

# Liberty for America

Journal of the  
Libertarian Political Movement

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Volume 1 Number 10

March 2009

<http://LibertyForAmerica.com>

## Liberty for America—Now with a Political Action Committee

Liberty for America now has a PAC, the Liberty for America PAC, formerly the Liberty Congressional PAC. Carol McMahon is Treasurer. George Phillies is Chair. Using non-dues money, we've just supported our first recent candidate, Eric Sundwall, who is running for Congress in the NY-20 Congressional District special election.

Because Liberty for America is going to be supporting events that the Federal Government views as "Federal Election Activity", for example registering people to vote within 90 days of a Federal election, it looks to be safer to funnel your dues money through that PAC. Your dues money will not be used to support particular candidates; we do separate fundraising for that.

## David Nolan Launches New Political Organization

In a speech to the 2009 Liberty Forum in Nashua, New Hampshire, Libertarian Party founder David Nolan announced the formation of a new activist organization, the December 11 Group. It walks like a duck, and it quacks like a duck, but it officially is not a new political party. Quite.

According to Nolan, the December 11 Group is being formed to support activism and activists. It is not being founded to function as a debate club, a place for people to argue about libertarian philosophy, so-called. Those people are urged to relocate elsewhere. According to Nolan, the December 11 Group will proclaim liberty, will work with groups and individuals having common values, and may endorse political candidates who are consistently devoted to political liberty. Nolan has an article on his group up at the Nolan Chart <http://www.nolanchart.com/article6098.html>

Activists who heard Nolan's speech tell me that unlike many of his past appearances Nolan was pointedly critical of the Libertarian National Committee and its staff. On one hand, the December 11 Group web site says that the Libertarian National Party has adopted compromise-laden rhetoric; it promises that the December 11 Group will seek to reverse this trend and restore the Libertarian Party. On the other hand, Libertarians who heard Nolan's speech seemed more inclined to believe that the December 11 Group would primarily be doing its own activist-

type work. That is, the December 11 Group is perhaps, except in name, going to be the new libertarian political party founded by David Nolan.

Your Editor spoke at length with David Nolan. The December 11 Group will apparently seek to occupy a political position someplace between the libertarian centrism of Liberty for America and the libertarian radicalism of the Libertarian Radical Caucus. Nolan emphasized to me the

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Memberships in **Liberty for America**, the organization, are \$15 per year.

Checks, payable Liberty for America, to George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester 01609

Now the little challenge: Liberty for America will be performing political acts, like supporting voter registration, lining up volunteers, and other activities that the Federal government claims are "Federal Election Activity" and hence FEC-reportable. To avoid legal issues, we see no alternative to funneling your money to our PAC, "Liberty for America". Dues will not be used to support candidates.

Required Federal Notices: Your Donations are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to request the occupation and employer of donors of \$200 or more in a year. Federal law requires us to state 'your money may be used to support Federal candidates', but we promise that we won't do that with your dues.

importance of concentrating our numbers in a few states, notably New Hampshire and some of the western mountain states such as Wyoming and Arizona, "where the spirit of liberty is still alive." Nolan is quoted as saying "We should focus our efforts over the next few years on protecting the lives and liberties of those people who do want it."

The December 11 Group is named in honor of the birthdates of George Mason, "the father of the Bill of Rights," and the Libertarian Party. Organizers of the December

11 Group are said by the December 11 Group to be David Nolan, Jack Dean, and Less Antman.

## Sources Report on Libertarian Party Membership Challenge

Sources close to the Libertarian National Committee report to us on the challenges facing Libertarian Party membership.

The historical record as perceived by those sources is that LNC membership peaked before the 2000 election someplace near 30,000 names. It then fell, first swiftly and then more slowly, so that by January 2004 there had been about a 1/3 membership loss. The election turned matters around, with a slow increase in membership until about March 2005. There was a further fall, the National Party losing 50% of members between March 2005 and January 2007, membership dropping from somewhat over 20,000 to somewhat over 10,000. From January 2007 to October 2008, membership again rose modestly. Since then, membership has fallen. For November 2008, December 2008, and January 2009, membership fell by 1011, which is larger than the budgeted fall of 951 for the full year.

