

# Liberty for America

Journal of the  
Libertarian Political Movement

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<http://LibertyForAmerica.com>

# Liberty for America

## LfA Launches

### Finance Committee and PAC

A magazine. A web site. An organization. And now

### A Finance Committee:

At some point, there are real limits on what you can do without money. We are therefore pleased to report the formation of a Liberty for America Finance Committee to generate support for the objectives of Liberty for America. The Finance Committee does not advocate for or against the election of candidates to public office; it is not a PAC. The Finance Committee Chair *pro tem* is Brian Miller.

### And a PAC:

Actually, we already have a Federal PAC, the Liberty Congressional Political Action Committee, founded a decade ago. LC has not always been very active, but it is a full-fledged legitimate FEC-reporting political action committee. In the past it has supported Federal candidates. With its new Treasurer, Carol McMahon, it stands ready to do so again.

### And perhaps at some point State Affiliates

We have specifically been approached about the possibility of forming Liberty for America State Affiliates. The LfA web pages <http://www.LibertyForAmerica.Com>, link to a set of draft bylaws for a state affiliate. You will see more bylaws than many affiliates will need at the moment, but you can always suspend or delete the parts you don't yet need.

We're also aware of at least one state whose State Convention may debate a motion to disaffiliate, post-November, with the LNC and re-affiliate with the Boston Tea Party, or to split so that one of its components can do so.

**Liberty for America** has no current rules for recognizing or chartering groups. I believe in the true political free market. Instead of having some unspecified body give people monopoly power to be "The LFA Affiliate", I urge libertarians to support groups that do effective work, and to decline to support groups that do not do effective work. That's the political free market.

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## Guess How Many Libertarians Are Running for Office This Year

...George Donnelly

I was reading a Libertarian Party document from 2000 the other day that named a goal of fielding 218 LP candidates for the US House of Representatives, that it would be the first time since the 1800's that a third party had competed for a majority in the House.

### I Expected to Find a lot of Candidates

After the wars, the encroachments on our liberties in the last eight years - and the promise of more of the same - I thought the LP might be close to that goal this year.

So I emailed the national LP. This year, only about 125 LP candidates will appear on the ballot for US House and Senate, they said. Bummer.

### We Need to Know Who our LP Candidates Are

This got me wondering more about our LP candidates and I noticed Paulie Cannoli was thinking along the same lines. Given that LP.org lists a paltry few candidates for a paltry few states, I decided to develop a website to document for the public, all in one place, the complete list of LP candidates for any given election year, starting, naturally, with 2008.

### Introducing "Libertarian Party Candidates"

I cranked out **Libertarian Party Candidates** in just 5 work days (using Django), so it's not polished. But I plan to improve it further for future election years.

### Some Interesting Facts I Discovered

I was shocked to discover some interesting facts about the Libertarian Party while developing LPC.

- \* Nationally, there are only 544 LP candidates on the fall ballot (so far).

- \* The LP is fielding candidates for only 109 of 435 US House seats up for grabs.

- \* 19 states and the District of Columbia so far have zero candidates.

- \* Texas is fielding 169 candidates, the most of any state. Nicely done!

### LPC As Measuring Stick and Incentive

Anyway, I hope that LPC will serve as a measuring stick and therefore provide incentive to field more candidates in 2010 and hopefully reach that goal of 218 US House candidates in 2012.

If you have any ideas, comments, suggestions, new lists, corrections, complaints, etc., please let me know.

Please Visit "Libertarian Party Candidates"  
<http://libertarianpartycandidates.us/>

# Strategy Memo

...Brian Miller

Politics is not any different than any commercial exercise. Successful political parties, movements and candidates build effective brands and effective experiences. They focus on ensuring that they remain the best choice in the "industry," and don't allow competitors to co-opt their message.

Right now, we're in a politically disruptive election cycle, and the decisions we make today will determine whether or not the LP is successful over the next decade in whatever mission we decide as a party is most important.

Things that create a bad experience include:

\* Lunacy. Candidates who are scary or whacko damage the experience that the average voter has in LP-land. In the worst-case scenarios, it colors the perspective of "Libertarian Party" in their minds to be equivalent to the antics of the whack-job. In these situations, it is best not to run a candidate-- regardless of the ballot access consequences. It's much easier to raise money and jump through bureaucratic hoops than it is to salvage credibility damaged or destroyed en masse by a candidate using the LP as a way to air out his or her psychological issues. All it takes to ruin a brand for one person, or a group of people, is a single bad experience up-front. The LP has been delivering a lot of those, especially as of late.

