

Liberty for America

June 2015

Volume 8 Number 1

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Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to Independent Political Report, which turned seven in May. Independent Political Report was the successor to 3rd Party Watch, which was sold to Richard Viguerrie in 2008. 3rd Party Watch rapidly ceased to cover third parties. Independent Political Report has been covering 3rd parties ever since.

A Thought To Consider Hayekian Libertarianism

A truly radical alternative...Hayekian libertarianism. It's an opposite to Randian Social Darwinism. It neutralizes the main complaint of left non-libertarians against our party. You may find it to radical a change.

With a tip of the hat to google.com and Nicholas Wapshott for letting me find the quote on line in a reasonable time:

Here is what Hayek actually wrote in his book *The Road to Serfdom*, pp 148-149

“There is no reason why in a society which has reached the general level of wealth which ours has attained the first kind of security should not be guaranteed to all without endangering general freedom. [T]here can be no doubt that some minimum of food, shelter, and clothing, sufficient to preserve health and the capacity to work, can be assured to everybody. ... Nor is there any reason why the state should not assist the individual in providing for those common hazards of life against which, because of their uncertainty, few individuals can make adequate provision.

"Where, as in the case of sickness and accident, neither the desire to avoid such calamities nor the efforts to overcome their consequences are as a rule weakened by the

provision of assistance – where, in short, we deal with genuinely insurable risks – the case for the state’s helping to organize a comprehensive system of social insurance is very strong. There are many points of detail where those wishing to preserve the competitive system and those wishing to super-cede it by something different will disagree on the details of such schemes; and it is possible under the name of social insurance to introduce measures which tend to make competition more or less ineffective. But there is no incompatibility in principle between the state’s providing greater security in this way and the preservation of individual freedom.

"To the same category belongs also the increase of security through the state’s rendering assistance to the victims of such ‘acts of God’ as earthquakes and floods. Wherever communal action can mitigate disasters against which the individual can neither attempt to guard himself nor make provision for the consequences, such communal action should undoubtedly be taken.

“There is, finally, the supremely important problem of combating general fluctuations of economic activity and the recurrent waves of large-scale unemployment which accompany them. This is, of course, one of the gravest and most pressing problems of our time. But, though its solution will require much planning in the good sense, it does not — or at least need not — require that special kind of planning which according to its advocates is to replace the market.

"Many economists hope, indeed, that the ultimate remedy may be found in the field of monetary policy, which would involve nothing incompatible even with nineteenth-century liberalism. Others, it is true, believe that real success can be expected only from the skillful timing of public works undertaken on a very large scale. This might lead to much more serious restrictions of the competitive sphere, and, in experimenting in this direction, we shall have to carefully watch our step if we are to avoid making all economic activity progressively more dependent on the direction and volume of government expenditure. But this is neither the only nor, in my opinion, the most promising way of meeting the gravest threat to economic security.

"In any case, the very necessary effort to secure protection against these fluctuations do not lead to the kind of planning which constitutes such a threat to our freedom.”

So wrote Hayek.

Guest Editorial - A Declaration of Peace

Ron Windeler of Alaska has made a specific proposal for dealing with party membership growth in the form of a proposed use of the Right of Petition that would be a good thing and incidentally advance the party’s membership. He writes:

“Harry Browne and Project Archimedes caused the greatest growth streak in our history. At its zenith, just after the scandals broke, we had almost three times as many members as we do now. Because the project was so over promised and the scandals so embarrassing, we have avoided any action resembling it ever since. If we continue this irrational avoidance of success,

in another decade or two, the last two members of the national party may get married in your home state, with both geeky guys carrying M16s.

“I don't think that direct mail is completely obsolete. We could probably dig out the old records and take back up where we left off with the project and double our membership in a few years. But with all our nerdy computer professionals, why can't we come up with a digital virtual modern version of Project Archimedes? Ron Paul, an older fogey than you or me, came up with "money bombs" in 2007. Maybe we could organize flash mobs, with a thousand young people showing up at a street corner, taking the Nolan quiz, making a donation to the party with their smart phones, and then dispersing. (after taking a selfie of the scene)

“You are right that the best way to attract new members is for the party to do things that interest them. I don't think that you are thinking big enough with a blog discussing controversial issues once a month. There are about ten million of those already in business.

