throughout the state. I also sent the release to a Sussex county news/talk radio station's news department and talk show hosts, one of whom interviewed me on May 5. That interview was, in my opinion, the impetus for the large turnout on May 7.

I'll be showing the first installment of the *Constitution* DVDs in Kent County on May 12. There are 11 hours of instruction on the DVDs so we'll be showing about an hour once a month at each of the locations. The classes are open to the public so we don't do much "preaching" at these meetings. That's reserved for the county LPD meetings. Of course, we're using the Constitution classes as a recruitment tool to introduce people to libertarian principles and to bring as many as possible into the LPD. The beauty of this format is that it's duplicatable, if that's a word.

The success or failure of this outreach isn't based on any individual's personality, other than Michael Badnarik, so it can be taken to any venue and spawn similar results. After the first showing one attendee convinced her friend to attend the next evening's

event. The responses I got from those who attended were extremely positive. I hope, if we can properly fund the party as mentioned above, to put sets of these DVDs in every American Legion, VFW, and public library throughout the state.

For those who can't (or won't) sit through an hour of instruction, I've posted links of the online version on our Meetup.com page (<a href="http://www.meetup.com/Libertarian-Party-of-Delaware/">http://www.meetup.com/Libertarian-Party-of-Delaware/</a>) along with other LP- and LPD-specific information. My use of Meetup.com is for outreach foremost. I'll be working with the LPD's webmaster to bring our official site (<a href="http://www.de.lp.org">http://www.de.lp.org</a>) up to speed so we can eliminate redundancy and get users to feel like they're in the party. I don't want to sound like I'm hanging our future membership and political success on these Constitution classes but this will be our primary outreach until we find one that's better.

Bill Morris (founder of the LPD) and I spoke at the Wilmington Tax Day Tea Party. Unfortunately, it was a Republican rally. Fortunately, they heard about the LPD and many were quite receptive. Links to Bill's and my speeches as well as my comments are posted on the Meetup page (<a href="http://www.meetup.com/Libertarian-Party-of-Delaware/">http://www.meetup.com/Libertarian-Party-of-Delaware/</a>).

#### Added July 14, 2009:

The Libertarian Party of Delaware is proud to announce that Gwendolyn (Wendy) Jones will run for the 19th Senate District in the special election to be held August 3rd on the Libertarian Party ticket. Wendy is looking forward to representing the people of the 19th District and bringing a new spirit of liberty to Legislative Hall.

An active member of the Libertarian Party for almost 20 years, Wendy is a member of the LPD Executive Committee and currently serves as the LPD Sussex County Secretary. She is a strong supporter of individual rights and, as a long time small business owner, will work to restore free-market entrepreneurship, creating jobs for Delawareans. Her support of the Second Amendment is evidenced by being an NRA member for about 25 years, currently holding a Life-Endowment level membership. She is also a Gun Owners of America member and she is the Delaware representative for Pink Pistols. She carries a well worn copy of the U.S. Constitution which will be her guide in Dover.

A Milton resident since 2001, Wendy has spent her spare time giving back to her community, mentoring at H.O. Brittingham Elementary School in Milton, and she is currently donating her professional driving services for Sussex County Mobility Consortium.

Her official campaign website is <a href="http://www.DelawareLiberty.com">http://www.DelawareLiberty.com</a>

#### **District of Columbia**

Rob Kampia (rkampia@mpp.org) is serving as the contact for the LPDC at this time. Austin Petersen organized the Washington D.C. Libertarian Party Meetup group.

#### Maryland

Libertarian Party of Maryland chairman Bob Johnston (rstanley21018@yahoo.com) provided the following information (which I have edited slightly):

The Maryland LP nominated two candidates for the US House of Representatives 2010 elections yesterday (June 28) at a special Central Committee meeting:

- \* Dr. Richard Davis, 1st congressional district
- \* Lorenzo Gaztanaga, 2nd congressionial district

In addition, two candidates for the Maryland House of Delegates have already been nominated:

- \* Justin Kinsey, district 5b
- \* Brandon Brooks, district 11

I plan to run candidates for the US House in each of the eight congressional districts, as well as for the US Senate. It would be nice to have at least one candidate running at the local, county, or state level in each of the 23 counties in Maryland, but this will be difficult to achieve.

