

# Liberty for America

Journal of the  
Libertarian Political Movement

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Volume 1 Number 2

July 2008

# Editorial

## Welcome to Liberty for America!

A magazine. A web site. An organization.

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### The Organization:

**Liberty for America** has had several inquiries about launching **Liberty for America** Chapters or Affiliates across America. In support of those inquiries, I've posted a draft set of state/regional By-Laws on the **liberty for America** web site. You can read them at [LibertyForAmerica.com/LFYourStateBylaws.htm](http://LibertyForAmerica.com/LFYourStateBylaws.htm).

Those Bylaws are fairly long. A key message about those Bylaws reads: *In using these Bylaws in Your State, your objective should be to delete parts that seem too ornate or demanding for your particular needs.*

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

I expect to distribute some hundreds of sample issues of our newsletter every month to potentially interested Libertarians. **If you are reading this issue, you will probably not be mailed another issue in the near future.** If you want to read issues regularly, subscribe electronically by sending an email to [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net), or read issues monthly on the web.

Having said that, I have a variety of support resources for libertarians who want to do real politics, resources that might make your LFA affiliate more effective. Also, the Liberty Congressional PAC will be reactivating in the foreseeable future. Please contact me directly to discuss options.

**Liberty for America** is published by George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609 (508 754 1859). Electronic subscriptions (you will be sent a PDF) are available for free: Email [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) to request a subscription. Back issues of **Liberty for America** magazine are available on the web at <http://LibertyForAmerica.com/LFAMagazine.htm>.

**Liberty for America**

# Where Your Money Went

For May 2008, the LNC received \$186,045, giving it a year to date income of \$675,357. In contrast, looking at the past two election cycles, at the end of May 2004 the year to date income was \$1,042,1, while at the end of May 2000 the year to date income was \$1,240,211. Recalling inflation, LNC, Inc. income for comparable Presidential election years has fallen by more than half since 2000, and the rate of decline is accelerating.

For the period ending May 30, the Barr campaign had \$184,858 in receipts, of which it spent \$131,712, leaving \$53,145 on hand. The only debt reported is \$1000 to the candidate for President. The seemingly legally-mandated merger with the Vice Presidential candidate's campaign finances would appear not to have happened yet.

Fees to various consultants are substantial, including:  
Russ Verney Political Consulting 7000  
Doug Bandow Political Consulting 5498  
McKenna Long & Aldridge Legal Fees 1746  
Andrew MacPherson Contract Labor 1847  
Autumn Productions Video Production 600  
Wes Ave Photography 500  
Small Government Solutions, LLC Direct Marketing 400  
Peter Gemma 442

There were also fees to political firms, including:  
Advocacy Ink Media Consulting 11443  
MDI Imaging & MailDirect Marketing 8677  
Liberty Strategies for Contract Services 5500  
Pulse Opinion Research LLC 4750  
Integram Direct Marketing 6145

Computer expenses include Thru Tech Computer for \$2922, \$9000 to Aristotle International, Inc. Software, slightly over \$2000 to RackSpace IT, and more than \$17,500 to Terra Eclipse, the web site designers.

In addition to this, the committee gave Robert Jackson In-kind Travel Expenses of \$1190.

There were more than two dozen plane tickets, but no bus tickets. Some of these appear to be either multiple tickets or First Class tickets. American Airlines \$303, AirTran Airways \$1407, AirTran Airways \$115, AirTran Airways 333, Delta 946, Delta 236, AirTran Airways 115, AirTran Airways 115, AirTran Airways 792, AirTran Airways 547, Delta 179, Delta 623, Delta 145, Delta 192, Delta

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147, Delta 110, Delta 170, AirTran Airways 75, AirTran Airways 493, American Airlines 883, Delta 477, Delta 279, AirTran Airways 231, AirTran Airways 115, AirTran Airways 231, AirTran Airways 519, Delta 603, American Airlines 1047, and Delta 989.

A list of meeting expenses included:

The University Club of DC 352  
Elio's 1621 2nd Ave 84th & 85th Meeting Expense 269  
The Broker Restaurant Denver 1026  
Gallaghers 619  
The University Club of DC 160  
Earls Restaurant Denver 412

and the convention:

DenverLPCon 2008 Convention Registration 938  
DenverLPCon 2008 Convention Booth 1600

and \$313 for Car Rental.

