Liberty for America

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Wrights Exploratory Committee Announces Staff

The Exploratory Committee of the Lee Wrights for President exploratory effort has moved to its first organizational phase. Campaign officers include Thomas Hill - Campaign Manager/Chair of

Exploratory Committee
Brian Irving - Press Secretary
Robert Butler - Treasurer
Julie Fox - Assistant Treasurer
Sean Haugh - Campaign Coordinator
Zack Smith - Campus Coordinator
Norman Horn - Web Master
Katie Brewer - Social Media Coordinator

The Wrights Exploratory Committee emphasizes that all staff members are unpaid volunteers. Until recently, Thomas Hill was a member of the North Carolina LP State Committee. Irving is a North Caroline Libertarian journalist and blogger. Robert Butler had until recently been State Executive Director of the Texas Party, a post he has just now resigned. Julie Fox is a former LNC Member, recent candidate for State Office in Illinois, and is a CPA. Sean Haugh had previously served on the LNC staff.

David Nolan, 1943—2010

Libertarian Party Founder David Nolan has breathed his last. His death was unexpected and sudden. Reports indicate that he pulled to the side of the road and lost consciousness. Libertarian leaders across America were shocked and stricken by the loss.

The Libertarian Party was effectively founded in Nolan's Colorado living room, a reaction to the socialist wage and price controls of President Nixon. Many third parties have been formed; in recent times, only Nolan's Libertarian Party has prospered. Like Moses, it was Nolan's right to see the promised land, the land of liberty, but to wander for forty years without ever entering it. Nolan had recently returned to the Libertarian National Committee that guides his Party. A resolution of his was before the LNC on the weekend in which he left this earth.

-RIP-

Zack Smith is founder and Executive Director of the Young Libertarians of Texas, a group centered near Dallas, Texas. Norman Horn is the primary content provider for LibertarianChristians dot com.

Wrights plans to focus his campaign exploration on meeting as many Libertarians as possible, largely by visiting state conventions. Early appearances next year might include California, the New Hampshire Liberty Association annual event, or the Seattle Libertarian State Chairs meeting, depending on which weekends to not overlap. His campaign style is planned as car and Motel Six, not limousine and penthouse suites.

The Wrights campaign emphasizes that they are currently in the legal exploratory phase, testing the waters to see if they should advance to a full Presidential campaign.

Florida State Party: Boot Root from LNC!

The Libertarian Party of Florida State Committee has demanded that Wayne Root be removed from the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) and the Libertarian National Congressional Committee (LNCC). Florida Libertarians were outraged by Root's statements in Vegas Seven, a Las Vegas magazine, in which he was quoted as saying

"I'm kind of recreating Libertarianism", says Wayne Allen Root. "I'm not just going to follow the traditional roots. I'm a Ronald Reagan libertarian. Traditional libertarianism mixes in too many things that are liberal. That's why it doesn't work. It needs to blend with conservatism. And where's that today? The Tea Party! And that's why it's working. I've been trying to bring this party along, and it's beginning to happen."

and also

Unlike purist libertarians, Root speaks the language of states' rights, and differentiates between federal government oppression and state government action. "States can do just as terrible things as a country can," he says, "but the difference is you can move with your feet."

After this issue was almost complete, this story became much more complicated. Evil Angels began circulating rumors that the Florida resolution given below was a hoax, or that the text had never been approved by the Florida State Committee. LfA contacted the Florida State Committee, and heard back:

Vicki Kirkland, LPF Chair: Our resolution was not a hoax. I don't know how such a ridiculous rumor got started. You can certainly quote me on this.

John Wayne Smith, Leesburg, Florida Well, for a change it was not me that made the motion. I did second it.

The members of the LPF Excomm rightly felt that it was way out of line. I have been working with the Libertarian Party since 1974 and have been a member of Libertarian National since March 1980. I am a Libertarian, not a fake Libertarian like Wayne Allyn Root or members of the Reform movement. I served on the 2004 Platform Committee and despise what has been done since even though I did serve on the 2008 Platform Committee.

It is time that real Libertarians speak out about the destruction of the Libertarian movement, which Mr. Root is at this time the leader of. The motion passed with less than 5 minutes of deliberation and was actually a watered down version of the first proposed version. Any one who says or in anyway indicates that it is.was a hoax is either sick or intentionally lying. Wayne Allyn Root should be expelled from the LNCC as well as asked to resign from the LNC.

