

Liberty for America

Journal of the
Libertarian Political Movement

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BREAKING: Barr Stiffs Paul Press Conference, Insults Entire Ron Paul Revolution Movement, Proposes to Dump His VP Candidate (for current details read TheDailyLiberty.com, LastFreeVoice.com, IndependentPoliticalReport.com)

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Libertarian Centrism

How are we to tell Libertarian Centrism apart from radical anarchism, Republican-lite conservatism, or conspiracy theorism? I offer a few thoughts .

Libertarian centrism is about real politics. We libertarian centrists do not agree about everything. Here are litmus questions. The fact that an issue is a litmus test does not make it an important issue. Some important issues are not litmus tests. Warning: Some centrists will disagree with some of my answers. What do most Libertarian centrists believe?

We are 100% pro-choice, because government has no valid business running women's lives for them.

All Americans are entitled to equality in marriage, adoption, divorce, and access to military service.

Slavery was the American Holocaust. Confederate apologists are rightly grouped with Holocaust deniers, and are shunned by all decent people.

Thomas Jefferson correctly wrote: "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men'. It is only through government, limited government, that men and women will stay free.

The so-called 'States Rights' doctrine, claiming that states may keep African-Americans from voting and women from having abortions, is un-American. Politicians who say 'leave it up to the states' are an opposite of libertarian.

While there have been conspiracies, the incoherent mutterings of conspiracy theorists, including 9/11 truthers, central banking foes, and 16th amendment deniers, offer nothing to the Libertarian political movement. They should be politely ignored.

More important, what does Libertarian Centrism offer America? What is the clear, positive, uplifting message we send about the American future? How will Libertarian centrism advance the Libertarian political movement?

That's a message for a future Editorial.

Liberty for America

Brian Miller Joins Liberty for America

He Serves as Financial Leader

Long-time Libertarian activist Brian Miller has joined the Liberty for America volunteer team. He will be working on developing the financial basis for Liberty for America and the Libertarian Centrist political movement.

Outright Libertarians write of their National Secretary: The former Chair of Outright Libertarians of the San Francisco Bay Area, Brian Miller relocated in 2008 to his hometown of Philadelphia and was elected as Outright's National Secretary at the May 2008 Outright Libertarians meeting in Denver.

LNC Votes Keaton Ought to Resign, Then Debates Motion to Expel Her

Over the September 7 weekend, the LNC met near Washington, D.C. The largest single part of the debate was consumed by efforts to drive Angela Keaton off the LNC. Angela covered the meeting via LiveBlog and Twitter; you can find pieces on LastFreeVoice.Com.

I had pass across my transom what are reported to be a rough draft of the LNC's minutes, or at least part of them. Except as noted below, the minutes agree with the memories of the LNC members who I have consulted. Motions re in bold face. Editorial interpolations are in italics. I have corrected obvious spelling and grammatical issues. The alleged minutes read:

After a break, the Chair announced Angela Keaton had blogged on the Internet some information that had been revealed in executive session.

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Pat Dixon moved to censure Angela Keaton for having blogged what she had put onto the LastFree Voice website.

Angela Keaton left the room after having admitted to the transgression. *[Editor: Keaton denies the accuracy of Sullentrop's minutes at this point.]*

Michael Jingoian read the passage to the body.

Aaron Starr moved a substitute motion:

It is the belief of this body that Angela Keaton should resign for having disclosed material in executive session. *[Editor: We believe that this is the final motion as passed.]* Everyone in the room voted for the substitution. *[Editor: We understand that Rachel Hawkridge abstained on a voice vote.]*

Angela Keaton returned to the room.

Aaron Starr moved to have her leave the room while the body decided what actions to take.

Angela Keaton was removed from the room but was afforded an opportunity to speak in her defense before departing. Her defense was that executive session was inappropriate for the material being discussed. Moreover, some of the material was an affront to her, and she had no opportunity to meet her accusers. **[Editor: We understand that some LNC members believe that Keaton withdrew voluntarily from the room.]**

Mary Ruwart invited Ms. Keaton to try again to address the specific issues the Committee had raised, since she had not appeared to have addressed them.

Bob Sullentrop called the question, which passed. Moving then to a vote on the LNC recommendation to ask Angela Keaton to resign:

Ayes: Pat Dixon, Stewart Flood, Julie Fox, Mark Hinkle, Michael Jingoian, Dan Karlan, Jim Lark, Mary Ruwart, Rebecca Sink-Burris, Aaron Starr, Bob Sullentrop

Nays: None

Abstentions: Rachel Hawkridge. The chair did not vote.