## News

### Antiwar.com Fund Drive

#### Where Your Money Could Have Gone

The War Party does not lack resources: with their budget of billions – including the U.S. Treasury – they can instantly saturate the "mainstream" media with whatever talking points they want to push at the moment. Antiwar.com, on the other hand, is a small operation, but we have one mighty weapon on our side, one they cannot match: the truth.

Won't you help them wield this weapon in the cause of peace and individual freedom?

Antiwar.com is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational foundation, so your contribution is tax-deductible. This means you have a choice as to whether to spend your money on the War Party's current project – which looks to be war with Iran, as well as the continuation of our immoral occupation of Iraq – or to give it to the cause of peace.

We're asking you to choose peace. It's as simple as that – as simple as following this link and making your online contribution today. <http://antiwar.com/donate>

### Chris Bennett Leaves Libertarian Party

Long time Libertarian Party Activist Chris Bennett has announced that he is leaving the Libertarian Party. Writing in Last Free Voice ([lastfreevoice.com](http://lastfreevoice.com)), Bennett's remarks, which we reproduce but do not necessarily en-

dorse, included:

"...As of November, I will no longer be involved in the Libertarian Party and will allow my membership to re-lapse in January. The LP of today is not the same LP I joined in 1992. ... If I wanted to be a Republican, I would have joined the Republican Party years ago...

"How many of you are supporting the Barr/Root ticket just because they are the LP nominee? I don't know about you but my principles far outweigh the party, especially when the party has been becoming more unprincipled. Just a few examples:

"Our platform has been obliterated.

"We selected a non-libertarian for our Presidential nominee

"We waste money on Razor's Edge database, an extravagant office at the Watergate Building and we hire non-efficient mercenary petitioners.

"Our National dues pay for a hothead as Political Director, a conservative for Executive Director, who thankfully resigned, the interim executive director is a complete moron, a homophobe for Media Coordinator and a Member Services Specialist, who didn't get my wife's name right even after you tell her how to spell it THREE times. We can't forget Scott Kolhass, who makes 40 cents for every dollars he fundraises for ballot access and then doesn't pay the petitioners for their services!

"We have Bill Redpath, who has been incompetent as the Chair. M Carling is a bigot, sexist and racist. Aaron Starr, Scott Lieberman and Bruce Cohen are all warmongers and want to mold the LP to their liking. Of course there are many of those who I have worked with in the past who have abandoned their libertarian values for short term electoral gains. To the rest of the decent folks on the LNC, jump off the sinking ship NOW while you still have your sanity!

"Let's face it, there is a purge going on. Those in control of the LP want the party to be more conservative and less libertarian. You know leaving the party to rot isn't such a bad idea. If you want to run as a real libertarian, do it as an Independent or the Boston Tea Party. I will still support real Libertarian candidates. Stop supporting National! Without your funds they can't survive. If you really feel compelled to stay in the LP, do it within your state and local organizations. Don't let National run your

ballot access drives and do not let them contribute a dime to those efforts."

## Massachusetts Ballot Access Confusion

Wild rumors have spread about the Massachusetts Libertarian nominating drive. The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts, with the assistance of the National Party, has collected a facially adequate number of signatures to assure ballot access, assuming the signatures can be distributed and collected. Why did LPMass continued to petition for Phillies/Bennett?

In short, I let the LNC made the decision, which they did:

On Mon, June 9, 2008 1:04 pm I wrote Sean Haugh :  
Dear Sean,

This is just to be certain that we are on the same page on Massachusetts Ballot Access.

Last Week, our Secretary of the Commonwealth ruled that we cannot do substitution for the Presidential nomination, and therefore that the candidates for whom we are currently petitioning would remain on the ballot if placed there. This ruling was the opposite of the ruling they made last fall.

I noted to you three apparent options, of which you selected the first. The options were:

1. Continue the present petition, which shows Phillies/Bennett as the Presidential team, and litigate to get substitution.
2. Continue the present petition, and accept that the Massachusetts ticket is Phillies/Bennett.
3. Find new electors, and restart the petition process for Barr/Root.

You said to me that you thought litigation would be a 'slam dunk' and that we should continue with the current petition, which is what we are doing.