More important than the exact size of the fall is where the fall occurred. For the same November-January three month period, new membership recruitment was essentially on target, with 500 new members via the internet and 75 new members from direct mail. However, renewals were only 50% of projected. Historically, the LNC has regularly been told by its staff that renewals usually included roughly 50% of new members and 85% of "converted members", members who had renewed at least once. Renewal rates for converted members are currently well below those projected rates. Indeed, for October 2005-October 2008, our sources tell us that renewals were far below this, except in the period October 2007-October 2008, when they were 90% of budgeted.

In 2009, there are further challenges. Structurally, the National party is a membership club. Members pay their dues. In return they get various services, a Presidential candidate every four years and a magazine every month. In 2008, the magazine fell far behind schedule. If you depend on LPNews for libertarian information, you did not learn that Barr was our Presidential candidate until mid-August. Now, our sources say, in 2009 LP News will be published four times, or perhaps three. You cannot do this as a membership club, not unless you are inclined toward suicide. The members expect something

for their money, and when the LNC stops publishing its monthly newsletter, it stops delivering anything to its membership.

In addition, according to our sources, the projected cost for recruiting new members via direct mail was \$86 per member. Your editor saw that number up on the screen at the San Diego LNC meeting. However, that number is for a mixture of recruiting new members and chasing down old members, asking them to rejoin. If the national party actually wants to grow, it needs to go after people who have not previously been members of our party. For those people, the direct mail cost is we are told \$200 per new member. Readers will note that it would be much cheaper for the LNC to give memberships away.

Now for the final gem: Suppose you try extrapolating forward to October 2010, and the first budget meeting of the next LNC. What membership will they face? Our source, who is highly knowledgeable in this sort of extrapolation question, notes that even without taking into account possible effects of the LP News publication rate membership certainly projects to under 12,000 and credibly projects to under 10,000.

## LP of Rhode Island Goes Over to Republicans

Writing on the LPRI Yahoo Group, long time (former libertarian) activist Mike Rollins wrote in part

"In addition to being a long-time Libertarian Party activist, I am myself now a member of both the North Providence and Rhode Island Republican committees... I also switched from personally appearing on the ballot as a Libertarian to appearing as a Republican back in 2002... This past election our incumbent LPRI State Chairman David Bibeault made the same switch... Our immediate past LPRI State Chairman Dan Harrop made the same switch in either 2004 or 2006--he won the 2006 Republican Primary for Mayor of Providence--and is also now a member of the Rhode Island Republican State Committee."

**Liberty for America** is published by George Phillis, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609 (508 754 1859). Electronic subscriptions (you will be sent PDFs) are available for free: To subscribe send phillies@4liberty.net your email address. Back issues of **Liberty for America** magazine are available on the web at <http://LibertyForAmerica.com/LFAMagazine.htm>.

We note to readers that the LPRI has not to my knowledge had a state convention in a fair number of years. Their "State Chair" appears to have retained the office by the simple expedient of not allowing the members to vote on his retention. A state party whose officers are Republicans is in no sense Libertarian.

As an Editorial statement, we believe that the LNC should promptly move to revoke the LPRI charter *for cause*. In the mean time, we urge the legitimate libertarian activists of Rhode Island to organize themselves in a way that excludes their Republican turncoats from obstructing the process of organization.

## LNC Acting Director Asks LPMass to Disaffiliate

To be to the point, as also reported on Independent Political Report, the Massachusetts state chair (Dave Blau) had a phone call from the LNC Acting Director, and in one of the early sentences the first two words from Mr. Krauss's [sic] lips were, I am told, "please" and "disaffiliate".

Krauss was apparently reacting to the Second LPMass Resolution on Angela Keaton. Responding to the LNC actions that hounded Keaton from the LNC, the LPMass State Committee recommended as part of a longer resolution:

"First, we counsel the Libertarian National Committee that, for the good of the Party, the Libertarian National Committee should ensure in appointing Keaton's replacement that the replacement is as anti-war and as socially liberal as Ms. Keaton, so that the balance on the National Committee between the party's various factions and interests is not altered and continues to reflect the mixture of votes cast at the most recent National Convention, and

Second, we urge supporters of the libertarian political movement to respond to the Libertarian National Committee's actions by redirecting your future donations away from the Libertarian National Committee. Donate instead to libertarian groups that do real politics and political education, such as your state Libertarian Party, and national groups such as Freedom Ballot Access and the Advocates for Self-Government."