Political parties in Maryland are required every 4-year gubernatorial cycle to submit at least 10,000 signatures to maintain party status, unless they have at least 1% of the number of registered voters registered under their party. Therefore, the MDLP has to garner these signatures by the end of 2010 to maintain party status. I was recently told by LNC Chairman Bill Redpath that the LNC currently has no funds in the budget for ballot access.

In addition, the state Court of Appeals recently decided to raise the standard for petition signatures. Three ballot referendums, which had the requisite number of

signatures, were struck down under the new standard. One of the referendums would have had a 78% validity rate under the old standard, but under the new only 13%.

This new standard is only for ballot referenda, not for political party signatures. I spoke with Richard Winger, publisher of "Ballot Access News" yesterday (6/29), and he said that we as a party should be okay, that the old standard will apply for our efforts. I will keep you apprised of this development as more information becomes available.

MDLP volunteers participated in the TowsonTown Spring Festival in May, and at the Baltimore Pride event on June 21.

Membership currently is 58.

(Note: I had the honor of participating in the MDLP convention in Dundalk on March 7. Allow me to offer my congratulations to Mr. Johnston and his colleagues for a fine convention.)

#### Pennsylvania

Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania chairman Mik Robertson (chair@lppa.org) provided the following report:

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania has been busy on several fronts. Our 2009 state convention in May saw the election of a new Eastern Vice-Chair, Ed Clifford of Montgomery County. The remaining officers were re-elected. The convention also saw a slight alteration of the LPPA platform, with a modification of the plank on abortion approved. Several bylaws changes were also approved affecting the nomination of candidates and the responsibilities of county organizations.

We are still promoting legislation to change the Pennsylvania election code to reduce the burden on candidates who are not Democrats or Republicans, however the bill remains in committee. The defendants have been served in the federal lawsuit regarding the Pennsylvania election code, so the suit is progressing.

We hope either the legislative or judicial action will alter the ballot access situation for us in time for the 2010 state and federal election. If it does not, we will likely need to gather in excess of 30,000 signatures to ensure our candidates are on the ballot for Governor and US Senate. If that is the case, we will likely need the assistance of the LNC if we are to have statewide candidates on the ballot in 2010.

For the municipal elections this year, there are about 30 candidates who have expressed an interest in running for local offices as Libertarian Party candidates. There are a few others who have expressed an interest in running but have not decided which office to seek. The filing deadline is August 3, so the number of candidates may change as

information comes in from the county affiliates. We should have a final list of candidates for 2009 on the ballot by the end of August.

There are also about 30 people so far who have expressed an interest in running for the Libertarian Party nominations for state and federal offices in 2010, including Governor and US Senate. Nominations for statewide office will take place at the 2010 LPPA convention, tentatively scheduled for early March.

The LPPA membership committee has been developing new county contacts to handle the increased volume of inquiries and volunteers we have been receiving. This has improved the response time, and supplies going to the new contacts should improve the quality of the responses as well. We anticipate this will result in the formation of more county organizations by next year.

The LPPA Marketing Committee has been developing ideas for a revised website design. The preliminary design will likely be reviewed at the July 18 Board of Directors meeting, at which time we will be preparing a new budget for the coming year. We hope to have the new website up later this summer or early this fall.

It is clear that many people are becoming disgruntled with the two parties and are seeking alternatives. We must be ready to invite them in and offer them the information and support they need to stay with the Libertarian Party.

We had considered having a paid staff person in the past, however a solid statewide network of volunteers has never been available to make that paid person effective. Now that a true statewide volunteer network is being established, the LPPA Board of Directors may again consider the possibility of a paid executive director next year.

(Note: I had the honor of giving the banquet address at the LPPA convention in Clarion on the evening of May 2. Allow me to offer my congratulations to Mr. Robertson and his colleagues for a fine convention.)

#### Virginia

I offer the following report on behalf of LPVa chairman Jeff Bowles (bowles\_4@hotmail.com).

The State Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Virginia held a quarterly meeting in Richmond on April 18. We continue to see increased levels of activity in some important population centers, including the suburbs of Washington, D.C., and the Peninsula (Hampton, Newport News). Matt Cholko is running for the House of Delegates in the 39<sup>th</sup> District (northern Virginia). The LPVa sponsored a very successful outreach event at the Northern Virginia Brewfest in Leesburg on June 27-28. The event

was organized by Dave Englert; participants included Mr. Cholko, Jeff Bowles, Liz Bowles, Jim Lark, and Bill Wood.

