

Liberty for America

Journal of the
Libertarian Political Movement

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<http://LibertyForAmerica.com>

Greetings from Liberty for America!

Greetings from Liberty for America and Liberty for America magazine, published by the oldest libertarian organization in Massachusetts, the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association (John Brickner, Founder).

Liberty for America has one mission!

We are here to build a strong Libertarian movement across the United States. There is one road to the Libertarian Millennium, but only if we find it and take it. Liberty for America is here to help you find that road, to chart its shoals and obstacles, to show you how that road will lead to Libertarian victories in your town, your county, your school district, and finally in from sea to shining sea!

What is that road? **The one sure path to Libertarian victory is through Local Organization.** It is Local Organization that will give us the network of candidates and staffers and volunteers and supporters, and finally the tens of millions of Americans who will choose to Vote Libertarian!, who will bring us the victories we so deeply desire.

It is Local Organization that will get us the tools we need for success. What are those tools? They are the Alphabet, the Numbers, and the V's of Victory.

The Alphabet A-B-C-D-E gives us:

Activists
Ballot Status
Candidates
Dollars
Enrolled Libertarians.

A-B-C-D-E: Activists and Specialists do the party's heavy lifting. Ballot Status, different in each state, lets us run people for office. Running people for office requires Candidates (people who win elections) and Dollars for campaigning and party-building. Enrolled Libertarians are our supporters, the people who register Libertarian, join local, state,

or national Libertarian Party organizations, or Stand Up for Liberty! by supporting Libertarian campaigns and special-interest groups.

Through the Alphabet, we'll get the Numbers.

The Numbers are the bricks and mortar from which victory is built. Before we win, before we put Libertarian policies into effect, we need the numbers:

hundreds of Libertarian campaign consultants
thousands of Libertarian PACs and Libertarian-principled special interest groups.
tens of thousands of Libertarians running for Re-election.
hundreds of thousands of new candidates
millions of hours of donated volunteer time
hundreds of millions of dollars of campaign donations, all to capture the
billions of votes that Americans cast each election cycle.

The Numbers are the foundation of a modern party. There are half a million elective and appointive political offices in the United States. Before we can capture them, we need all the Numbers.

Through the Numbers, we'll get the V's of Victory. The V's of Victory are

Volunteers
Voters
Victories

The V's of Victory: Volunteers do the vital work of the party: getting out the vote, stuffing envelopes, collecting petition signatures, distributing signs, and going door-to-door. Voters are the people of all parties who finally choose to Vote Libertarian! and decide that we win. Victories are the token of success, something we need to accumulate as we go along to prove we can win and to keep our supporters with us.

George Phillies
Principal Officer, Liberty for America PAC

Liberty for America is published by George Phillies, 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>.

Independent Libertarian Joe Kennedy for Senate?

Gold America Group reports that political independent and National Libertarian Party member Joe Kennedy is vigorously exploring a run for U.S. Senate in the Massachusetts Special Election this January. Financial, Legal, petitioning, and web page development steps are said to be under way. The web page <http://JoeKennedyForSenate.com> has been purchased. A major obstacle is still out there: Getting on the ballot in Massachusetts as an independent for U.S. Senate requires tens of thousands of dollars to pay petitioners. Libertarian Party supporter Joe Kennedy is not related to the late U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, whose tragic death led to the special election now under way.

Liberty for Maine Gets Press

James Oaksun writes: Here is an op ed I got published in today's Portland Press Herald! We are do-

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Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester 01609

Liberty for America will be performing political acts, like supporting voter registration, lining up volunteers, and other activities that the Federal government calls "Federal Election Activity" and hence FEC-reportable. We must therefore funnel dues 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.

ing our best... hope for more to come!
pressherald.mainetoday.com/story.php?id=280527&ac=PHedi

Your Monthly Step For Liberty ...Forming a Local Group

You've found a niche in your local government. You've found an office for which you might run. Now you have the next challenge, getting into office. In most of America outside New England, there are a modest number of elective offices and a large number of people who run for them.

There are a series of steps here, namely (i) getting on the ballot, (ii) getting elected, (iii) doing the job well, and (iv) getting re-elected. Some libertarians would add a fifth, namely abolishing your office, but in general that's not even going to be an option let alone a possibility.