John R Thompson: We voted on the resolution concerning Mr. Root and I abstained on the measure. The vote is recorded in our state minutes. It was overwhelmingly for passage. For my part I abstained because while I believed Mr. Roots actions warranted a censure they did not yet rise to the level of out right removal. Clearly most of my colleagues here in Florida felt otherwise. Whatever happens with Mr. Root I hope he is successful in growing the Libertarian Party and peoples appreciation of liberty but I also hope he maintains the principles of our Party.

The Florida Libertarian Party statement reads:

- WHEREAS, the Libertarian Party of Florida Executive Committee is committed to the platform of the Libertarian Party; and
- WHEREAS, Libertarian National Congressional Committee chairman, Wayne Allyn Root made the undisputed quote in the November 11-17, 2010 issue of weekly magazine Vegas Seven, "I'm kind of re-creating libertarianism. I'm just not going to follow the traditional roots. I'm a Ronald Reagan libertarian. Traditional libertarianism mixes in too many things that are liberal"; and
- WHEREAS, the Libertarian Party of Florida Executive Committee finds Mr. Roots comments found above will confuse the general public as to what the Libertarian Party's official positions are; and
- WHEREAS, the Libertarian Party of Florida Executive Committee finds Mr. Roots comments highly offensive and in direct contrast to the Libertarian Party's message and platform; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Root has supported Republican candidates for public office while in his position on the Libertarian National Congressional Committee; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Root has made similar and consistent comments noted above.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Libertarian Party of Florida fully repudiates Mr. Roots comments as described above and strongly feels Mr. Root should be replaced and removed from his position in any official capacity with the Libertarian National Committee, inclusive of the Libertarian National Congressional Committee.

ADOPTED November 14, 2010 Libertarian Party of Florida Vicki Kirkland. Chair

The Las Vegas Seven article is accessible at IndependentPoliticalReport.com/2010/11/wayne-allyn-root-cover-story-on-libertarianism-in-las-vegas-magazine/

Idaho Follows Florida's Lead

The Libertarian Party of Idaho State Committee has moved through draft form a resolution on the same lines as the Florida resolution reported above.

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A RESOLUTION
TO REMOVE AND REPLACE WAYNE ALLYN
ROOT FROM THE LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL
COMMITTEE AND THE LIBERTARIAN
NATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, the Libertarian Party of Idaho Executive Committee is committed to the platform of the Libertarian Party; and

WHEREAS, Libertarian National Congressional Committee Chairman and LNC at Large Member, Wayne Allyn Root, made the undisputed quote, "I'm kind of re-creating libertarianism. I'm just not going to follow the traditional roots. I'm a Ronald Reagan libertarian. Traditional libertarianism mixes in too many things that are liberal." in the November 11-17, 2010 issue of weekly magazine Vegas Seven; and

WHEREAS, the Libertarian Party of Idaho Executive Committee finds Mr. Root's comments above will confuse the general public as to what the Libertarian Party's official positions are; and

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WHEREAS, the Libertarian Party of Idaho Executive Committee finds Mr. Root's comments highly offensive and in direct contrast to the Libertarian Party's message and platform; and WHEREAS, Mr. Root has frequently made similar and consistent comments to the above noted; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Root's comments have clearly illustrated that he is philosophically opposed to essential first-principles of the Libertarian Party, or if not so opposed, shows a serious lack of understanding which makes his position of leadership in the LNC and LNCC harmful to the Libertarian Party; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Root has supported Republican candidates for public office while in his position on the Libertarian National Congressional Committee

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Libertarian Party of Idaho, THAT the Libertarian Party of Idaho fully repudiates Mr. Root's comments as described above and strongly feels Mr. Root should be removed from his position in any official capacity with the Libertarian National Committee, inclusive of the Libertarian National Congressional Committee, and replaced. We would encourage Mr. Root to examine our basic moral opposition to conservatism and any other forms of initiated force, and insist that he remain ineligible for leadership until such time as he demonstrates a working knowledge of, and embraces the philosophical practice of, the non-aggression principle.