The LPVa has been able to take advantage of the "Tea Party" phenomenon, in that LPVa members and local affiliates have taken prominent roles in organizing and participating in various Tea Parties. In particular, the Jefferson Area Libertarians (Charlottesville area) and the Tidewater Libertarian Party (Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake) have been major participants in Tea Party events. LPVa members will serve as invited speakers at Tea Party events in Charlottesville (James Curtis) and Roanoke (Jeff Bowles, Jim Lark) on Independence Day.

At this time we have at least two prospective candidates for Congress in 2010. Specifically, it appears likely that we shall have a congressional candidate in the Sixth District (which contains Roanoke, Salem, Lynchburg, Lexington, Staunton, and Harrisonburg) and the Ninth District (roughly everything west of Roanoke County).

#### **West Virginia**

Libertarian Party of West Virginia chairman Matt Harris (mdh@lpwv.org) provided the following report, which I have edited slightly:

The main focus of our activities over the past months has been our ballot access drive. Focusing on our 2010 candidates for state and local offices in West Virginia, we've collected around 1000 signatures total so far. We have recruited candidates for both state house and county commission seats which are up for election in 2010. Petitioners are working at this time.

We've raised about \$3,000 so far for the ballot access effort, and spent around \$1,000 on fundraising, the bulk of which was on a letter which Wes Benedict prepared and sent for us.

Our ballot access reform legislation passed and was signed by Governor Manchin at the end of April. This cuts our signature requirement in half and moves the deadline for all candidates to August 1st of the election year.

Beyond that, we've been doing a bunch of the usual outreach type stuff. The Marshall University group has been very active. I've identified some legislative efforts I want to tackle in the 2011 legislative session one of which is jury rights (creating a law which

would prevent judges from lying to jurors and force them to read them their rights, this would effectively take things back to how they were prior to 1895).

Overall, the LPWV is doing very well. I'm doing initial research in order to plan and set goals for a monthly pledge program that would allow us to have an office and activist workshop. Tad Britch (LPWV secretary) has started up his campaign, though not yet in full gear, for the state house of delegates. The LPWV will conduct three outreach events in the state on July 4.

### Region 6 Report – LNC St. Louis July 18-19, 2009

Submitted by Julie Fox

LNC Region 6 Representative

July 13, 2009

Since the last LNC meeting I have kept busy with the following:

- Provided an LNC report at the LPIA convention on April 25.
- Provided an LNC report at the LPWI convention on April 18.
- LP Illinois State Organizing Committee teleconferences in March, May, June and July.
- Promotion and literature distribution for four candidates running in Chicago-area April municipal elections.
- Participated in local Memorial Day and Independence Day parades.
- Spoke on how to run a local party at the newly formed Lake County LP on May 21.
- Moving forward with IL State Comptroller 2010 campaign.
- Attempted to contact NE State Chair Jerry Kosch by phone and e-mail.

Thank you to Jake Porter for his work contacting state chairs from ND and SD. Jake received a report from Richard Ames in ND.

#### Illinois

From State Chair Val Vetter:

The LP-Illinois joined forces with the LP-Minnesota to present a Libertarian Party booth at the 20th Annual Midwest Renewable Energy Association fair in Custer, Wisconsin. 'We find that attendees at events like this are ideal candidates for libertarian discussion as these people are \*thinking\* and usually thinking outside the box: self-sufficient, often living off-the-grid, and generally want government to leave them alone.' says LPI State Chair Val Vetter. 'I would urge all state and local Libertarian Chapters to host booths at events like this and not to write them off to the Green Party.' Our next statewide event will be the Illinois Renewable Energy Association's annual fair in Oregon, IL August 8-9.

LPI State Chair Dave Brady was forced to resign July 1st due to job requirements. Past State Chair Val Vetter volunteered to fill the position until the next State Convention, which is scheduled for October 23-25 in Collinsville, Illinois. Sharon Harris from The Advocates for Self-Government will be our keynote speaker.