Lee Wrights and Angela Keaton were not in the room during the vote. Other LNC members were not at this part of the meeting,

[Editor: We now advance to Sunday.]

Bob Sullentrop moved that the LNC suspend the membership on the LNC of Angela Keaton for breaching confidentiality in executive session. Pat Dixon moved to amend with the phrase 'as denoted in Article 8 Section 5 of Bylaws'. The amendment was adopted.

Aaron Starr moved to make this matter a mail ballot. There was no second.

Aaron Starr moved to append 'in the event she does not apologize with 10 days and commit to never repeating the offense again'. At this point, we amended the agenda to remove Jim Lark's goals item from the agenda and move Rachel's to the email list. When Aaron's amendment passed, the main motion read:

The LNC shall suspend the membership on the LNC of Angela Keaton for breaching confidentiality in executive session as denoted in Article 8 Section 5 of Bylaws, in the event she does not apologize with 10 days and commit to never repeating the offense again. *[Editor: "suspend" is how the LNC expels an At-Large Member from the LNC. See LNC Bylaws, below.]*

At some point the Chair returned to the room after a brief absence and reported Shane Cory had sent a text message noting the Barr campaign did not want Keaton removed from the LNC.

After some discussion that Mary Ruwart and perhaps others would talk to Angela to get her to understand her breach and how it affected LNC business, the body withdrew the motion, pending Mary's report on her conversation. There was no objection.

Article 8. Section 5. The National Committee may, for cause, suspend any member-at-large by

a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee. The suspended member-at-large may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal.

The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's suspension of the member-at-large or order reinstatement of the member-at-large within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within 30 days shall constitute an affirmation of the National Committee's suspension of the member-at-large. At such times as the suspension is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.

A National Committee member who fails to attend two consecutive regular meetings of the National Committee shall be deemed to have vacated his or her seat. The appointing body shall be free to reappoint the member who vacated the seat.

Where Your Money Went

Barr 2008 Spending from Inception through the End of July

Once again, as a few cycles ago, we have a Presidential campaign that is making interesting spending decisions. With over \$600,000 in through the door through the end of July, the Bobb Barr campaign has spent more than \$83,000 on office space and office equipment. It has spent more than \$78,000 on information technology and computers, mostly to Terra Eclipse. Travel costs were closing in on \$120,000 by 7/31.

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Campaign spending on people has crossed the \$100,000 line. That includes over \$27,000 to Doug Bandow, who was getting \$10,000 month after month.

Shane Cory was paid \$18,000 in July. That annualizes to \$216,000 a year. Of course, the pay could include several months. Russ Verney was not paid from early June through to the end of July.

Ballot access was over \$20,000, about 3% of income to date. Support firms Advocacy Ink and Liberty Strategies between them have received almost \$60,000.

Advertising of all sorts is close to \$50,000, including apparent arrangements with ultraright news source NewsMax.

And now some more details:

Rent and office:
Rent 56045
Office Equipment and Furniture 25723
Building Repairs 2175

Electronic support
IT 61686 (mostly Terra Eclipse)
Software 13355
Computer 2922
Charter Cable 327 Cable

People
Doug Bandow Political Consulting 27644 Currently \$10,000 a month
Shane Cory Political Consulting \$18,000--in July
Russ Verney Political Consulting \$8902 No pay after early June
James Bovard Field Consulting \$5000

Welcome to Liberty for America!

A magazine. A web site. An organization. **Liberty for America** has had several inquiries on launching **Liberty for America** Chapters across America. A draft set of state/regional By-Laws appears on the **LibertyforAmerica.Com** web site.

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Andrew MacPherson Salary \$1992
William Greene Creative Fees \$1000

Field Consulting 23537 -- multiple recipients
Political Consulting, Other recipients: 10562
Legal Fees 11661 --multiple recipients

Support firms:
Advocacy Ink Media Consulting 32446
Liberty Strategies Contract Services 27500

Travel and meeting expenses:

Travel 105154
Meeting Expense 6163
Events and catering 3088
Car Rental 1097
Denver Convention 3126

Moving Expense 896 <--Andrew Davis to Atlanta

Advertising:
Direct Marketing 30135
Advertising 6907
Postage, Printing and Promotional Items 11109
T-Shirts 1065
Campaign Buttons 418

Photography 1173
Video Production 600

Ballot Access 20293

Through the end of July, Bob Barr had raised ca. \$629,000. That's a far cry from the 30 to 50 million dollars bandied about at the banquet and apparently whispered before the nomination to some delegates.