\* Bigotry. Racism, sexism, homophobia, you name it. It's popping up way too often, and not being confronted by LP executives. Heck, a lot of times it is the LP executives who are seeding the bigotry. One problem we have as Libertarians is that too many of our leaders think more about themselves as Moses handing down the Ten Commandments and are more focused on their personal needs/wants than about the voting marketplace we're seeking to grow within. Leaders in the LP should be required to understand that voters are not all like them, that different priorities exist, and that bigotry destroys our ability to create a fulfilling experience for voters. Voters consider leaders to be people who are responsive, flexible, smart, and down-to-earth -- with new ideas to address their biggest areas of concern. There's no faster way to lose a voter than deliver a "you people" sort of response.

\* Inconsistency. This is the hobgoblin of many marketing disasters, in both commerce and politics. "Buyers" (and voters) prefer a consistent experience across any situation that they choose. This goes for longtime party members just as much as it goes for newly aware voters who are learning about the LP for the first time. Creating comfort and a sense of ownership in the LP requires a consistent experience that voters and supporters can identify with consistently. Candidates who advocate "states' rights" in one case, yet talk about "individual liberties" in another case, are delivering an inconsistent message and experience. Raging against federal jackboots kicking in one's door for dubious reasons, while defending the right of the state government to kick in one's door for dubious reasons, is not

only intellectually dishonest, but also inconsistent. Brands die due to inconsistency -- people stop listening at the moment of inconsistency and all credibility evaporates.

\* Multi-channel interaction. Lots of people want to interact with political candidates, parties, and organizations through their preferred channel. We still do a dreadful job here. Our media outreach department at national is from 1985 and hasn't changed since. Our web site remains static, non-interactive, and a one-way "top-down" communication of our fearless leaders' opinions -- an electronic press-release pusher. Our national and state committees often operate in a closed, inaccessible, exclusionary fashion in the conduct of their business -- online and in the real world as well. This has to change. The LP needs to be open, engaged, multi-channel, accountable, smart, visionary, engaged, responsive, and credible. Right now, to the average Libertarian (let alone the average voter), it's closed, defensive, infrequently communicative, unaccountable, plodding, reactionary, disengaged, slow-to-respond, and desperate.

As we move forward in LP-land, let's put some thought into the experience that we're delivering to the average voter as a party and in our individual efforts. Let's also put together a plan to work together to bring the sort of change the LP needs to the fore.

## Help Stop the Next War

...Michael Seebeck

I don't normally do this, but this isn't normal, either.

Antiwar.com needs your help.

Antiwar.com is devoted to non-interventionism. It is read by libertarians, pacifists, leftists, "greens," independents -- and many on the Right who agree with our opposition to imperialism.

Antiwar.com needs cash. Perpetual war for perpetual peace has exhausted the many dedicated staffers, readers, and volunteers.

Why? One word: *Iran*.

The Bush Administration is determined to wage war on Iran, whether the American people want it or not -- and by 4-1 margins *we do not!*

America does *not* have the resources in this recession, and already overstretched military, to open a *third* theater of war.

Iran does *not* have nuclear weapons. They are *not* developing any. President Bush could care less. To his thinking, they are the evil bad guys.

The Iranian people do not want war. Iran is not a threat to this nation. They never have been.

It has been nearly thirty years since the lowest point in Ira-

nian-American relations. Thirty years of rebuilding a damaged relationship. Bush would throw all of that away over a neocon fiction.

An American attack on Iran would destroy what little credibility the U.S. still has left in the international community.

An American attack would devastate our economy. Oil would likely blow past \$250 per barrel, and gas \$7 per gallon. Consumer prices on everything would skyrocket. The current recession would worsen -- possibly even reverting to 1929.

We do not want or need that to happen. What can you do?

Antiwar.com is leading the charge against this lunacy. But they need your help. With your donation, they can continue this fight, and help us avoid the economic and political destruction of America.

Three things I'm pleading that you do:

*First, please donate here: [antiwar.com/donate/](http://antiwar.com/donate/) Any amount helps.*

*Second, spread the word. The more people that know about this need, and this huge problem, the more that can be done. Everyone needs to be involved.*

*Third, contact your Congressman, Senators, and the White House on HR 362. Tell them *No* to war with Iran.*

America's future is in jeopardy. Can you afford not to help?

I am not associated with Antiwar.com in any way. But I support their mission.