From Julie Fox:

DuPage Libertarians hosted an outreach booth June 26-28 at the Downer's Grove Heritage Fest. The Fox Valley Libertarian Party participated in the Dundee Memorial Day parade and also in the Elgin Independence Day parade. Many local chapters around the state participated in Tax Day and July 4 Tea Rallies. DuPage, Fox Valley, and McHenry LPs will have outreach booths at their local county fairs in July & August.

Raymond Lear announced that he is seeking the nomination for the LP Illinois' Governor candidate in 2010. Lear is a former commander of the Chicago Guardian Angels. He ran in Congress in 2002 against Rahm Emanuel as a Democrat. He recently joined the LP. Julie Fox is seeking the nomination for IL State Comptroller in 2010. Steve Burgauer has announced his intentions to run for U.S. Senate.

LP candidates had two wins in April municipal elections: Bill Stephens was elected to the Dundee Township Library Board and Chris Jenner was re-elected to Cary D26 School Board. Mike Fogelsanger lost his race for Sycamore City Council by only a handful of votes. Chuck Ingersoll was defeated in a well-run race for St. Charles township assessor.

#### **Missouri**

From State Chair Glenn Neilsen:

Missouri Information Analysis Cent	er (MIAC) Militia Movement Report

The Missouri LP effectively pushed back against the MIAC Militia Movement Report. The report tied violent white supremacists with political activity and supporters of LP Presidential Candidate Bob Barr.

The Missouri LP received more media coverage, even a bit of national coverage, than it had received in years.

The public relations and lobbying campaign resulted in an apology to Bob Barr, withdrawal of the report, the firing of the MIAC director, and the formation of a Missouri State House special committee to investigate MIAC.

Missouri LP State Chair Glenn Nielsen will testify at the MIAC special committee hearing in St. Louis the last week in July. MOLP MIAC spokesman Mike Ferguson will testify at the MIAC special committee hearing in Kansas City the first week in August. And the MOLP will try to bring in Bob Barr to testify at the final MIAC special committee hearing in Springfield the first week in September.

April 7th 2009 Municipal Elections	
------------------------------------	--

Missouri LP had five announced candidates for the Missouri April 7th 2009 Municipal Elections.

Three non partisan candidates for city council, one partisan candidate for city council and one partisan candidate for Mayor of St. Louis.

#### Appendix I. Julie Fox, Region 6 Report, St. Louis, MO, July 18-19, 2009

Two non partisan candidates were elected to City Council.

The third largest city in Missouri, Springfield, now has 2 out of 9 libertarians on the City Council.

The Johnson County LP organized opposition to a county wide zoning ordinance on the ballot and defeated it.

April 18th State Convention

-----

50 people attended the State Convention. There was a great panel discussion of elected Missouri libertarians. You can see it on You Tube at:

#### http://www.youtube.com/view\_play\_list?p=8366BB28BFAD2726

Glenn Nielsen was elected to a second term as Chair, Cisse Spragins was elected to a second term as Vice Chair and Paula Benski was elected to a second term as Treasurer.

Barry Albin of Kansas City was elected Secretary, he is replacing outgoing Secretary John Schultz.

Media

-----

Missouri LP State Chair Glenn Nielsen was interviewed regarding Missouri passage of a bill prohibiting implementation of REAL ID. The interview was aired on KOMU TV-8 News in Columbia, MO.

Missouri LP State Chair Glenn Nielsen appeared March 17th for 30 minutes on the coummunity radio station KOPN 89.5FM in Columbia with Dan Viets, the host of Sex, Drugs & Civil Liberties. Dan Viets is Vice President of NORML and an attorney for the ACLU. The topic of discussion was the Missouri Information Analysis Center Militia Movement Report.

Missouri LP State Chair Glenn Nielsen appeared May 5th for an hour on the community radio station KOPN 89.5FM in Columbia with Steve Spellman, host of Tuesday news at 5. The topic was the economy and unemployment.

Missouri LP State Chair Glenn Nielsen participated on the political roundtable show hosted by Gary Nolan on The Eagle 93.9FM in Columbia May 8th and June 5<sup>th</sup> for an hour along with a Democrat and Republican.

#### http://theeagle939.com

Missouri LP State Chair Glenn Nielsen was interviewed for a fourth time May 27th on the Libertarian Dime, a libertarian audio podcast produced in Missouri.

http://ldnetwork.tv

-----

Missouri LP State Chair Glenn Nielsen testified at three committee hearings:

- 1. In support of a bill to prohibit use of red light cameras.
- 2. In support of a bill to prohibit Missouri DOR from implementing REAL ID. This bill passed the state legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- 3. In support of a state sovereignty bill.