“I have noticed that one part of the Constitution has not been neutralized, probably because it has never been used effectively yet. I'm referring to the right of the people to petition our government for the redress of grievances. One of my many political inventions is just such a petition. I suspect that, if our party circulated this and got a few million signers, we could change the world for the better, and end up with a few million new members. (have I over promised it enough yet?)

“I hope that the catch-phrase "end the fraudulent war against our American values" will have more appeal than your marryin' and carryin' ditty; do have other items of similar stature for the second and third months of our new campaign of action.

Ron Windeler_rowindeler@aol.com

Declaration of Peace

Whereas The Congress of the United States has not declared war or issued any letters of marque and reprisal since December 8, 1941, And, whereas the Authorizations for the use of Military Force passed in 2001 and 2002, are not declarations of war, and only authorize the use of “necessary and appropriate” force. Therefore, we, the people of the United States of America, are at peace with every nation, organization, and person in the world. We are at peace with Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, Egypt, Ukraine, North Korea, Cuba, and all other nations on Earth. We are at peace with ISIS, al Qaeda, the Taliban, the Baath party, “radical Islamic Jihadists,” “insurgents,” “enemy combatants,” all accused terrorist organizations, the Tea Party, the Libertarian Party, the Communist Party, and all other organizations on Earth. We were at peace with Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, and Moammar Gadhafi before they were murdered. We are at peace with Bashar Assad, Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un, Castro, and every other person on Earth.

And therefore, we demand that our government stop murdering people, anywhere, for any reason. We demand that our government stop waging the fraudulent “War on Terror” against falsely accused and manufactured enemies. Every act of our government since 1991 related to

that war has been a criminal, immoral, un-American act against international laws, American laws, and our American values. We demand that those responsible owners of for these crimes against humanity be brought to justice and restitution be paid to all victims around the world.

Libertarian News:

We see a report on the LNC business list that the Ohio Republican Party spent \$300,000 in legal expenses to knock the Libertarian Party of Ohio off the ballot. At some point one might hope that libertarians around the country would notice that it is the Republican Party that is making most of these attacks on our ballot access status, and would make a suitable response. One response would be to vigorously recruit candidates who would run in districts in which a Republican is on the ballot, the district is somewhat close, and the Libertarian candidate runs a vigorous campaign of emphasizing libertarian issues by bashing the Republican fascists at every opportunity. I concede that in Massachusetts, where the Republican Party is mostly but unfortunately not quite extinct, such an effort would be more challenging.

California had its 2015 state convention. Despite holding the convention out-of-state in remote Las Vegas, Nevada, nearly 70 Californians attended the event. By report, a considerable majority of them were wearing stickers advertising their support for Ted Brown for State Chair. The now-former State Chair, Kevin Takenaga, chose not to run for reelection. Many members of the State Committee also did not run or were not reelected. By report, there was at least some feeling that despite promising prospects the past State Committee had not delivered adequately. Hopefully, with the new chair and new committee, the California Libertarian party will change course for the better. The new State Chair has apparently promised that future conventions will be held in major metropolitan areas, notably around San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. We gather from reports that the new party executive officer will be Janine Kloss and that libertarian hero donor Chris Rufer will be supporting her hire financially. One might propose as an amendment to their state bylaws that California at this stage should be electing a new state committee every year, on the grounds the good people can always be re-elected, and even one year is too long for someone who is not pulling her or his weight.

The new Libertarian Party of Washington State chair is Stephen Neilson. The new Michigan officers are Chair: Kimberly Moore; Vice Chair: Karl Jackson; Secretary: Mary Buzuma; Treasurer: Jonathan Osment; At Large Directors: Jason Brandenburg, Justin Burns, Arnis Davidsons, Jeff Wood, & James Weeks II. The new Pennsylvania state chair is Shawn Felty.