For more information on how you can help, please contact Development Director Angela Keaton at [akeaton@antiwar.com](mailto:akeaton@antiwar.com) or 310-729-3760. Michael Seebeck [Michael@seebeck.us](mailto:Michael@seebeck.us)

## Where Your Money Went

The following is from Bob Barr's June FEC report:

Cash on hand 6/1/08: \$53,145.00  
June income: \$196,400.00  
June disbursements: \$68,774.00  
End of month cash on hand: \$68,774.00  
End of month campaign debt: \$1,000.00

Items of interest from disbursements:

The Barr08 website for this month cost more than \$31,000 to the firm Terra Eclipse.

Their office space cost more than \$28,000 to the Paces Foundation in Georgia. The campaign also paid nearly \$2,700 to Post

Corporate Apartments, and more than \$3,700 in rent to Liza Franzman (who is in Kailua, Hawaii; however, she is from Georgia, so her property may still be there).

Then there are consultants. Doug Bandow was paid more than \$12,000. James Bovard received \$5,000. Robert Zinzell was paid \$3,750. Steve Gordon got more than \$2,900. Russ Verney received \$1,900. Mike Ferguson was paid \$1,250. Ashley Petty got \$1,100. John Seewoester was paid \$560. Robert Benedict got \$312. The report doesn't say exactly what kind of work they did.

There was also over \$35,000 paid to consulting firms. Liberty Strategies...\$11,000. Advocacy Ink...more than \$20,000. Olympic...\$3,500. McKenna Long & Aldridge's Legal Fees were over \$4,100.

Interestingly, the only staff member listed is Andrew McPherson, who received slightly under \$2,000. Shane Cory received \$2,296 for reasons not specified in the electronic report.

Ballot access fees amounted to slightly over \$4,000. And campaigning? There were \$23,000 and then some in travel expenses. Fliers and buttons came to less than \$1,200. Admission to Freedom Fest was \$750. Two meetings at the Old Vinings Inn and the DC University Club were more than \$1,500. Unspecified in the electronic report were American Express charges for \$13,000.

### FULL LIST OF DISBURSEMENTS

Consultants:

Liberty Strategies Contract Services \$11,000.00  
Advocacy Ink Media Consulting \$10,062.00 + \$278.25 + \$9,931.14  
Doug Bandow Political Consulting \$10,088.22 + \$2,145.00  
David Beiler Field Consulting \$2,399.11  
Doug Bandow Travel Expenses \$217.94  
James Bovard Field Consulting \$5,000.00  
Robert Zinzell Political Consulting \$3,750.00  
Olympic Consulting Political Consulting \$3,500.00  
Mr. Stephen P Gordon Field Consulting \$2,000.00+ See Below \$907.86  
Russ Verney Political Consulting \$1,902.00  
Mike Ferguson Political Consulting \$1,250.00  
Ms. Ashley Petty Field Consulting \$715.00 + \$405.00  
Imaging Arts Charleston Photography \$673.81

McKenna Long & Aldridge Legal Fees \$3,915.00 + \$270.00  
Staff  
Mr. Andrew MacPherson Salary \$997.80 + \$994.60  
Mr. Shane Cory See Below \$2,296.27

Communication AT&T Mobility \$89.00

Computer issues:

Terra Eclipse \$10,223.00 + \$10,249.00 + \$10,856.00  
RackSpace \$16.00

Real Estate

Post Corporate Apartments Rent \$2,675.00 and \$20.29  
The Paces Foundation, Inc Rent \$3,132.00 + \$3,132.00 + \$3,202.00 + \$19,212.00  
Lisa Franzman Kailua, Hawaii Rent \$1,600.00 + \$2,160.00



Office Supplies \$180.17  
Office Equipment \$972.80 + \$206.50

Ballot Access  
New Hampshire Secretary of State \$250.00  
West Virginia Secretary of State \$2,500.00  
Louisiana Secretary of State \$500.00  
Commonwealth of Kentucky \$500.00  
State of Utah \$500.00

Campaigning  
Freedom Fest Event Ticket \$750.00  
Postage \$420.00  
FedEx \$88.94  
FedEx Shipping \$307.01  
Zazzle.com T-Shirts \$1,065.39  
NextDay Flyers Printing \$258.95  
NextDay Flyers Printing \$458.31  
Dr Don's Buttons Campaign Buttons \$418.59

Cardmember Service \$11,257.85  
PayPal Merchant Services \$5,790.57  
Bank Fees \$74.60

Clubs  
The University Club of DC Meeting Expense \$546.95  
Old Vinings Inn Restaurant Atlanta, Georgia Meeting Expense \$1,052.47