Outreach

-----

Here is a summary of some of the major outreach events:

Handed out over 500 flyers for the Missouri LP at the Midwest Fair Tax Rally. Handed out 100 flyers at the USDA NAIS listening session in Jefferson City to small farmers and ranchers opposed to NAIS. Kansas City Libertarians had outreach booths at two large KC events. Gay Pride and the Umpteenth Festival. They have also formed an affiliate of Outright Libertarians and the Pink Pistols.

- St. Louis Libertarians had a booth at the Ron Paul Campaign for Liberty regional conference in St. Louis.
- St. Louis Libertarians will have a booth at the August Van Warp Tour.

The Missouri LP will have a booth at the August 13th-23rd Missouri State Fair.

Many libertarians attended Tea Parties, some even had an opportunity to speak. Mike Ferguson spoke at a KC Tea Rally which 5000 people attended. State Chair Glenn Nielsen spoke at a Columbia Tea Party.

State Chair Glenn Nielsen will be speaking at a Tea party July 3rd and July 4th.

First term US Congressman Blain Leutkemeyer (R MO-9) contacted the Missouri LP via a third party to arrange a meeting. Missouri LP State Chair Glenn Nielsen and several other libertarians will be meeting with Congressman Leutkemeyer at his Columbia offices July 7th. (A report on that meeting is included below.)

**County Affiliates** 

-----

A new county affiliate was formed in Marion County, Hannibal in northwest Missouri. The new Marion County Chair has been very active working to organize the county.

Glenn Nielsen

State Chair Missouri Libertarian Party

Subject: [exec] Report on Meeting with Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (from Glenn Neilsen):

John Schultz, Mike Ferguson and I met with Missouri 9th District Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer this morning at his offices in Columbia. Gary Marble, his Deputy Chief of Staff was also in attendance. Blaine Luetkemeyer is in his first term in Congress as a Republican. We met for one hour.

I heard Congressman Luetkemeyer speak at the Louisianna, MO Tea Party July 3rd. I spoke immediately after him on the Bill of Rights.

At the beginning of the meeting Mike Ferguson and I briefed the Congressman about the MIAC report, DHS and fusion centers. The Congressman was not very familiar with the issue but expressed concerns about the nature of the reports.

Both during his speech at the Tea Party and in our meeting today he was focused on economic and regulatory issues like Cap and Trade and national health care.

The Congressman is very concerned about the Democrat's pushing through vast new government programs and regulations. He is rightly concerned that if all of the =Democrat programs are enacted the country may reach a tipping point from which there is no return.

The Congressman and his staff are interested in the creation of an informal working group to provide input to him on economic and regulatory issues. Also to help in their own way to stem the tide of new government programs and regulations. Those mentioned as possible participants are the LP, CP, Campaign For Liberty, Show Me Institute, Americans For Prosperity and Ron Calzone of MO-CPR.

I made no committments regarding MOLP participation. I mentioned that the MOLP does work with like minded groups on issues of policy. I stated that MOLP participation would depend upon the nature of the working group, the sense of the MOLP Exec Committee and what level of official or unofficial participation there would be by the MOLP.

LPMO Convention Report from Jake Porter:

#### **MIAC Update**

Speaker of the House to appoint committee to report on MIAC.

"With exception of Austin Petersen, we received no help from national." Party spokesperson.

Next step is to see thought the hearings.

#### Other:

Had a somewhat angry question about what national was doing to help the state and local groups.

Donny Ferguson was both attacked and praised by convention attendants. He was attacked for lack of help over the MIAC report, but praised for sending out regular high-quality press releases.

Austin Petersen received positive comments for his work.

#### Minnesota

From State Chair Bob Odden:

#### Tax Cut Rally:

The Libertarian Party of Minnesota was at the May 2, 2009 Tax Cut Rally in front of the steps leading up the the Minnesota State Capital building. The LPMN booth was in one of the group tents on the outskirts of the crowd. We had a golden 20 foot tall banner flying with our name and logo fluttering in a strong spring breeze on a sunny warm day. Next to the banner, we set up an over 8 foot tall fiberglass statute of Liberty. A large number of people had their pictures taken along side the Statute of Liberty.