The first part of the Resolution was not followed by the LNC. In a narrow vote, the LNC replaced Ms. Keaton with former Tennessee state chair and seeming social conservative Alicia Mattson.

LPMass has no plans to disaffiliate.

## Where Your Money Went: The LNC in January

We make a best effort to ensure accuracy, but you should always check our numbers against FEC filings rather than blindly quoting us:

For its January 2009 filing, the LNC begins to dig out of its financial hole. They started the month with \$3178 cash on hand, had total receipts of \$104,349, had total disbursements of \$84,591, and ended the month with \$22,936 cash on hand and \$41,423 debts and obligations owed by the Committee.

Where did all that money go?

The LNC has a paid staff. Employees were given paychecks for a total of \$18,203. The employees on the books were Louise Calise, Andrew Davis, Susan Dickson, Casey Hansen, Sean Haugh, Robert Kraus, Mark Meranta, and Austin Petersen. In addition, for those employees, \$2974 went to the social security administration, \$2417 went to Federal Withholding and Federal Unemployment, \$1435 went for the employee and employer 401K contributions, \$1307 went to employee health insurance, \$695 went for Medicare, \$652 in taxes went to Virginia, and \$167 went to QuickBooks for payroll processing. \$733 went to the District of Columbia for a range of taxes and fees.

There are also people being paid who are not staff. \$5875 went to Warner, Norcross & Judd for legal services. \$2250 went to Paula Edwards for FEC filing. \$1250 went to Michael Hickey for writing for non-candidate mailing.

The staff have an office. Renting the Office cost \$9903.

Offices have expenses. Note \$21,672 for non-candidate party mailing services to Advanced Mailing Services, B & B Duplicators, DirectMail.com, Ideal Mailing,

## 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.



MCS Direct, National Electronic Type, and Stigler Printing, not to mention \$1780 for postage and postage metering, \$909 for a copier, \$497 for shipping services, \$430 for office supplies, and \$821 for Director and Officer Insurance.

Electronic outreach is important. \$5592 went to Terra Eclipse for the web site. \$476 went to Verizon and Telecompute for Tele-data services.

Raising money costs money. 190 went to Riggs bank for bank service charges. \$625 went to JSA, Inc for tele-fundraising. \$825 went to O'Neill Marketing Company for a Party Prospect Mail List. \$1390 went to several places for credit card processing.

There was no identifiable money spent on candidate or direct affiliate support. Some part of the \$6000 spent on the web site is fairly counted as public outreach. The staff does include in their job descriptions a certain amount of press outreach and volunteer mobilization.

## **Where Your Money Went: The Ruwart 2008 campaign**

We make a best effort to ensure accuracy, but you should always check our numbers against FEC filings rather than blindly quoting us:

The Ruwart campaign continues to file regularly monthly reports. Readers should note that the campaign followed the legal alternative of filing non-electronic reports, so the summaries here are rather more difficult to set up than would be the case with an electronic filing campaign. Having been there, I will also advise you, should you ever choose to do this yourself, that electronic filing is in the long run decidedly easier on your poor treasurer, at least if you are running a serious campaign and expect to raise and spend significant amounts of money.

However, we are discussing the Ruwart 2008 campaign, which got started at the last minute, and had little money to spend.

The End-of-2008 Report from the Ruwart campaign shows the campaign had \$14,825 in individual contributions, \$15,000 in loans from the candidate, \$19,095 in operating expenditures, and \$1,610 in transfers to other committees. Expenses included:

March 2008: \$211 for brochures, \$245 for stickers, \$950 to the National Convention for booth space, \$485 to

Geoff Neale (campaign Treasurer) as expense reimbursement, \$54 for a post office box, \$259 for accounting software, \$64 to Fry's Electronics for supplies, \$1628 to the candidate for reimbursement of personal expenses, and air fares of \$447, \$334, \$208, and \$348.