Travel  
Delta Travel Expenses \$713.00 + \$110.00 + \$7,722.48  
United Airlines Travel Expenses \$533.00 + \$819.00 Thrifty Rental  
Car Car Rental \$151.90 + \$228.01

Orbitz Travel Expenses \$721.86  
Brede Colorado Convention Setup Fee \$365.59  
Sheraton Hotels Travel Expenses \$9,230.31 + \$186.00  
Doubletree Hotels Travel Expenses \$753.41  
Courtyard Marriott Atlanta, Georgia Travel Expenses \$1,792.16  
American Express \$261.90 + \$375.29 + \$12,798.16 + \$334.35

## The Libertarian Party: Failing Our Own Candidates in New and Creative Ways

...by Steve Newton

Reprinted by permission from [The Delaware Libertarian](http://delawarelibertarian.blogspot.com/2008/08/libertarian-party-failing-our-own.html)

<http://delawarelibertarian.blogspot.com/2008/08/libertarian-party-failing-our-own.html>

Let me count the ways....

We have a current national leadership ('scuze me, there was a little vomit at the back of my throat when I had to put the two words together in the context of the LP) that has become an appendage of the Bob Barr presidential campaign, to the continuing detriment of Libertarian candidates across the country. Let's have some examples:

A) The LP national website has been re-designed to mimic the Bob Barr website; at that it is static, clunky, and user-unfriendly.

B) Said website provides only a single page on Liberty Candidates '08 that does nothing beyond posting the names (and sometimes photos) of candidates in no apparent order, with no context, and no meaningful links. [Three examples: Mike Munger in North Carolina, Scotty Boman in Michigan, and Allen Buckley in Georgia have obviously put time and effort into the design of their campaign websites; unfortunately, the LP page doesn't link to any of them, but links to static pages on the NC, MI, and GA state LP pages.]

C) There is absolutely no coverage of the hundreds of Libertarian candidates running around the nation. No coverage of Munger's successful fight to get into the NC gubernatorial debates. No coverage of the Texas GOP trying to con Libertarians off the ballot in the Lone Star State. No coverage of the unprecedented coverage that Georgia newspapers are giving Allen Buckley.

D) No fundraising by the essentially defunct Libertarian National Congressional Committee, which is supposed to be out there raising and disbursing funds to our candidates.

E) No policy stands or useful positions, or even discussion of the Libertarian platform. Instead, we have this idiotic pseudo-blog by Andrew Davis whose two most recent posts are (I swear): an abortive idea about using Craigslist to sign up campaign volunteers and a brief recitation of the ways in which Bob Barr differs from John McCain and Barack Obama.

F) And meanwhile, we have Shane Corey sending out suggestions to Barr supporters that they defraud talk radio hosts around the country to get plugs for The Man with the Mustache. That'll really build up local media enthusiasm for covering our candidates, right?

I'm going to piss off the people who have supposedly put together this abortion of an operation by sending them this post. Don't get me wrong: there are good people on the LNC, and you certainly can't hold Mike Jingoian or Mary Ruwart responsible for the current state of affairs. Nor can you do anything but admire Angela Keaton for her lonely fight for some kind of responsibility or accountability in LP operations.

The rest of you: are you just frauds, or what the hell are you thinking? It doesn't even take a lot of money to provide rudimentary support to our candidates. Here's how you could have started--if you were really interested:

1) You could have provided leadership in helping to identify four or five major unifying campaign themes (maybe even have thought up some useful sound bite names for them) like energy policy, jobs, foreign policy, etc., and actually commissioned some thoughtful position pieces by Libertarian thinkers out there for use by all of our candidates. You know that Mary Ruwart would have written on education and the FDA, that Steve Kubby would have written on the drug war, and so on. Then there could have been an issues bank with facts, figures, arguments, and talking points available to any Libertarian can-

didate who needed them.

2) You could have actually gotten together a list of candidates, with up to date linking information, assigned an aggressive information coordinator, and actually started covering our f\*\*king candidates. We could have had lists of appearances, You-Tube URLs, links to local press coverage. Unfortunately, since you didn't actually seem to give a crap about our State candidates, we had to wait until August when George Donnelly did your damn job for you.

3) You could have gotten a competent website designer (and there are plenty of them in the LP) to create a simple website template for our candidates to use. With an issues bank in place, with decent news coverage of LP candidates across the nation, and this template, it would have been easy for our candidates to have attractive, professional-looking, consistent websites operating in support of their campaigns around the country. Hell, you could even have taken a little of that pocket money the LNCC supposedly raised and used it to purchase server space for those candidates who couldn't get access to it any other way. But you didn't.