Mary O'Conner, Treasurer, and I manned the booth. From the time we had our booth set up to the time we started to take it down (10 am to 4 pm), our booth was crowded with people. Sometimes people were two to three deep trying to reach us at our booth. I could have used 10 more clip boards and about 20 more pens. Some people in the crowd didn't want to stick around to take the quiz because the line was so long.

We totally ran out of every kind of pamphlet we had but still had plenty of quizzes available. In looking at the quiz board to see where the crowd was philosophically, the largest group of people scored at the peak with high numbers in the Libertarian category along the right edge of the diamond.

Within the last month, I have had people at gun shows and rallies tell me that in order to have Liberty, they must give it to others first. They know that means that they must stop trying to control morality through laws. This is the first time in my life that I have actually heard the general public say that and believe it. Many people thanked us for being there. Many others left their names and e-mail addresses so they can get involved. This was by far the most successful outreach booth I have ever manned.

#### Other News:

Website: The website (<u>LPMN.org</u>) and the Minnesota membership data base are receiving a major change, particularly behind the scenes. The site will offer different levels of pledging, pledging for a particular project, like the State Fair, and show where the LPMN is to its goals. Members will be able to update their own data and see when their membership expires. We will produce video and add it to the site so we can quickly comment on events as they happen. The site will incorporate blogs and the ability to e-mail news letters to members. It will be easier to see all of the events planned by the LPMN.

Members that want to add their own Libertarian events can get passwords to allow them to add their events.

Gun Shows: I am now a member of the MN Weapons Collectors Assn so the LPMN can now get booths cheaper. The LPMN is now signed up for all of the guns shows for the rest of the year. I have taken all the classes necessary to reserve cable TV studio time or field equipment and taken video editing courses. The use of the equipment is all free. I am looking for members who want to be guest on an interview show or who just want to practice speaking in front of a camera.

There are now two new Libertarian affiliates at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus. I am trying to create an affiliate for Olmsted County/Rochester.

The LPMN state convention was held on Saturday, June 13.

Bob Odden, Chair LPMN
<a href="https://www.meetup.com/Minnesota-Libertarian-Liberty-Lovers/">www.lpmn.org</a> (check website for affiliates)
<a href="https://www.meetup.com/Minnesota-Libertarian-Liberty-Lovers/">https://www.meetup.com/Minnesota-Libertarian-Liberty-Lovers/</a>

#### <u>lowa</u>

From State Chair Ed Wright:

2009 elections in Iowa are: School Boards -Sept 8 , filing period-July6-30 City Primary-Oct. 6 , filing period Aug 10-27 City General-Nov 3, filing period Aug 24-Sept 17

I am not aware of any "declared" LP candidates at this time for either 2009 or 2010. Both Eric Cooper and Russ Gibson, both Iowa House cadidates last fall, have indicated that they intend to seek elected office in 2010 but have not stated specifically which offices.

#### **Wisconsin**

From State Chair Ben Olson:

Since the April 18 convention, there has been an effort made to form a business committee that will make recommendations on fundraising and how to get the most exposure for the money we have to spend. Treasurer Tim Krenz is the overseer of that committee. A campaign committee is also being formed to assist the party in finding candidates for the next election as well as helping to prepare them for their races.

Chairman Ben Olson has spoken with the past four chairmen to gain insight into the fine art of harnessing the power of LPWI members and volunteers. Chairman Olson has also made a point of contacting Excom members around the state as well as all new recruits to the party.

The Madison affiliate has been quite active in their outreach efforts, manning a booth every Saturday at the Farmer's Market on the capitol square. They also participated in the IMMLY march for legalizing medical marijuana in May.

The Milwaukee affiliate, lead by Brad Sponholz has been very vocal in supporting 2nd amendment rights and a controversial open-carry dispute in the city of Milwaukee. They have also been instrumental in drawing attention to eminent domain abuses by the city in a case involving the Cetina family. This action by the city is still pending and has drawn national attention.

Dr. Tim Nerenz (LPWI Treasurer) is actively campaigning in his bid for the 2nd Congressional seat currently occupied by Dem. Tammy Baldwin. Tim has written a series of blogs since he announced his candidacy that deal with common sense solutions to our most pressing problems in Washington. Please check out his archives on www.timnerenz.com.