On the bright side, letting Bob Barr be our candidate lets him give interviews like this one on the Dori Monson show, in which he discusses our traditional party position on drug legalization:

You can hear the interview on KIRO 710 on the web at <http://mynorthwest.com/?nid=91> About 80% of the way through the hour, just after a discussion of FISA:

Interviewer: I understand the argument in favor of

legalizing drugs. I understand it; I've never figured out why it was as prominent as it is within the Libertarian Party.

Barr: It isn't. It is not...

Interviewer: It has been in the past..

Barr: Oh, it absolutely has been, and that's one of the reason why the party has not been able to do as well as it should be doing, in terms of the mainstream message that is the heart of Libertarianism.

That is: smaller Federal Government, more individual freedom, more power to businesses and individuals to control their lives. That's the heart and soul of the Libertarian message and it's very mainstream.

Barr: The party from time to time has gotten off on these tangents.

Barr: My view is: Get the Federal government out of these issues. Leave them to the states. That is not a Federal responsibility. The people of the states, whether it is defining marriage, for example, or defining the extent of their criminal laws in a state, that is up to the people of the state. The Federal government ought to be looking at truly Federal responsibilities and Federal issues.

There are Federal crimes that make sense for the Federal government to prosecute, interstate fraud rings, for example, where people are taking away the savings, or the investments of people by fraud, that's legitimate for the government to do.

Going after a medicinal marijuana user or a provider in California, where the citizens have lawfully decided to decriminalize medical marijuana is not a proper role for the Federal government to be involved in.

Where your LNC Money Went

From the LNC FEC filing covering July, the "August" filing as seen on the FEC.GOV web site

Ballot Access \$100,465

Employee net pay \$16,894. Remember, that's net pay after Social security tax and withholding, both State and Federal were removed, and does not count health insurance or employee parking, not to mention Medicare and D.C. and Federal unemployment, and \$723 for 401K payments. The 401K number sounds rather low, especially for the payroll of a political party that nominally believes that Social Security is doomed and private saving is the answer.

The employees were Louise Calise, Andrew R Davis, Susan M Dickson, Sean N Haugh, Robert S Kraus, Alexa R Lamoureux, Mark J. Meranta, Austin W Petersen, and Erin K. Taylor

And that huge, expensive office we maintain in the Watergate building (OK, I am joking about 'huge', since you could apparently fit two of them in my house and leave me my bedroom.) It cost \$9900. The office apparently covers 6 employees and interns, because Sean Haugh is in North Carolina, and Davis and Taylor are in Georgia. Office supplies and phone and data services come to nearly \$3400, plus \$700 for copier lease and maintenance, \$1500 for postage meter resets, and \$330 for cable services.

Some of you may remember why we sink so much money into a DC office in prime real estate: A DC office means that we have rapid access to political reporters and pundits, many of whom are based in D.C. This year, there is some interest in politics.

And what have we done with our press director? *We've sent him to Atlanta. He's working part time for Barr. In the words of the FEC report Mr. Davis is an employee of the Libertarian National Committee who is also working with the Barr 2008 Presidential Committee part-time while being compensated by the Libertarian National Committee. The Committee estimates that one-third of Mr. Davis' time is spent working for the Barr 2008 Presidential Committee and two-thirds of Mr. Davis' time is spent working for the Libertarian National Committee.*

Staff and employee travel, air and hotel, are slightly over \$14,000.

Legal Services...\$7377 to three destinations, but there is a lot of ballot access litigation going on. Director and Officer insurance was another \$800+.

Noncandidate printing, mailing, and editing went to \$25,214, not to mention \$3000 for writing and over \$5500 for postage and postage meters

Website Management — \$5151, mostly to Terra Eclipse, followed by \$3000 for email list hosting.

Publicity? \$2000 to the Rally for the Republic was the table at the Ron Paul Minneapolis event. \$5000 to the LNC Renewal phonebank program. \$89 to Google Adworks for branding. (I have run an AdWords campaign. It's cheap, but that's very cheap.)

Imagine there's no LNC it's easy if you try....