4) You could have actually created working fundraising mechanisms (or at least provided guidance on the site) for local and State candidates instead of attempting to pull all the money out of the atmosphere to do ballot access for Bob Barr.

5) You could have insisted that the Barr campaign actually link its activities and press releases to more of our down-ticket candidates. [The Barr-on-Iraq/Iran foreign policy press release could have been--in these days of word-processing--have been sent out to different States with different down-ticket candidates' names attached: "That's why you need to think about voting Libertarian this year, for the Barr/Root Presidential ticket, and for Chris Cole as your Senator from North Carolina." See they've got this neat feature called "find and replace"....]

If you haven't gotten the point yet, it's this:

We're not going to elect Bob Barr as President this year, and we will potentially waste the largest Libertarian voter turn-out ever because the national party has not lifted a damn finger to help out our State and local candidates.

I'm sure that there are some factual errors in this rant. Maybe Bob Barr actually has sent out tailored press releases and I missed it. Maybe the LNCC actually raised a few hundred bucks for somebody and sent out a check by midnight runner.

Maybe.

But the substance of this post is grimly, dismally accurate: the Libertarian Party currently does not have a national leadership organization that is either willing or able to do what needs to be done to gain electoral success.

The Libertarian movement, such as it is, currently resides in the leadership of active 20 State affiliates, each of whom is struggling without resources to reinvent the wheel every week because the people we actually pay salaries to have failed.

Yeah. That means you.

## LP News a Bit Late

It is August 9, and the "June-July" LP News just reached here. For Libertarian Party members, this is the first uniformly available notice as to who won at the national convention, namely Barr-Root. One might have proposed that earlier publication would have been advantageous.

As convention coverage, there are limits. There were 6 ballots, a recent national record. The votes are not recorded. In fact, the other candidates are not mentioned. There is no mention of the Vice Presidential race other than the name of the winner. There is no mention of the radically new platform. There is no mention of the LNC elections.

## Problem of Queer Libertarians with LP Reformers and the Cory Administration

...a letter from Brian Miller

I recount problems that queer Libertarians have had with the LP "reformers" and the Cory administration in the past 12 months:

1) Language. We repeatedly urge the LP (and LP members) to use the right language when talking to LGBT Americans -- i.e., "gay and lesbian" or "LGBT." Yet every time we've made this point to LP communications under the Cory regime -- including to Mr. Gordon when he was Communications Director -- we were told to basically piss off. The LP's people insist on referring to LGBT people as "homosexuals," which has about as much communications efficacy as referring to African Americans as "negroid."

You might think that's a small thing, but it doesn't help the LP's presence in the community or our ability to bring in skeptical voters when you're already using the "homosexual" language that's predominant in the anti-gay right. And having two straight guys lecture us on how "ridiculous" our simple request is also amuses. As a result, LPHQ has literally no credibility in the LGBTQ community, and the people like Angela, Rob, Allan Wallace, Ruth Bennett, and myself who are repeatedly attacked by the "reformers" and the LPHQ alike are patching up the damages by playing interference between the communities.

Why is such a simple request ignored? Why are the only people who keep the LP credible in the gay and lesbian community being told we don't know what we're talking about?

If the people getting slammed were to stop promoting the LP tomorrow morning, all of the positive press it's received in the gay community despite our controversial choice of nominee would dry up overnight. And I cringe to think of what the stories would look like if we let people from LPHQ speak on our behalf. To call the message "tone deaf" is the biggest friggin' compliment I could come up with.

2) Regarding Ms. Mattson's platform shenanigans, [the language on LGBT rights was completely stripped out of the original platform, and not a single openly gay Libertarian was invited to participate on the platform committee until the final draft was written.](#)

As a result, the document which popped out Ms. Mattson's committee was wholly inadequate -- in fact, downright embarrassing -- on LGBT issues.

Fortunately, LGBTQ leaders and supporters like Carol McMahon -- and the majority of the convention-goers -- quickly repaired the platform to strengthen it to where it needed to be.

If you're under the mistaken impression that the LGBT Libertarian community did not notice the effort to foist the original embarrassing plank on LGBT rights, you are hugely mistaken. Just compare last year's donor list to this year's.

Or read through my e-mail inbox as an Ex-Comm member of Outright.

It's also instructive to note that Ms. Mattson did not have the support to gain election to the LNC.

3) [Last year, the Libertarian Party had a unique opportunity to scoop the Democrats and Republicans on marriage equality during Valentine's Day.](#) Outright -- excited to get positive press for the Party -- contacted the Massachusetts, California and National parties to enquire about a press release.