To carry out any of those steps, a lot of work needs to be done. For really small-town minor offices, you can do it all yourself, but on a larger scale the work involved moves from considerable to insuperable. What you need is *a little help from your friends*, friends you have organized in advance and formed up into a political club that will not only help you run for office, but do the same for all of them who want to run. You need a local libertarian organization, a society that will help you do the dog work of running for office: petitioning, fund raising, distributing literature, holding signs at polling places, and all the other tasks demanded of effective political candidates.

You need to be a bit thoughtful here. Libertarians are still thin on the ground. If you form a group limited to your town, you will likely have too few members to keep everything together in an organized manner. You need a group that covers enough area to have enough people that meetings are all attended, but not so large that coming to meetings is a major chore.

So what do you do to organize a meeting? Find a sensible neutral meeting site, a modest restaurant with a back room, a library with meeting hall, in

places with pleasant climates a park with covered pavilions. Scout it out, make needed reservations for four or six weeks off, and advertise through libertarian channels. If you have the cash, organize it as a Meetup.Com site which gets you extensive local publicity and a cross-connect to Craigslist.com. If you can reach 100 people, 3 or 5 of them might show up. If you have 20 names on your meetup list, you may pick up two or three of them.

Don't expect a group to start immediately, and don't expect it will be effective immediately. You need a lot of repeat advertising to bring people to meetings, and you need a few test runs before it becomes apparent which members will do good work and which members talk a lot but never deliver. There are lots of possible steps here, but forming a local group is clearly the important next step.

Upon Strategic Planning

Fellow Libertarians!

Strategic Planning is not a new idea!

Businessmen have been doing it for millennia. The Hellenic philosopher Archimedes, challenged 'if you're so smart, why aren't you rich', is said to have used strategic planning: He anticipated an excellent olive harvest and used out-of-season options trading to corner the market on olive presses, thereby becoming wealthy.

We are not a newborn, fledgling political party. We are more than 30 years old. 28 years after their births, America's other great political parties--- Federalist, Democratic, Whig, and Republican---had all elected Congressmen, Senators, and Presidents.

Why should we not have a long record of strategic planning, strategic thought, and strategic analysis?

We are the party of capitalism. How can we affect to be ignorant of a process known to every serious merchant, from the automobile magnate balancing between profit and business share --- to the donut magnate contemplating a cappuccino machine next to the percolator?

There are many tasks we can ask or expect or demand of our Party's elected leadership. Some are more fundamental than others. Some are more attainable than others. None is more basic than the ability of leaders to set forth a coherent strategic vision for our party, to identify a path for realizing that vision, to implement that path, and to improve that path based on practical experience.

Our Party's history includes some very different strategic visions. To see them, we need go no further than statements emanating from past candidates for National Chair. Consider the strategic images presented by Kent Guida (National Chair candidate, 1981) and David Bergland (National Chair candidate, 1998) in their campaign literature. I'm not going to argue whose vision was better. I'm only going to contrast the strategic visions. I'll show that our Libertarian Party has long had a sense of strategy and tactics. I'll show that historically we have had very different strategies proposed to us. What did these two candidates propose?

In his 1981 document, Kent Guida identified "...the key element in the success of the Libertarian Party is the individual activist who (will) help the party grow and succeed..." Guida demonstrated the sort of activities he would perform as National Chair. He compiled a "Blueprint for Libertarian Activists" sharing experiences of Libertarians from coast to coast. Core issues were:

- * establishing successful local groups
- * sustaining extant groups via activism
- * internal communication
- * candidate recruitment and electioneering
- * Libertarian education -- the Speakers' Bureau
- * fundraising by local groups for local projects

In his 1998 letter, David Bergland proposed a series of actions that he would perform, actions targeted at 'making us a Party too big to ignore', including:

- * appoint Steve Dasbach as full-time, paid CEO
- * keep the Dasbach Headquarters team
- * increase the number of activists and donors "...by 'rolling out' Perry Willis's 'Project Archimedes'..." with the intent of doubling or quadrupling our membership by specified dates

- * fundraise for the national party and Project Archimedes from wealthy Libertarians

- * expand activist training and Libertarian education programs

- * be the party's spokesman to the press and the public

Note the dramatic difference in strategic visions. One candidate focused on individual activists and helping them to build a solid national base for the Party. The other focused on the Washington headquarters, Washington staff, and the national party's membership and operation. There can be no doubt: historically, we have been presented with a range of alternative strategic visions.