April 2008: \$143 and \$278 for printing, air fares of \$697, \$199, \$372, \$417, \$410, \$410, \$402, \$199, \$351, \$329, \$138, 10, \$10, and \$211. One also notes \$959 for photography, \$925 to Ray Carr for expense reimbursement, \$381 to Thomas Hill for travel reimbursement, \$130 to Brad Spangler for web design and \$30 for web hosting, \$308 for merchant fees, \$285 and \$274 for lodging, \$700 to the LNC for an ad.

May 2008: \$200 for banners, two payments of \$304 for meeting expenses, \$792 for signs, \$1007 to G&S Tire and Lube for repairs and maintenance, \$250 to Tom Knapp for writing, \$385 and \$234 for air fares, \$64 to Office Depot for supplies, \$514, \$1199, \$785, \$824, \$455, and \$165 for hotel bills, and \$910 to the LNC for advertising.

July 2009 shows over \$1000 for printing expenses.

Nonetheless, there's the Ruwart campaign: Air fares, hotel bills, modest expense reimbursements, and some signs, brochures, and other printing.

## **Public Statement from Tony Wall on the Libertarian State Leadership Association Charleston Meeting**

As publicly circulated:

Friends,

I have chosen not to attend the LSLA conference this year. The room cost of \$196.00 per day (including tax and parking) in addition to \$150 for the event is simply too expensive. When you add travel expenses, meals, and entertainment, it is just more than I care to spend. It's not that I can't afford it, I'm just not going to afford it and I will miss my friends who are attending. The previous LNC meeting in Charleston was at the Embassy Suites in North Charleston for \$99 per night with free breakfast and nightly happy hour included in the cost. Is it the intent of the LSLA to be an exclusive event for only upper class Libertarians? It certainly appears this way.

I'm also surprised that a presentation on electronic voting for Libertarian conventions is included. The State of Tennessee is doing away with electronic voting. I cast a paper ballot in November 2008 for the first time in my life.

Electronic voting can be manipulated and altered very easily. Do we need to raise additional questions about the validity of our cast ballots? I also wonder how the party can afford such a venture. According to FEC reports, the LNC was \$45,000 in debt and had only \$3000 in cash as of December 31, 2008. With current payables greatly exceeding receivables, should such an expense even be entertained?

I want this movement to grow as greatly as all of you. I think fiscal prudence should be exercised by all who are involved in management positions as we weather this financial storm. We let one opportunity of a lifetime pass us by this past year. I think we should be better prepared for the next opportunity which, unfortunately, is being handed to us daily.

Peace,  
Tony Wall  
Chair, Libertarian Party of Tennessee

## Tax Protester FAQ

Daniel Evans is an attorney. While he is not, to my knowledge, a Libertarian centrist, he shares with Libertarian centrists a profound lack of sympathy for the bizarre claims of the multitudinous income tax truther movements. Unlike many of us, he had the time and resources to research a vast number of their claims, and write up a FAQ on the truth behind the unreality on the internet. The site is a truly stupendous effort for which all sensible libertarians may be grateful.

<http://evans-legal.com/dan/tpfaq.html#purpose>

Is the source. Evans, who most recently updated the cite on 1/13/2009, writes of his work

*"Like most things on the Internet, this is a work in progress. Not all citations and quotations have been confirmed, and there are additional cases and arguments that may be added in the future..."*

*The purpose of this FAQ is to provide concise, authoritative rebuttals to nonsense about the U.S. tax system that is frequently posted on web sites scattered throughout the Internet, by a variety of fanatics, idiots, charlatans, and dupes, frequently referred to by the courts as "tax protesters".*

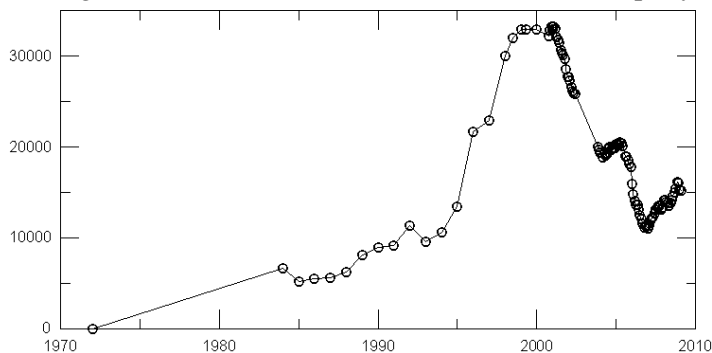
*This "FAQ" is therefore not a collection of frequently asked questions, but a collection of frequently made assertions, together with an explanation of why each assertion is false.*