Please confirm that I did not misunderstand the conversation.

George

Sean Haugh responded:

Howdy George! That's correct, thanks. I'm talking to lawyers today, hope to get a lawsuit filed soonest.  
yours in liberty -  
Sean

Therefore, it was a decision of the National Party that petitioners should continue to collect signatures for the Phillies/Bennett Presidential ticket, and that is what was done. The LPMass State Committee simply went along with a national party decision.

## Phillies Files New Hampshire Declaration

George Phillies has filed his Declaration of Intent form and paid the filing fee for New Hampshire ballot access.



George Phillies in the New Hampshire State House with New Hampshire Secretary of State William M. Gardner (left) and New Hampshire Governor John Lynch (center).

Well over a year ago, the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire held its own nominating convention. LPNH activists had concluded that the time between the national convention and their petition deadline date was too short to permit petitioning, so they would choose a candidate immediately and start petitioning early. A close contest between George Phillies and Christine Smith resulted in a Phillies victory.

The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire collected an adequate number of signatures (not all of which have yet reached the New Hampshire Secretary of State) to put Phillies on the ballot. New Hampshire State Law does not permit candidate substitution, so Phillies will be on the ballot this November.

Congressman Bob Barr has also filed a Declaration of Intent. His only path to ballot access is to collect the needed 3000 signatures of New Hampshire voters. Barr petitioners recently reached New Hampshire and began collecting. They have a month to collect 3000 valid signatures. If they succeed, Barr will also be on the ballot, also as a Libertarian.



## **Burn Those Petitions! More Strangeness from Massachusetts**

Background: Last Winter, the Libertarian Party of Massachusetts began its effort to place on the ballot its Presidential nominee. LPMass raised \$8000 in funds to be matched, but raising the matching funds proved to be more difficult. The National Convention outcome cost LPNH several major donors, but LPMass and the Phillies 2008 campaign together will have spent close to \$7000 on ballot access for the Presidential campaign and U.S. Senate candidate Bob Underwood. Negotiations with the National Party eventually led to the agreement that LPMass would pay its petitioners, and the LNC would pay the contractor it had retained. In the end, LPMass paid for over 4000 signatures and will cover the costs of distributing and collecting nominating papers from Town Clerks and City Boards of Elections.

LPMass State Chair had recruited for Massachusetts petitioners Paulie Cannoli and Gary Fincher, as well as recruiting in-state petitioners. Most in-state petitioners quit when Bob Barr won the nomination..= Fincher, who had been lead petitioner for Phillies' 1998 Congressional campaign, and who has regularly petitioned for Carla Howell, has a superb reputation in Massachusetts. Nonetheless, LNC Political Director Sean Haugh had given his vehement opposition to hiring Fincher.

As petitioning marched to a successful conclusion, Haugh learned that LPMass had retained Fincher as a petitioner. Fincher had been extremely effective, working long days to collect large numbers of signatures. Life then became more interesting, as recounted on the pages of Last-FreeVoice.com and IndependentPoliticalReport.com.

Haugh telephoned LPMass Political Facilitator Carol McMahan, ordering LPMass to burn the nominating papers Fincher had collected. He later telephoned me, repeating the demand. Needless to say, we did not destroy the nominating papers in question. Fincher was paid in full for the signatures he collected, as I agreed to do at the National Convention. The actual payment was by the Phillies 2008 campaign; after all, I am the candidate on the petition.

Fincher has stated to me that he promptly went to the State Attorney General's Office, the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office, and the Dartmouth, MA Police Department, and filed a police report alleging criminal activity by Mr. Haugh, namely inciting the destruction of facially valid Nominating Papers.

Haugh according to Last Free Voice then fired Mark Pickens, because Pickens was the supposed channel for paying Fincher. The email as published by Last Free Voice read

*Date: Fri, 27 Jun 2008 15:03:09 -0400  
Subject: Re: Question about Alabama  
From: sean.haugh at lp.org  
To: markpickens at hotmail.com  
CC: scott at draftresistance.org; robert.kraus at lp.org*

*Mark, I just received evidence that Gary Fincher is working in Massachusetts on our drive through you. I have told you before that this is completely unacceptable. I am now going to call the LPMA and instruct them to burn (quite literally) any signatures collected by Gary, whether they paid for them or not. I had warned them too.*

*Since it's obvious that I can't trust you to keep Fincher away from our petitions, I cannot work with you any longer. I'll figure out some other way to keep Paul. This decision is final, and frankly I'm very disappointed.*

*yours in liberty -  
Sean*

Paulie Cannoli has told me that this severance has now been retracted. Had I been contacted, I would have noted that Fincher was paid directly; I personally wrote the check.