A third strategic vision is enunciated in my book "Stand Up for Liberty!", available on the web at <http://www.cmlc.org>, and as an eBook and trade paperback at <http://3mpub.com/phillies>. For more, read also Jake Porter's excellent Libertarian Strategy Monthly, soon with its own upgraded web site.

...George Phillies

Ferguson Leaves LNC Staff

The web site GoldAmericaGroup.com reports that it had forwarded to it a memo from the LNC Executive Director to the LNC. We quote the memo:

"We've had two staff changes at the LP headquarters. Donny Ferguson has moved on from his position as Communications Director of the Libertarian Party and is resuming his focus as President of Donald E. Ferguson & Associates, L.L.C., a campaign management, fundraising, and lobbying business in the DC area. Mr. Ferguson has had a long history with the Libertarian Party, including having served as a campaign consultant, a volunteer activist, and he ran as a 2005 Libertarian Party candidate for Virginia House of Delegates. I want to thank him for his service to the Libertarian Party and wish him well on future projects for liberty.

"While I will be taking over some of Mr. Ferguson's former responsibilities at least for a while, I have also hired Mr. Arthur DiBianca of Austin, Texas, to provide some contract consulting services for the

LNC in areas that we need help.

"Some of the projects and responsibilities for Mr. DiBianca:

- * Assist with generating, maintaining, and synchronizing with LP.org, a list of currently elected Libertarians and current candidates

- * Assist with updating information on LP.org

- * Assist with database cleanup and troubleshooting

- * Assist with writing and editing fundraising letters

- * Assist with writing and editing press releases

- * Assist with maintaining our press release and house broadcast email system

- * Assist with member and candidate recruitment

- * Other tasks and projects as needed

"Mr. DiBianca worked for me for 3.5 years as Assistant Director while I was Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas, and he continues to serve part-time for the Libertarian Party of Texas as its Operations Manager. Mr. DiBianca will be working from Austin, Texas.

"In Texas, Mr. DiBianca did the following for the LP Texas and still has some of these responsibilities:

- * In 2004, big-time ballot access helper (personally validated about half our 80,000 signatures)

- * Maintained the database

- * Maintained the website

- * Drafted press releases

- * Edited fundraising letters

- * Prepared and filed campaign finance reports with the Texas Ethics Commission

- * Printed and mailed lots of fundraising letters and daily inquiry packs

- * Made fundraising phone calls (more than anyone else in Texas for 2007 & 2008)

- * Made phone calls to recruit candidates (more than anyone else in Texas)

- * Assisted candidates with filing paperwork

- * Called candidates and elections offices to make sure the paperwork had been filed, and if not, chased the candidates down

"I've been in the LP headquarters office for about a month now. Our databases and website, LP.org, have lots of information that needs to be cleaned-up, verified, corrected, and updated so that we are healthy

and strong for the 2010 election season. In the short-term, you may see a small drop in the number of press releases and blog postings coming from the LP headquarters as we take care of some of these other essential areas.

"I have been in frequent contact with Chair Redpath and am not expecting any other staff changes any time soon. I remain focused in the short term on membership and fundraising growth, and cleaning up these databases and our website are essential to efficiently achieving that growth."

Regards,
Wes Benedict, Executive Director

Where Our Money Went

The LNC "August" filing, covering its expenditures in July, show for the month that the LNC raised \$75,461, bringing its total for the year to \$632,319. For the same month, the LNC spent \$84,192, giving it a total of \$609,124 in spending for the year. Cash on hand at the end of the month was \$26,372. A reasonable extrapolation for the year is that the LNC -- based on recent income per month -- may raise a million dollars or so. That total is the least in a very long time.

Why might that be? An interesting bit is provided by the first bit of the disclosure statements ""The Committee wishes to disclose the following: 1) No expenditures designated on Schedule B supporting Line 21b were made on behalf of any specifically identified federal candidate(s). " No candidates?

How is LNC, Inc. working to advance our political movement? It spent part of the spring pitching the book of Wayne Root, to be reviewed elsewhere in these pages. It circulated in a press release a suggestion that television voice Glenn Beck claims that he is libertarian, while failing to denounce the claim. Beck's race-baiting claims that President Obama hates white people — among many other equally wild assertions — triggered the first major sponsor boycott in recent television history. It signed Southern Party voice Jefferson Davis, who claims to be related to the Civil War Davis, as a 2010 National

Convention speaker. It continued its internal effort to purge the Committee of its radical wing, most spectacularly with the failed effort to strip Lee Wrights of his LNC membership.