(With apologies to John Lennon)

The current venal and moronic conduct of the Libertarian National Committee and the Bob Barr campaign make it patently clear that this incarnation of the Libertarian Party is on the brink of disintegration at the national level.

Ironically, there are more potential Libertarian voters out there than ever, and in states like North Carolina, Texas, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and--yes, even Delaware, the State parties are growing and earning both media attention and voter support. Isn't it time to take back national control of the Libertarian movement from a group composed primarily of self-serving parasites?

How would this be done?

As I pointed out in an email answer to George Donnelly, the Libertarian Party does not--indeed, cannot--have a lock on the term Libertarian. In multi-party European democracies, for example, there are often distinct parties in existence as Social Democrats, Liberal Democrats, Christian Democrats, and/or Progressive Democrats.

A Libertarian Alliance [feel free to think up a better name] as a national umbrella would not be difficult

to start, and it could act by doing something exceptionally libertarian: competing in the free market for the allegiance of the State Libertarian parties.

Moreover, it could be organized from the bottom up, with fund-raising decentralized to the States, who would be the primary conduits of cash to the national organization based on the willingness of the national organization to support the states. George Donnelly's work on the Libertarian candidates' website proves that we don't have to pay Communications Directors who can't communicate in order to perform legitimate party functions.

The DailyKOS and the netroots organizations being exploited so successfully by the Obama campaign prove that with our already existing network of blogs and social network pages we have the beginnings of a decentralized but quite effective movement. Then maybe we'd have a website, a newsletter, and even a staff dedicated to electing State and local Libertarians or at least to supporting the insertion of Libertarian ideas and ideals at the State and local level. The only good thing about the ongoing dissolution of the national Libertarian Party headquarters is that most people who might vote for Michael Munger, Allen Buckley, Scotty Boman, Jason Gatties, Tom Knapp, Eric Schansberg, or Mark Anthony Parks will never hear of it.

If the Libertarian movement is ever to be a significant influence in American politics, we have to change what we're doing, because aside from picking up the right-wing protest vote, what we're doing at the national level just ain't working. Hell, at this point I'd even be quite happy if the new Libertarian Alliance decided in 2012 not to worry about running a Presidential candidate at all (or not more than a ceremonial/educational candidate), while concentrating on actually using the combined intellectual abilities of people like Dr Mary Ruwart, Dr George Phillies, George Donnelly, Angela Keaton, GE Smith,, Brian Miller, Michael Munger, and dozens more to figure out how to actually elect even a handful of Libertarians to the House of Representatives.

It actually could happen.

But only if we decide to make it happen.

Posted by Steve Newton on his web outlet

[Liberty for America](#)

<http://delawarelibertarian.blogspot.com//2008/09/imagine-theres-no-lnc-its-easy-if-you.html>

Nolan: Concern About the Barr Campaign

Fellow Libertarians:

Below is the text of a message I just sent to Bob Barr's campaign manager, Russ Verney russverney@hotmail.com) with a copy to LNC chair Bill Redpath (bredpath@bia.com). If you concur with my observations, I invite you to send a similar message. And feel free to forward this to anyone you know, post on blogs, etc.

[David Nolan]

Dear Mr. Verney ...

Yesterday, I received a fundraising appeal from you that quotes a news release concerning Bob Barr's remarks on the "Bailout from Hell." The first sentence reads as follows: "Today on Fox News, former Congressman Bob Barr called the taxpayer bail out of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac a "BOFH" -- the "bailout from hell."

FORMER CONGRESSMAN Bob Barr ??? Shouldn't that be LIBERTARIAN PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE Bob Barr ??? I find it odd and dismaying that Mr. Barr's party affiliation is nowhere mentioned in this release. The word LIBERTARIAN is also conspicuously missing from the Barr '08 website, the campaign brochure, the bumper sticker, and virtually all campaign material. Why is this? Is Mr. Barr trying to hide his party affiliation? A lot of longtime Libertarian activists, myself included, find this pattern very disturbing. And that's one reason why you have yet to raise even \$1 million.

If you want to inspire the party activists, I earnestly urge you to start using the "L" word ... a lot. Put the word LIBERTARIAN, in large letters, in that blank space at the top of the website. Use it in every news release. Print up campaign brochures that feature the party's name prominently.

When you do, I'm pretty sure you'll see a marked increase in enthusiasm and contributions.

Sincerely,

David F. Nolan

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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.**

**LNC Votes: Keaton
Should Leave LNC**

**Liberty for America
c/o George Phillips
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