The Nevada state party organized the Libertarian Party Exposition. It cost close to \$60,000 to run. Some readers will recall that the meeting on the future of the libertarian political movement that I ran some years ago cost under \$4000. I have heard positive things about the Nevada event. Nevada also had its new state convention. Brett Pojunis was reelected as State Chair. The full Nevada State Committee includes

- Chairman: **Brett H. Pojunis**
- Vice-Chairman: **Jason G. Smith**
- Secretary: **Piper Kassela**

- Treasurer: **Tim Hagan**
- Northern Rep: **David Colborne**
- Southern Rep: **Candy Nickens**
- At-Large: **Jason Weinman**
- At-Large: **Frank Kassela**
- At-Large: **Steve Brown**

Joy Waymire of California has announced that she is once again going to seek our party's Presidential nomination. She is reportedly asked Todd Andrew Barnett to serve as her campaign manager.

Outright Libertarians has given extensive coverage on their website to Libertarian Party Presidential candidate Steve Kerbel. You can read the article at <http://www.outrightusa.org/joomla25/blog/344-meet-steve-kerbel-libertarian-presidential-candidate>. The interviewer, Stephen Rodriguez, was favorably impressed by the candidate.

LNC In Action

As we noted last issue, the LNC Chair had taken a generous but entirely rational interpretation of the obscurely written bylaw dealing with membership dues. The LNC was presented with a motion to overturn the chair's ruling, and rule that Doug Craig was in fact not a member of the LNC because his membership dues were not current. The vote was Yes: Goldstein, Johnson, Kirkland, Sarwark, Vohra; No Estrada, Feldman, Hagan, Katz, Lark, Mattson, McLendon, Olsen, Redpath, Reimers, Wiener. A NO vote was a vote to overturn the Chair's decision. The Secretary claimed that Craig was not entitled to vote on the challenge to his seating, and therefore his vote was illegal. Readers will be astonished to learn that Craig was of the opinion that he had given the money last year, he had paid an additional \$25 when his membership was challenged, and therefore he was still on the LNC. The chair's ruling was overturned, so Doug Craig was thrown off the LNC. The LNC then immediately turned around and voted to make Doug Craig an At Large member to fill the vacancy they had just created by throwing him off the National Committee. Voting in favor of the motion were Estrada, Goldstein, Hagan, Johnson, Katz, Kirkland, Lark, McLendon, Olsen, Redpath, Reimers, Sarwark, Vohra, Wiener; stating that they were abstaining were Mattson and Feldman. It is positively amazing how much time was consumed by this nonsense. The National Committee is lucky that Craig did not accept the first motion of the National Committee and leave.

The National Committee is discussing issuing a circular sticker of the sort that is routinely applied to the inside of car windows. The proposal is a blue circle with white lettering, though variations exist, and inside the blue circle is "LP.org". That is, you use the bumper sticker, well window sticker, to advertise the URL, and having advertised the URL you bring people to your site so that they look at it.

The LNC held a meeting in May and spent its time discussing a possible new logo.

The National Committee sent Geoff Neale off to be our international representative. Founding an international group of libertarians was not trivial, but one has been formed. Mr. Neale will apparently now be its chair. Many national Libertarian parties other than ours are not fixated on parliamentary procedure. This led to some interesting exchanges on the national committee business list as to what was going on. It seems that the international libertarian group will be formally based in Switzerland, which has certain rules, in particular that the organization has to specify where its funds will go if it's dissolved. Of course, the organization has no funds. It does however now have a name, namely it is the International Alliance of Libertarian Parties, and the decision to use English as its international language. I could quote more of the LNC debate, but I can't see any point doing so. Neale on becoming the chair of the international organization resigned as our representative. It appears that the LNC will appoint Jim Lark as our new representative to the international libertarians.

The LNC was presented with the financial report for April. The counts of members, donors, and income continue to decline. Revenue for April came to \$74,675, which is the lowest for the year. The total for the first 1/3 of the year was \$363,000, but that included at least one one-time event. For April, the deficit of revenue relative to expenditure was \$23,505, which was also the worst of the year. On the bright side, the national party has over \$61,000 of cash on hand.