It was somewhat less successful at retaining National members:

Party membership by month since the Wrights episode started has been:

April 15059
May 15068
June 14566
July 14303

According to the membership numbers supplied to all LNC members, for the past two months, nearly 1150 members renewed, 2600 memberships lapsed, and not quite 700 new members joined. Interestingly, if we look back a year to June and July 2008, we find that the number of new members was 1012 and the number of renewing members was 1460, for a total of 2572, of whom 3700 are accounted for as renewing or lapsing in 2009. Inquiries have been made as to the meaning of these numbers, which are less transparent than might have been thought.

So what did it do with its money?

Paying staff, including direct pay, insurance, unemployment, withholding, social security, medicare, workers compensation, liability insurance, Metro-check travel, and payroll processing came to \$27,672 (this total may not be a complete representation of staff spending.

Consultants included:

Legal ... Sinawski \$3,000
Accounting - End of Year Audit Services Frye & Wolcott, CPAs ... \$7,500
Media List Service ... PR Newswire Assc. ... \$1,995
FEC Filing Services ... Edwards Paula ... \$1,250

Office Rent, Tax, Maint & Utilities ... \$10,928.89
Office supplies ... \$1,991.11
Postage, postage meter, postage meter supplies...\$1,972.09

Copier Lease and Maintenance...\$1,150.67

Staff travel and hotels to St. Louis and Las Vegas....\$2,608.91

Non-candidate mailing services, including editing and graphics ... paid to Carmody, Advanced Mailing Services, B & W Press, Inc., DirectMail.com, Ideal Mailing, Inc., B & B Duplicators, and Stigler Printing...8825.26

More than \$8400 for web services, including:
\$4200 for Website Management to Terra Eclipse, Inc.
\$3000 for Email Marketing Services to Lyris Tech - Sparklist
\$649 for Website Hosting Service to Rackspace US Inc.
\$574 for Email Service Hosting Expense to The-Planet.com

not to mention \$1208 for phone and data services to PAETEC and Telecompute Corporation

\$1,000 to Target America for Donor Prospecting.
\$1,765 for Credit Card Processing

D&O insurance came to 1632, in payments at each end of the month. Of some interest to Massachusetts Libs is \$118 to Avis for Staff Travel - Auto paid to Carla Howell. Howell has ceased to be connected to the Massachusetts libertarian group, and had not been known to be a staff member or candidate.

The Conscience of a Libertarian by Wayne Root

...a book review by George Phillis

Mr. Root has published a 368 page campaign book, which in the reviewer's opinion should substantially eliminate any suspicion that Root is an acceptable Presidential candidate for our party. It should also substantially eliminate any suspicion that he is a libertarian rather than - as he entirely honestly says on a regular basis - a conservative of a particular sort. Not a bad sort....if you want a conservative President, Wayne would be a lot better than most of

the other conservatives out there.

To give credit where credit is due, Mr. Root successfully transports his vigorous tub-thumping speech patterns from the soap box to print form. If you wonder what he sounds like on stage, you have but to read this volume aloud.

Should you want to find Mr. Root's positions on particular issues, there is a really excellent index.

If we were the right wing anti-tax party with esoteric undertones, we might agree this is a libertarian book. We aren't, and it isn't.

Let's start with that Index. In the real world, the President deals in considerable part with foreign, defense, and trade policy. Foreign policy? Iraq-not listed. Iran-not listed. Afghanistan-not listed. The Bush War on Terror-not listed. Ending foreign wars is buried in a two-page section on decreasing foreign aid, a section that rapidly segues into cutting defense spending, starting with the time-worn Republican rant about eliminated waste and stealing.

Mr. Root piles up all sorts of right-wing nostrums and assertions. Libertarians advocate reality-based politics. Root - read Chapter 27 - is a global warming denier. Libertarians historically come from knowledge-based professions - Root goes into a rant against vaccinating young women for cervical cancer.

While flawed, our Constitution and its Bill of Rights as extended to the states by the 14th amendment have done much to give Americans freedom and prosperity. Root speaks to '...abortion, gay rights, stem cell funding, right to die (think Terry Schiavo), online poker, medical marijuana, and censorship of television...' "I believe it is up to the voters of each state to decide for themselves.." This is the "States' Rights" doctrine under which voters decided that African Americans were not allowed to ride at the front of the bus, vote, attend good high schools, or marry white people. Fortunately, our Federal Constitution put an end to those despicable States' Rights doctrines. Curiously, when it comes to gun ownership, Mr. Root is correctly supportive of the right of private citizens to keep and bear arms, but only tens of

pages after he hands off to the voters the right 'to decide for themselves' whether to allow gun ownership in each state.