California and Massachusetts, as always, came through.

National? [Shane Cory refused to issue a press release, telling us that we needed to get our membership to e-mail him with a large volume of e-mail before he'd issue it.](#)

I cannot think of a single situation where a Libertarian has ever been told that in order to get the LP to issue a press release on a Libertarian issue, that the leading Libertarian lobby has to beg its members to beg *our own party* to put out even token support.

Fortunately, we managed to spam the Libertarian ED enough to warrant a press release. But the LGBT press, who can read our public e-mail address, reported that the LNC issued the press release "only after pressure from gay libertarians."

4) In the last days of Cory's tenure, on the LP-aligned (and

Viguerie-owned) Third Party Watch web site, a number of Libertarians hopped in to state that the LP platform is opposed to same-sex marriage and same-sex adoption. Rob Power, a major donor in the LP Torch Club *and* the Executive Director of the LGBT lobby of the Libertarian Party, asked Cory to pop in and make a two sentence statement repudiating the assertion after it was picked up and spread far and wide across the gay media as "Libertarian Party lurches right."

[Mr. Cory's reaction -- in email -- to a Torch Club donor and public Libertarian of Mr. Power's standing -- was to refuse and tell him to "find something else to bitch about."](#) And the story in the LGBT media, based on the party's inaction? That the LP opposes marriage equality and gay adoption and that Outright is "spinning around the issue."

Brilliant! Now we get to compromise our own perceived integrity -- as volunteers -- as well as get insulted for being major donors.

Oh, and the whole Barr/Root thing hasn't been helping the LP's credibility either.

5) Trust.

I'm going to be blunt with you guys. Without Outright and great people like Rob, Angela, Allan and Ruth to kick your asses into gear on basic Libertarian social issues (which are not "left," BTW, but smack-dab in the center of this party since its founding), I don't trust the national office to do the right thing on LGBT issues.

Virtually every intervention I've made on behalf of the Libertarian National office this year has been to explain away a fuck-up, lobby internally for the party to adhere to the bloody platform and issue a press release on a major issue of import, or beg candidates and employees of national not to rip on the community through the use of bad language or Republican National Committee policies that are as distant from the LP platform as can be.

At a certain point, even staunch 12+ year Libertarians like myself ask why we bother. If I wanted to be in a party where I'm treated like a leper and where LGBT people are patronized and pulled out of basic positions on social and economic issues, I'd go join the Democrats and at least get paid for covering for the party.

Personally, my patience is at an end. Between me and other Outright Executive Committee members, we've spoken to dozens of major media outlets, both in the LGBT community and the general community. As unpaid volunteers of an affinity organization, we've had more success getting the LP into the New York Times, the NYT Magazine, the Washington Post, the Washington Times, the Advocate, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and numerous regional LGBT and non-LGBT media than the press office within the LP. We've appeared on national news, national radio, and regional news/radio. We're on speed dial to

most of the reporters as trusted sources of information about the Libertarian Party's position on gay issues.

You should think carefully about what our answers might be, should any people in the press start asking us for our honest opinion of how the LNC's national office is approaching LGBT issues. I don't intend to lie to them, and with a 18 month record like the one above, you're going to have to cover things pretty comprehensively.

And if the national media calls the office to get comments about "homosexuals" when even the Washington Times uses the terms "gay and lesbian," then you hit bottom.

And you cannot say we didn't warn you.

If you guys think you can build a Libertarian majority by abandoning our principles; abusing the media to take pot-shots at prominent long-time party leaders like Angela, Dr. Ruwart and Dr. Phillis; telling loyal Libertarian Party organizations that to get a press release we have to use our lobbying resources internally rather than externally; and telling Torch Club members to "stop bitching" when our Party's platform is incorrectly summarized by both party "leaders" and party employees, you're going to be facing a long, cold dark winter.

Do *not* assume that my silence to date, or the general silence of the membership, indicates approval of your actions or position. I am through with having my professional integrity and political reputation compromised by these shenanigans. I will *not* make excuses for this bad behavior, or efforts by you to cover for it, anymore. And a lot of other people more influential than I are approaching the same point.

Cheers,

Brian R. Miller  
National Secretary, Outright Libertarians  
Philadelphia

## Response from Chris Bennett

First of all, I would like to thank Brian Miller for all he has done to promote the LP to the GLBT community. On that note let's go to the point at hand:

As many of you know I have been involved with the LP for over 16 years, which is longer than most. My frustration with the LP is at an all-time high. I ran for VP this year and despite efforts from a few dedicated individuals (they know who they are) my candidacy gained little traction. I even got an interview with a minority newspaper in Denver, Colorado; which to my understanding they never published the article.