The LNC was presented with the membership report for May, 2015. In the past year, membership has fallen by two and a half thousand, and is now well under twelve thousand. Non-member donors have fallen even faster. The total number of new sustaining members in May was 70. The total number of renewing members in May was 474. Those numbers would in the long term lead to a total membership of around 7000, plus whatever number of life members (currently under 2500) were currently associated with the party.

Brett Pojunis sent an extremely vigorous letter to his fellow State Chairs asking why corrective action was not being taken. He urges "There are many things that can be done to correct this leadership must do something and do it quick." He continues "I do not want to sit idle while our party is falling apart." Other state chairs supported his position. David Colborne noted that the latest email from the National Committee was a fundraising appeal to help pay off the LNC's mortgage on its enormously expensive -- relative to its size -- party national headquarters. (You buy a building in the belly of the beast, and you should not be surprised when real estate in the belly is not cheap.) Jason Weinman of Nevada pointed out the excellent outcomes that the Nevada state party has been obtaining, notably the voter registration is growing, dues paying membership is growing, there have been legislative successes, ballot access is been improved, and party understanding of reasonable processes has been enhanced. He proposes "the national party needs a plan, it needs the institutional knowledge to carry out that plan, and it needs to start executing. When the national party is not seen as viable, it holds us all back, even local candidates who want to be taken seriously. When the national party gets good national press, or develops contacts, reaches voters, appeals to volunteers, and finds donors around the country, it pushes us all forward." J.J. Summerell proposed that in order to have a strong national party we need at least some strong state parties. A strong state party is one, in his opinion, that has at least one elected state legislator. We currently have no strong state parties by

this definition. He urges that we focus on developing state affiliates and not worry about the national organization.

Daniel Hayes proposes that the solution to national party membership, if it is seen as a problem by a state chair, is for the state chair to get out there and ask people to join the national party. He notes that this approach is been highly effective in his state of Louisiana for other similar political purposes.

It seems that, back in March, the LNC had signed a contract of some sort with a marketing firm, to attempt to improve the membership situation. The contract was for \$19,000. We are now some months later, and members of the LNC are asking what the outcome of the expenditure was. Alicia Mattson in her remarks on the topic includes a sentence that appears to imply that until some recent date 100-150 dead people were being counted as sustaining members. Well, that is what the sentence seems to say. By report, close to 200 renewals can be credited to the firm as well as 100 renewals for which the firm is at least partly responsible. The renewals brought in \$11,340 that was clearly attributable to the marketing firm, and another \$7446 that should probably be attributed in part to the marketing firm. The firm is still pursuing people who said that they would renew, but who have yet to do so.

More Libertarian News

The Libertarian Party of Colorado sends to members a short electronic message with links taking the members to the new issue of their newsletter. They had a state convention, and elected a new slate of officers. . Colorado is doing rather well. They have at least a few County chapters that have their own conventions and elect their own people. Their Campaigns Director, Jack Woehr, offers us some words of wisdom, and we quote from their newsletter:

“In Colorado, all genuine reform in the past 30 years has been by citizen initiative over the heads of the un-reformable Dems and Repubs in the Colorado Assembly. Since we lack the initiative process at the federal level, the only hope for reform nationally is to oust the Dems and Repubs.

Hence, if one wants real reform in American political life, one must vote for the Libertarian Party, the only party even close to being in a position to oust the entrenched political elite.”

The Libertarian Party State Chairs email list is discussing different electronic schemes for reducing the physical work that needs to be done by our limited number of volunteers. The Florida people have asked for opinions on CivicRM and whether people have managed implementing it to make it work. The Nevada people have expressed an interest in Nation Builder, though the quoted prices are quite stiff. The reported estimate was \$1200 to launch and at full speed \$3000 a month, but these numbers are very sensitive to what you are doing. The Massachusetts party investigated Nation Builder, and concluded it was too much and too expensive for our current state of affairs. The New Jersey party is using CiviCRM successfully for, they report, membership management, event management, donations, and inquiries, this not

being a full list of its features. <http://njlp.org/joinus> gives an example of the page generated with this software. The software Joomla! can be used to control what CiviRM is doing. Brett Bittner reported that the Indiana party was moving to CiviCRM from BlackBaud. A challenge with CiviCRM is similar to the challenge was coding in bare HTML: you actually have to know someone who knows what they are doing. With at least some of these plans, notably the ones that you run on your own site, there is also the issue that national party encountered: you must be very careful to keep things up to date.