We have a Constitutional system under which Congress passes bills, the President may veto bills, Congress may over-ride the Presidential veto, and then things come to an end. The decision has been made. Root rejects this constitutional system - Chapter 15 - in favor of a Presidential dictatorship 'impoundment' under which the President may ignore the law and refuse to spend money if he feels like it. This is the tyrannical Bush 'signing statement' doctrine expanded a thousand-fold.

Root blames the difficulties of the Detroit car companies on labor unions. It was not the labor unions that tried to sell 'buy American' rather than 'our cars have fewer defects'. It was not the labor unions that won one company President a 100-million-dollar contract. It was not labor unions that invented planned obsolescence, designing cars to fail after a few years. It was not labor unions that told company economists to support import quotas or be fired, when they warned quotas would mean billions in extra profits for Japanese carmakers, exactly as happened. It was not the labor unions that agreed to those contracts. Making labor unions the scapegoat for GM going broke is wrong.

Root does talk about ending prohibition. For most libertarians, that is a truly fine issue. Drug prohibition wastes tens and tens of billions of dollars a year, and has blighted the lives of millions of young men and women. Medical marijuana prohibition is a consummate antilibertarian doctrine. Root instead goes on - entirely justly - about gambling prohibition, especially internet gambling. Drug prohibition...not so much. Of course, during Root's nominating campaign he claimed that there were vast numbers of internet gamblers out there just waiting to support this campaign issue, which clearly did not happen to the Libertarian Party in 2008.

Libertarians historically have tended to advocate equality before the law. Root instead advocates eliminating taxes on capital gains, which he claims is taxing money twice. People who have honest jobs and work for a living apparently get thrown off the

rear of the bus. The Root tax plan qualifies as class warfare, not in a way that is likely to win the support of many voters.

Readers who actually have capital gains will have noted contrary to Root that the name of the tax is more or less honest ... you are taxed on the gains, not on the principal. The same money is not taxed twice. Unfortunately, Root says the opposite. His book could have survived some considerable amount of fact-checking. As anyone who has read the Declaration of Independence will have noted, contrary to Mr. Root the tea tax was only a small part of one cause of the Revolution.

If you are looking for modern issues that the Founding Fathers could have understood, consider warrantless wiretapping of every telephone in the United States. Root says "If we had heeded Barry Goldwater, the Federal government would not have the right to listen into your phone calls ... (without a warrant)...I am today uncomfortable with any administration overriding or ignoring the Constitution for any reasons..." Real libertarians know that the government already **does not have** a right to warrantless wiretapping. Real libertarians are not uncomfortable with trampling our Bill of Rights...they know for a fact that those acts are felony crimes against the Republic, and say loudly in public that the bureaucrats who committed them — all 20,000 of them — need to be relocated to Federal prisons.

Finally, in a country whose constitution and bill of rights create an iron wall between church and state, and in a party many of whose founders were atheists, agnostics, neo-pagans, or uninterested in the topic, opening your book "Let me start with God" is bit surprising. Claiming that our national success is due to divine intervention rather than to capitalism, thrift, and limited government is certainly peculiar not to mention remote from libertarianism.

So, if you were considering Root, go to <http://antiwar.com>. Click on "amazon.com" so some of your money goes to a good place, namely antiwar dot com. Buy a book -- used copies are not expensive. See what you are considering buying for our party, or pay the price later.

...George Phillies

Support Liberty For America!

Mail form to Liberty for America c/o George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive,
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Your donation:

\$200	\$100	\$50
\$2300	\$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. In accord with Federal law, we are required to state that your donations may be used in regards to a Federal election.

Political Action Committee

The Liberty for America is open to support candidates. See page 3 for details.

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

Make public statements; internet, newspapers, talk radio

Become a political
activist volunteer

Run for office

I have special skills or suggestions, namely:

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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.
Libertarian Strategy Monthly Herding cats since 2009.
<http://www.jakeporter.org/lsm>

Liberty for America

Liberty for America is
not currently a political party.

But you can join — \$15 per year.

<http://LibertyForAmerica.com>

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

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Address Corrections Requested

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