Paulie Cannoli then reported that he had been severed from future LNC employment. Writing on Independent Political Report on July 5th, comment 57 on the article "Report: Haugh...", Cannoli asserted in part:

*"Well, that was fast.*

*I'm banned from working with the LP. (Sean chose to use the term fired, although technically I'm not an employee).*

*Allegedly, something I said in this thread was false. He did not find whatever it was.*

*He also claimed that I had put the information about Rhode Island in the blogosphere. That too is false. It's true that I talked about it with Andy on the phone. If I was ever asked to keep that particular conversation confidential, I don't recall anyone asking me to do so."*

The 'Rhode Island' mention refers to petitioning issues for southern New England. Carol McMahan and Paulie Cannoli had originally agreed to handle petitioning for Con-

necticut, and offered to handle petitioning for Rhode Island. However, Cannoli (who I took to the bus station to go to Alabama to cover the ballot access drive there) is no longer working for the LNC, leaving Connecticut petitioning to Carol McMahon, while the LNC is at last report flying Scott Kohlhas in from Alaska to handle the Rhode Island petition drive. The cost of a far-out-of-state petitioner, as opposed to petitioners who could commute from home, is not trivial.

Haugh's circumstances within the LNC staff are challenging to predict. Haugh was already subject to criticism for his alleged involvement in Shane Cory's press release on child pornography. Independent Political Report released what it identified as a leaked email from Sean Haugh supporting Cory's email, which was widely interpreted as an attack on Presidential candidate Mary Ruwart. As posted on Independent Political Report on June 23, the email read in part

*"I advised Shane to put out this release, so I'll stand right beside him in this. When Shane we must define or be defined, he was quoting me."*

The last time we had staff involvement in a Presidential nominating campaign, the outcomes were unfortunate. We might be better off to avoid a repeat of the situation.

## Political Tactics

### How the Democrats Captured the Massachusetts Statehouse

One of our correspondents describes how the Democrats took over the State Legislature in 1948. As described by Tip O'Neill, the key parts of the effort were (i) running a candidate for every seat, (ii) giving that candidate munificent financial support, and (iii) having an extensive grass-roots operation in place. To find candidates, the State Democrats worked through every district, selected the most popular person of any party, and asked that person to run as a Democrat. It worked often enough.

In 1948, the Democrats also had a major issue, namely that they were opposed to the legalized sale of contraceptive means to married couples. O'Neill apparently downplays the importance of the position, consistent with his belief that "all politics is local". However, Tip O'Neill was never a heavily ideological politician, and doubtless saw most clearly the importance of the approaches most congenial to him.

In recent years, the state Republicans have tried using the anti-abortion plank the way the Democrats used the anti-contraception plank, applying an anti-abortion test to their candidates, with *startling success* for candidates on all levels. Unfortunately for the Republicans, the *startling success has been for their Democratic opponents*, so that Bob Dole failed to score 30% of the vote against Bill Clinton, while the Republican membership in the State Senate fell to 7 and now to 5, and support for Massachusetts Republicans among college-educated women reached all-time lows.

There are valuable lessons here for Libertarians in every state. In particular, issues by themselves are not enough (the Republicans also lined up on the unpopular side of their issue, which didn't help them.) You also need good candidates, a serious campaign that attempts to win every race rather than only a few, ample fundraising, and good grass-roots organization everywhere.

There are plenty of ways to reach this situation:

- You can start by running and winning local races, building up your local organizations one after the next.
- You can start by running (and eventually winning) statewide campaigns, using the statewide campaign to build contacts with local Libertarians who can coalesce into local organizations.
- You can start by doing local education, educating people who will choose to become active politically and win via voluntary cooperative actions.