The direction of the LP has taken a much misaligned right turn since I joined the LP back in 1991. Richard Boddie was my inspiration, someone who would have done a lot better in 1992 than Andre Marrou. What are libertarians afraid of? Have we

been so entrenched in the angry white middle aged computer geek niche that the party does not want to reach out to others. Doesn't every American deserve to be free? You know that the Jehovah Witness believe that only 144,000 souls are selected by God to enter his Kingdom; by comparison is the LP making the same perception that only angry white middle aged males deserve to be free? Isn't the Libertarian Party suppose to be a political party, willing to accept all those who believe in our basic principles? But instead the LP acts like some secret order with a secret handshake or code I was never given upon membership. Hell, the Masons are more open than our organization!

How many of you can name 12 African-American libertarians, besides myself? I can't tell you time and time again throughout my years as an activist that I have tried to get something going on outreach to minorities. I get a lot of good responses but no action. I get the usual responses like "blacks won't vote for us because we want to get rid of their welfare benefits." Is it that racist or what? Not all blacks are on welfare, in fact every American is a beneficiary of some kind of governmental program every day. If you don't think so, just remember who built the street that runs by your house.

When someone does try to form a committee (Angela) to do such outreach, it's met with very little fanfare. In fact, people like M Carling, the prick that he is, makes an outlandish comment about such activity. I don't know what the new agenda of the "New" Libertarian Party is but if it is slowly becoming the "New Anti-Nig\*\*r Machine", I don't want to be apart of it. It's bad enough that we seem to cater to conservatives and not the liberals. I don't or never wanted the LP to become a Republican-lite party or the Libertarian wing of the Republican Party; if I wanted to become a Republican, I'd would have put a shotgun to my head and squeezed the trigger first! I'm a Libertarian just like many of you and the future has become bleak for the Party from what I have seen.

Bob Barr and Sonny Landham are cut from the same cloth. One eulogized a racist and one is a racist. One once spoke to a racist organization and one actively promotes that same racist organization. One prosecuted hundreds of blacks in the name of a racist agenda and the other one wants to become the next Adolf Hitler and exterminate a race off the face of the Earth. First our platform gets watered down, then we nominate a wanna-be Libertarian. What's next? I heard David Duke is unemployed, can he be our next Executive Director?

In order to change the individual, we must cater our message to various groups. There are so many people who would like to hear our message but if we do not go out and seek to include these people how will the party experience any growth. One person can not do this alone. It takes a concentrated effort from many to change the perception many outside the party see us as. If you don't want to do outreach to minorities, just let me know and I will leave the party for good. I'd rather have people tell me to my face that they hate black people or outreach to minorities is not beneficial to the LP than to be underhanded and beat around the bush. Tell me that my 16 years of activism has not



been wasted on some pipe dream. It's already cost me 20K because I went back to college to help the LP by the way of running "real" campaigns and "real" organizations.

...Chris Bennett

Chris Bennett is the Libertarian Party candidate for Vice President of the United States in New Hampshire.

## Yes, Virginia, There is Global Warming

...George Phillies

That cesspit of lunacy termed American conservatism continues to kick up claims that there is no global warming. This right wing nonsense damages our country and endangers the private property of vast numbers of Americans.

