

Liberty for America Monthly Report

January 2015

Welcome to the occasional publication of Liberty For America Monthly, now being produced for email distribution only to our wonderful subscribers.

This issue is an experiment. We're using a different word processor, and the issue itself is being generated not by having your illustrious editor type but by your illustrious editor using a voice to text converter. I am talking at the computer and the computer is typing what I am saying. Those of you who once upon a time watched Star Trek may remember the episode in which the secretary in the 1960s encounters the remote visitor and his mechanical typewriter that takes dictation. It was almost as crazy as a car that could drive itself. Thanks to the triumphs of capitalism, these machines now actually exist. Science-fiction author David Weber reports that the typing software can actually take dictation at 200 words per minute, but that would require that I talk at two hundred words per minute, which is not my particular technical expertise. Also, proofreading of voice to text messages is not the same as proofreading typing.

The most significant news for the month is probably the national membership going down drastically. National Membership fell by 500 in the month of November and by another 900 in the month of December. These are not simply post-election post year drop-offs. For starters, the 2014 year created a very limited increase in the national party membership, so those people weren't there to go away. The one large group that apparently did go away were some of the people in Ohio who joined for a year to enhance the size of the Ohio NatCon delegation.

There are two major email lists that discuss events on the national scale, namely the State Chairs List and the LNC list. Discussion has tended center on the state chairs list. It is noteworthy that the Nevada group resurfaced the Double The LP plan from 2012. That plan had significant merits, if you had the resources and four years to execute it. Execution was attempted with far more limited resources in a far smaller time.

Taking other news in something like chronological order:

The LNC put out a wonderful press release calling for the abolition of the Central Intelligence Agency. They were promptly attacked by Brett Pojunis, Nevada state chair, on the grounds that the proposal was 100% crazy. Pojunis demanded that the national

party stop contacting members in Nevada. Oregon State chair Wes Wagner started pulling his members, who were highly supportive of the idea. He was promptly attacked by Nevadan Jason Weinman. Some readers will be welcoming what Weinman was doing on the state chairs list, in that he is not a state chair. We also encountered Scott Lieberman on the State chairs list. He is also not a state chair. He did, however, propose that I should be kicked off the state chair list by the LNC. We are unable to explain this phenomenon.

Wagner answered them: In a certain sense you have several choices. You can change your positions until the electorate supports you, and which point your party is no different from the Democrats or the Republicans. Alternatively you can present your positions in a way which convinces people to support you, in which case you move the electorate to your worldviews. The abolitionists did not win by campaigning for softer whips. There was an extended debate on the state chairs list. Most state chairs who said anything were more supportive of Wagner's position than that of the Nevada position.

Jason Weinman of Nevada attacked your editor because your editor, as the state chair of Massachusetts, advocated recruiting more candidates. Weinman viewed recruitment candidates as a 40 year proven failure. He noted my remark that I had recruited someone to run for U.S. Senate in 2018, and spend the 35K\$ or so needed to get on the ballot, and asked why I didn't spend the money now. The notion that I should not be spending someone else's money did not seem to arise. LNC alternate Daniel Hayes came to your editor's defense. In particular, he noted that many people are far more willing to spend money on their own campaigns than on other things.

Readers will recall that the LNC spent several years arguing about honorary titles to be given to people who donated different amounts of money to the LNC. The implementation of these levels, rather the implementation of new levels since old levels already existed, had been put off for various reasons. Finally, all of the conditions for creating the new levels were satisfied, because we had a new building and fixed address etc. etc. etc., but it turns out that months later the new levels had not all appeared on the web pages or other locations. Executive Director Wes Benedict had the issue called to his attention by Kevin Knedler, and directed it to the attention of the LNC, claiming that there were issues that were areas of interpretation. In other words, years after the original motion was passed the new membership levels have still not been placed on the national party website.

Wes Benedict circulated the LNC a report showing that LNC fundraising letters and other efforts always have substantial positive return. Efforts to recruit new members work sometimes and do not work other times. Assertions that the LNC fundraising efforts are currently ineffective, in terms of bringing in money over cost, are clearly incorrect.

Our sources on the LNC note an interesting anomaly. The LNC sells a great deal through LPStuff. They are perfectly nice people, but they do not supply the LNC with the names or addresses of the people who are doing the purchasing. As a result, all of this interesting contact information is lost forever. This does not seem to be the world's most brilliant and favorable contract for the LNC. Our source claims that the person who negotiated this contract for the LNC was also the person who gave a staff member a contract that provided that if the staff member would receive "3 months pay and relocation reimbursement in the event of termination for cause". Your editor believes that the sort of management decision potentially has some modest relationship to the recent membership changes that the LNC is experiencing. The LNC source did however express the opinion that recent LNC operations have been much better run.