Melissa Stetler has thrown her hat into the ring in the 78th assembly district. Melissa is a student in Madison and promises to run a spirited campaign.

There are a number of Libertarians who have expressed interest in running for various offices including Governor. I expect that many of the candidates will declare their intentions by October or November.

The Executive Committee will be holding their next meeting on Sunday, July 26.

#### **Nebraska**

Repeated attempts to contact State Chair Jerry Kosch via e-mail and phone have been unsuccessful to date.

#### **South Dakota**

Repeated attempts to contact State Chair Andre Agar via e-mail and phone have been unsuccessful to date.

#### **North Dakota**

From State Chair Richard Ames:

Jake.

I have two highly motivated candidates that both sound good over the phone at least. I was going to have a state meeting but with all the flooding in the spring and now with summer in full gear I've decided to wait for fall. I'd like to get some new officers elected being it's just me currently. Some in the group said they would get a web page going but that has not happened. I think our best bet it so get these two guys on the ballot in 2010 and if we get some membership going again that would be great.

Thanks for your interest,

**Richard Ames** 

**REGION 7 REPORT** 

SUBMITTED TO: LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, JULY 7, 2009.

Submitted by: Rachel W. Hawkridge, Region 7 Representative, Libertarian National

Committee

This report will provide information concerning activities of the Libertarian Party state

affiliates in Region 7 since I last reported on February 21, 2009.

Florida

The Libertarian Party of Florida held its annual meeting and convention on March 28-29,

2009 in Jacksonville, Florida, and elected Mr. J.J. McCurry to the Chair. He will serve a 2 year term. Vicki Kirkland was elected Vice-Chair for a 2 year term, Treasurer Jack Tanner

, Secretary Mark Clifford, Director At Large (1) Char-Lez Braden, Director At Large (2)

Sean Concannon, Director At Large (3) Jeff Hunt, and regional representatives Jim Tall,

Alexander George, Nik Ritchie, Tyler Miller, Geoff Scott, Phil Laibe, Jim Kearney, former

Chair Karl Dickey, and James Coakley will all being serving on the ExComm.

Florida continues to have regular, active county meetings, active campus groups, and

Facebook groups.

The Chair reports that the big push in Florida is the creation of county affiliates. They've

gone from 11 in January 2008 to 20 in January 2009, and are now at 25.

Congratulations, Team! :0)

LP Florida's currently Declared Candidates:

**Governor**: John Wayne Smith

Lt. Governor: Staci Henegar

State House Seat 33: Franklin Perez

State House Seat 42: Jeff Shoobridge

Palm Beach County Commission: Karl Dickey

Hillsborough County Commission: Brandon Newton

**Bay County Commission**: Geoff Scott **Bay County Commission**: Justin Guthrie

#### Hawai'i

Hawai'i held a Convention on May 16<sup>th</sup>. They've elected and seated a new ExComm, which consists of:

Chair Ken Schoolland (whose name you may name recognize - http://is.gd/1tYsY)

Vice Chair Larry Bartley

Treasurer John Spangler

Secretary Roger Taylor

At Large Jeff Mallan, Aaron Anderson, Li Zhao, Dave Hudson (who was the lone Hawai'i Delegate to Denver).

And they even have a Consulting Director on staff; Roger Taylor who also serves as Secretary.

They've published a newsletter already - http://is.gd/1tYAG, and plan to overhaul their webste as well.

Welcome back, Hawai'i! Mahalo!

#### Idaho

LP Idaho has a new website, and it's fabulous! Check it out at: http://www.lpid.org/

The Libertarian Philosophical Brunch monthly series is going well and they have about a dozen regular participants.

#### Oregon

OREGON'S CONVENTION WAS HELD AT THE SHILO INN SUITES OCEANFRONT HOTEL IN NEWPORT, OR ON MARCH 14 AND 15. GENE AND I WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THEIR NEW EXCOMM CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING BRAVE SOULS:

CHAIRMAN: JOSEPH CORNWELL VICE-CHAIRMAN: MARC DELPHINE SECRETARY: CHRISTIANA MAYER TREASURER: JUSTIN GROVER

There were numerous changes made to the bylaws, including deleting the Non-Aggression Pledge (NAP). The one included in Oregon's bylaws was flawed - it said "use of force" rather than "initiation of force", but in light of the MIAC report that was just making the news at that time, I'm not convinced that letting go of NAP is a good idea.