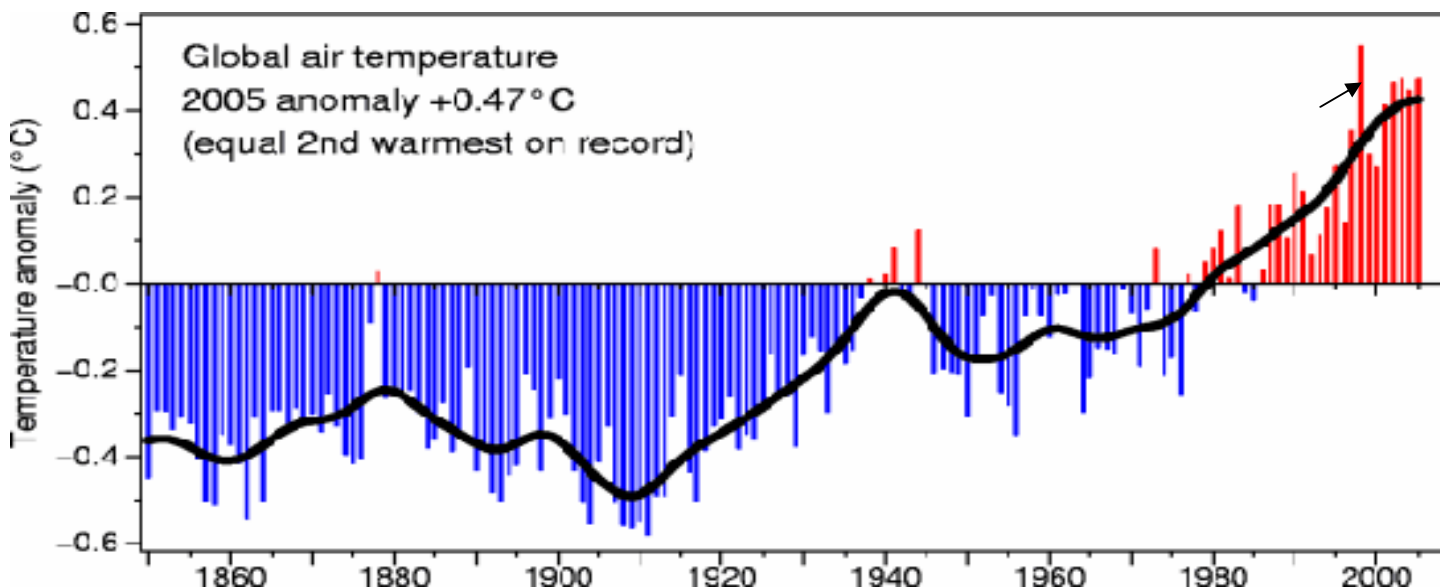
Conservative Lie #1): Global Warming stopped in 1998. So at the end of this article is the graph is the actual world temperature graph courtesy <http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/cru/info/warming/> (And if someone mumbles at you about NASA and 1935, that was the average temperature in the USA.)

There is an averaged trend line (black) and there are year to year fluctuations (year numbers are the red and blue lines). 1998 is the red line sticking way way up, the line that does not match neighboring lines at all. I have an arrow pointing at it, in case you are in doubt.

The trend is overwhelmingly visible, with flatness until around 1920, and then trending up with short and long term bounces around the trend.

Of course, if you are an American conservative, you take 1998 as 'typical' and say 'we're getting colder again' which is clearly total nonsense.

Oh, why do we get these bounces from the trend? For one:



The air holds heat. The ocean holds about a thousand times more heat. The deep ocean is shielded from the air. Change how the shallow ocean is stirred, and you will change how heat exchanges between ocean and air. This cools air all around the world, or heats air all around the world. The La Nina and El Nino Pacific events are examples of this mixing effect. These events last around a year, are unpredictable in advance, and cause some of the bumps you see in the above graph.

Conservative Lie #2) If you can't predict weather, you can't predict climate. To predict my climate, you need to predict that Worcester gets around 4" of rain a month, more in some months, less in others. To predict weather, you needed to predict that, for this June, 3" fell on one day, and \*which day\* the 3" fall would occur. Obviously getting the day right is harder than getting the month right.. By the same token, it is much harder to predict next year's weather than to predict climate.

Conservative Lie #3) We can't measure climate change. I call the reader's attention to the marvel of modern 18<sup>th</sup> century science, the thermometer, a device that measures temperature quantitatively. Around the world are vast numbers of people recording and reporting the weather. Earth satellites measure much of the rest of the globe. Careful averages--some areas have fewer measurements than others--eliminate fluctuations, smooth out day to day changes, and give accurate measurements of the temperatures of the whole earth, with precision visible in the above graph.

I could go on, but the short message is that climate change denial is wrong and dangerous, both to our country and our party. Denial is dangerous to our country, because it leads us to take bad decisions as private citizens and entrepreneurs. Denial is dangerous to our party, for the same reason that homophobia is bad for our party: The younger generation will justly and correctly reject us, even as the younger generation is rejecting that sinkhole of flat-earthery that is the conservatism of the Bush Republican War Party.

# Liberty for America

**Liberty for America is  
not currently a political party.**

**Liberty for America does not currently  
run or endorse candidates for Federal or non-Federal office.**

Liberty for America exists to build an effective pro-liberty movement in America, a movement separated from the flat-earther bigot cesspit that is modern American conservatism, a movement separated from the *Après moi, le déluge* philosophy of the Congressional duopoly party, a movement that stands against good-old-boy scratch-my-back incompetence and corruption.

**Liberty for America is preparing to offer  
positive political alternatives  
not available elsewhere.**

**Liberty for America  
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