Liberty for America

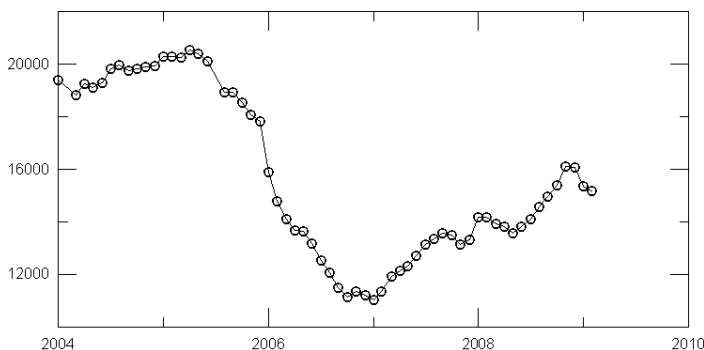
*And the assertions addressed in this FAQ are not merely false, but completely ridiculous, requiring not just ignorance of law and history, but a suspension of logic and reason."*

## LNC Membership Numbers

Based on our extensive historical files, here is the record of number of legitimate members of the national party having their dues current, first for the lifetime of the party



and then for the past half-decade.



Note that the vertical scales are different in the two figures, so that national party membership actually peaked at 33000 near the year 2000 and is now around half that number.

## False LNC Claim About Connecticut Petitioning

Those of you who watched the latest LNC meeting via streaming video will have seen the LNC Chair claim that George Phillies had pushed up their costs by being a stand-in for President in Connecticut. The claims are completely false. I was the standin in CT, so petitioning could start early. When we reached the right time, the LPCT sent me a letter to complete and return, handing the names over, and I immediately did so.

If you want to look at things that drove up LNC petitioning costs, look at the contract they signed in MA: Way too many signatures with absolutely no notice to the state party that they were doing it.

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Worcester MA 01609 or email to phillies@4liberty.net

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Sign me up as a member of *Liberty for America*.

*Liberty for America* dues are \$15 per year.

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City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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## Donate!

Your generous donation will be used to advance the Libertarian political movement.

Your donation:

\$200	\$100	\$50
\$2400	\$1000	\$500
Other _____		

### Monthly Pledge Request

We will soon be implementing a monthly pledge program through DonorTown Square. Please indicate how much you would be willing to give as a monthly pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations are not tax deductible and will not be used to advocate the election of particular candidates to public office.

### Political Action Committee Has Arrived!

The Liberty for America PAC is now open to do the things that LfA does not, namely supporting candidates.

## Volunteer!

Because Volunteerism is the backbone of political action  
I Want to Volunteer to Help the  
Libertarian Political Movement

I am prepared to (circle all that apply) :

Help organize state  
or regional groups

Help organize affinity groups

Make public statements;  
internet, newspapers, talk  
radio

Provide art/graphics support

Provide web support or advice

Help with fundraising

Become a political  
activist volunteer

Provide writing/editing support

Run for office

I have special skills or suggestions, namely:

## To Send Money:

Liberty for America  
c/o George Phillies  
48 Hancock Hill Drive  
Worcester MA 01609

Payment may be made by check payable "Liberty for America". Expect credit card donation arrangements soon.

## Our Web Pages

Liberty for America <http://www.LibertyForAmerica.com>  
complete with Liberty for America back issues, policy  
statements, press releases, and draft state by-laws.

# Liberty for America

**Liberty for America is  
not currently a political party.  
But you can join — \$15 per year.**

**Liberty for America has a Federal PAC —we actually support  
real Libertarians when they run for Federal office.**

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## **Special News Bulletin**

**Eric Sundwall has more than twice the needed signatures for ballot access  
in the NY-20 special Congressional election near Schenectady**

<http://www.sundwall4congress.org>

Address Corrections Requested

**Liberty for America  
c/o George Phillies  
48 Hancock Hill Drive  
Worcester MA 01609**