Oregon's Convention was a good time, and a lot was accomplished. We had some fun, dinner with our friends, and listening to a great speaker at lunch on the Heller decision.

#### The Real Washington™

Our new Clark County (Vancouver, WA area) affiliate has a school board candidate. That group has a website at <a href="http://lpclarkwa.org/">http://lpclarkwa.org/</a>, anf they've done a very nice job.

LPWA continues to put out a monthly newsletter, thanks to editor Michael Wilson, who is no longer in Vancouver. It's been a great fundraising source for us.

I am working with the Independent Voter's Coalition to change ballot access laws in Washington. This coalition consists of Green, Progressive, Constitution Party, and of course, the Libertarian Party.

### Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Dr. Lark noted via an e-mail he was recently elected Chair of the Advocates for Self Government.

Jake Porter reported in an e-mail sent March 30:

In the past few months, I advised a potential candidate who I believed was going to run for the lowa House of Representatives in 2010 as a Libertarian. This afternoon, he made the announcement that he would run as a Democrat. I received no payment for any campaign advice provided to him and am ceasing any future assistance to his campaign.

Mary Ruwart e-mailed on April 14:

I recently made a donation to "Young Americans for Liberty."

Stewart Flood e-mailed on July 9:

Please add to my list of potential conflicts the fact that I will be the listing agent in South Carolina for Liberty Guard, a 501c4.

Rachel Hawkridge e-mailed on July 7:

I am the owner of LP Transparency Caucus' website, GoldAmericaGroup.com, MyLP.wordpress.com and OurLP.net. I have not yet decided the extent to which I will be involved in LPTC, but George Donnelly has given up electoral politics, and I am now the owner of the website.

I write for Examiner.com as a Seattle Libertarian Examiner. I have links from my page to other libertarian Examiners, and to Liberty-oriented organizations. The Examiner has control over their website, other than the content of my articles.

I am the Editor of GoldAmericaGroup.com, and do not censor the members who write there, as long as they abide by the rules. The rules are basically to remain civil, so there isn't much censorship.

I am involved with, and raise money for LPWashington and NorthWest Legal Foundation. I have given money to the LPWA, LNCC, AntiWar.com, Institute for Justice, LEAP, Rational Review, KUOW/NPR affiliate and WikiPedia.com.

I support, in various ways, FIJA, MPP, SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council), the Advocates, Gay/Straight Alliance, Gun Owners of America, Independence Institute, ThirdPartyTicket.com, No Tunnel Alliance, End the Fed, Campaign for Liberty, HempFest, Washington Coalition for Open Government, The Republic of Lakotah, The Independent Voters Coalition of Washington , a 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment/State Sovereignty group that is not yet formally named, and The Singularity Institute for Artificial Intelligence. Life Extension Foundation gets a large part of our income, as does VitaLady.com. I

My husband Gene is a NorthShore School Board Director, and a member of IFTPE Local #17 (Technical & Professional Engineers), IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), Power Engineering Society, and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Colorado, Washington, and Alaska. He is employed by Hatch Energy, Inc., a division of Hatch Acres, International. He is also a member of Washington State School Directors Association, and Washington Arms Collectors. He is a RealClimate blog subscriber and poster, and belongs to The Alliance for Climate Protection.

We subscribe to Reason Magazine, Rational Review, Liberty for America, and Kn@ppster the Newsletter. We have purchased George Phillies' non-fiction, and enjoy L. Neil Smith's novels.

We have established relationships with nine legislators in our area. I lobby our Legislature on various subjects, and they all know my political affiliations.

We own, and occasionally wear, "Hong Tran (D) for Senate" T-shirts. We have (and might again) donated money or time to the campaigns of Ds, Rs, or candidates other than L who are either the best candidate for the job, or as part of a strategy to defeat the more evil candidate. The support and T-shirt wearing is done as a private citizen, not as an LNC rep, and does not, IMNHO, constitute a conflict. I report it here in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

I have joined, and may still belong to Facebook groups for other political groups, or in support of candidates that are not Libertarians. Specifically, Michael Lurie and Peter Schiff are men that appear to be excellent candidates, and do not have Libertarian opponents, or have not yet declared their affiliations.