A list of forthcoming state conventions includes:

Saturday, June 13 Alabama

Saturday, June 20 Mississippi

Saturday, July 13 North Dakota

Friday, July 31 – Saturday, August 1 Illinois

Saturday, September 19 Connecticut

Saturday, October 17 Massachusetts

Saturday, November 7 – Sunday, November 8 South Carolina

We are seeing some warming up of candidates for future elections. Augustus Invictus and Roger Stone will apparently both be trying to obtain the Libertarian Party of Florida's nomination for U.S. Senate in 2016. In related news, the Arkansas state party is submitting a petition for party status. They have a legal minimum of 10,000 signatures, and expect to be submitting 14,000 or 15,000 in order to be sure they are on the ballot.

We have seen several exploitations of local issues by Libertarian parties. The Libertarian Party of Collier County is organizing a campaign to support local businesses that wish to use sign holders standing out in order to support their businesses.

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts is organizing a campaign in opposition to inflicting the Olympic Games on the city of Boston. For example, the Olympic games proposal includes a proposal to drop into the center of the city of Boston a 68,000 person stadium to be used for the opening and closing ceremonies. The stadium would have no other use during, before, or after the Olympic Games. The state party has pointed out that there is available in Foxboro, Massachusetts a 68,000 seat stadium that is used in other seasons by the local football team, which happens to own it, but which might be persuaded to loan or rent the use of their stadium for somewhat less than the one or two billion dollars that the proposed stadium would cost. The Olympics campaign is the front and of the program of putting out a long series of issues on which there is a reasonable libertarian position, and on which the bulk of the voters already agree with us, so that people come to identify with our positions. The campaign when completely organized will include Facebook pages, Facebook advertising, press releases, letters to the editor, other advertising, and other political means. Massachusetts chose the Olympics for its first effort to see how difficult it would be to get everything together, organized, and working. It turns out that getting everything off the ground is a major project. The Facebook page, which you can find at No to Boston Olympics, is up, and the Facebook advertising has been running. For advertising the Facebook page we are getting a fraction of the penny per person going to the page. The response rate on the request for a like for the message has been 3 to 5%. Around a 5th of the people going to the page are now going there because of shares or other actions rather than

our advertising. We are still working on how to move from the actual position on the issue to the next step which is emphasizing a bit more that this is our party taking the position. The other advertising efforts are a bit more slow. However, one step at a time.

Readers will be shocked, truly shocked to learn that the Oregon Libertarian lawsuits are still going on. Informed observers wonder whether at some point matters will come to an end or whether the lawsuits will only stop when they hit some natural law limit, such as the destruction of the earth by the decay of the core of the sun in the 600 million years, the collision of our galaxy with the Andromeda galaxy in 1 billion years give or take, or the cessation of all matter in the universe due to proton decay in a middling 10^{34} years. In other Oregon news, there was an election for Water Board Commissioner that featured a contest between two libertarians, one from each faction. Readers will be astonished to learn that the incumbent won.

There is now a Libertarian Christians movement with an organization. You can read about them at <http://libertarianchristians.com/>. They are having a national convention in Texas in August.

Last but very definitely not least, Marc Montoni has editorialized <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2015/05/marc-montoni-how-to-maximize-the-lp-presidential-campaign/> on what sort of things a legitimate Libertarian presidential candidate and campaign should actually be doing. His position is that we want a Libertarian presidential candidate who will actually work to expand the size of the party, and who will present a clearly Libertarian message. He notes a presidential campaign that actually did this, namely the 1992 Marrou campaign, which led to a dramatic increase in the size of our national party. The 1996 Browne campaign did the same thing, with similar results. The four presidential campaign since then did not do the same thing, and as a result our party membership has been progressively falling. Should your editor at some future date, for example 2020, choose to run for a presidential nomination again, I will very definitely be emphasizing campaign approaches and practices very much along the lines that Marc Montoni is advocating.