## Building Strong Parties From the Ground Up

How should a pro-Liberty party advance by developing candidates? I'll refer to the Libertarian Party, since I am a Libertarian, and I'll refer to my campaign, since I have actually run for office, but most of what I am saying works equally well for the Reform, Green, Conservative,... Parties as well.

First of all, membership recruitment, party registration, candidate development, and active campaigns must all go hand in hand. You can't do one of these things in isolation from the others. In particular, you must have local campaigns to run local candidates for local and state office.

**A national effort to recruit huge numbers of members, in order to support a Presidential candidate without also running local candidates, is foredoomed to fail.** You can hide the difficulties for a while by throwing

money at the problem, but in the long run a party that tries to operate purely at the Presidential level will not succeed.

As you develop local active candidates, you should also begin to run people strategically, to affect the political situation in your state.

The hard part of this process is developing and running candidates. Few people run for office because they decide on their own to do it. **For the most part, people run for office because someone persuaded them to run.** Now, we have had some limited success at finding candidates simply by announcing that we are urging people to run, but that success is substantially limited to long-term party activists. If you want to move from running two dozen candidates to running two hundred candidates, a more systematic approach is needed.

I would suggest several directions for the larger effort: **First, there should be a systematic effort to telephone all of the people who are dues-paying members of the association.** These people should be vigorously prospected. A simple opening theme for your phone call is "Do Libertarians believe that there are free lunches?" Most Libertarians won't know what you mean; a good explanatory example is "is something free if the government pays for it, so you don't have to?" At roughly this point, most Libertarians will understand what you meant, and say that Libertarians do not believe that free lunches exist. It's not that we're against free lunches, it is that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Free lunches are all smoke and mirrors, with someone paying in the end.

Once you have readied the prospective candidate, tell her or him that there is one unfortunate exception to the free lunch rule. **All too many Libertarians believe that there is a free lunch at the ballot box.** They believe that there will be candidates on the ballot, waiting for their vote, when they have done nothing to become a candidate or get someone else on the ballot as a candidate. This is not a good thing, and it is time for Libertarians to stop believing that there are free lunches on election day.

**Second, for larger groups one should at least try a mailing.** This should not be a fundraiser mailing! We are asking people for something they prize far more than money, namely their time and their privacy. Don't let them by themselves out of running. I suggest emphasizing the same theme in the letter:

**Most Libertarians do not expect a free lunch -- except on election day, when they expect a completely free**

**lunch at the ballot box.** On election day, they expect someone else will have done the work needed to run for office, so that they can get out and spend a few moments voting. It's time to end the free lunch attitude at the ballot box.

Third, I would suggest trying once again to prospect the large mailing list, the thousands of names list, for people who want to become active now. I'd suggest several themes in a mailing to that group:

**Money:** The Federal budget grows faster under Republicans than under Democrats. With a Democratic congress, the Budget grew faster under Bush than under Clinton. Under Clinton, the budget grew faster with the new Republican Congress than with the older Democratic Congress. **Freedom:** Bush is the worst President in the history of the United States years on Civil Liberties. **The War** The Bush War on Iraq was built on a pillar of lies, falsehoods from end to end. **And, above all The Economy.** The Bush Republican war party and its runaway spending are wrecking the economy and reducing our children to the status of debt slaves.

**In conclusion:** Now more than ever, we need the one political party that is 100% for the whole Bill of Rights. 3 or 6 years ago, you might have hoped that things would get better by themselves, that the pendulum would swing the other way, but the pendulum is not swinging back.

As a summary statement, anyone who shows the least sign of interest in being a candidate should be telephoned by several people.

I call your attention to the progress made by the Pennsylvania LP so long as they persisted in their approach. Before 1997, they had a couple of people on the ballot. They had more than 45 people on the ballot as LP candidates in 1997, including a Philadelphia District Attorney candidate who has received daily coverage. By the way, that's 45 candidates, and much of PA lacks elections in which one could run in 1997. Furthermore, many of them won.

**Party Registration, membership recruitment, and activist development go hand in hand with running candidates.** People will take your party at least somewhat seriously if they see it is trying to do the things they expect of a political party. If it is flailing, not advancing, or not doing anything at all, people will not take your organization seriously, and will not come on board.

**You have to do all these activities at the same time,** and be patient, or nothing will happen.

# 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.

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