Libertarian National Committee Meets in New Orleans

We are as always grateful to our many sources for providing video feed of the meeting and for supplying to the newspaper various bits of background material.

To summarize:

- LNC fails to pass new budget. They keep last year's for the nonce.
- LNC hears one-sided report on Oregon.
- LNC launches a campaign to lock up a million dollars or some similar amount in a building in DC.
- LNC allocates money for ballot access and places no limit on amount.
- LNC puts 2012 National Convention in a luxury resort a \$50 cab ride from Las Vegas airport, May 4-6
- LNC refuses to consider Florida Resolution.

- LNC refuses to consider Ruwart's secret list issue.
- LNC elects Bylaws committee: Starr Karlan Morris Carling Goddard Rutherford Johnston Oates Kirkland Moulton
- Root reports LNCC spent \$7500 on candidate support in 2010. The LNC spends no money in support of specific candidates.
- Flood reports on extremely interesting path to make drastic improvement in LNC phone system and affiliate phone systems.
- Ruwart reports membership for the year is completely flat, and no one appears concerned.
- LNC ExComm had failed to carry out its mission to prepare a detailed budget.

The Libertarian National Committee held its third meeting of the year in mid-November in scenic New Orleans. It remained unaware that Party Founder David Nolan had passed away while they were meeting. Much of the session was broadcast to Justin.TV on channel LNC7 by Rachel Hawkridge with the technical support of Paulie Cannoli. You can still see it there. Note that the technical quality of the later sections of the broadcast is much superior to the technical quality of the earlier sections.

Your editor liveblogged the video coverage, which can be read at independentpoliticalreport.com/2010/11/lnc-meeting -comment-thread-new-orleans-nov-20-21/ That thread has nearly 300 comments, with my live blog interspersed.

The meeting began with the Agenda. Mary Ruwart had requested that a discussion of the secret LNC Discussion list be added to the agenda. The secret list is the list started by an LNC member whose contents are kept secret, not only from the LP national membership, but also from LNC members who are not on the list. The secret list is discussed at length on independent political report .com/2010/11/lnc-executive-committee-meeting-minutes-available-online/ In this discussion former LNC Treasurer Aaron Starr wrote:

"And some people, often in the minority on a position, will debate a mail ballot believing that their opinions are being taken into account — for the most part they are not.

The real work — to the extent that these volunteers are engaging in it — is taking place off-list."

Readers are encouraged to read the entire discussion.

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 Libertyfor America. Com web site.

The secret list item was removed from the Agenda. The Florida resolution on Root was not accepted as an agenda item. The remaining coverage is partly in order of importance. I urge you all to read the liveblog coverage now up on IndependentPoliticalReport.com.

This was the budget meeting, the most important item on the Agenda was the budget, and the budget was left for last. As it turned out, in the opinion of a considerable number of LNC members there was no budget to discuss. There were a few lines with very broad categories. The LNC Executive Committee is charged with preparing a budget. Quoting the LNC Policy Manual:

"The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Executive Director, shall develop an annual operating budget and present it to the LNC for approval prior to the start of each fiscal year. This budget shall include a statement of anticipated revenue and expenditures in sufficient detail to adequately outline specific activities and plans, including those for raising funds, and to outline the major categories of expense required to implement each activity or plan."

That's what was supposed to happen. That's not what did happen. Before blaming the LNC Treasurer, let us recall that he went through a period of severe family turmoil over the past few months, with several deaths in his immediate family, and that in any event budget preparation is tasked to the Executive Committee, whose chair is the LNC chair. The Treasurer did make the point that he could have written a much more detailed budget, but it would have reflected only his opinions on what should be done because — despite his calls on LNC-Discuss for consideration of what the budget should show — he has not received guidance from the LNC on what the LNC wants to do.

Indeed, the LNC-Discuss list as supplied to this newspaper showed very little discussion of where we should put our money, though note this highly meritorious and sensible analysis from Norm Olsen: Discussion of our mission, or lack thereof, arises again.

Examining the 2010 LNC Approved Budget in preparation for New Orleans, the lack of a mission becomes painfully obvious. Consider:

- 1 The LNC is a non-profit organization whose 2010 approved budget spends 92.5% of its revenue on Administration and Fundraising.
- 2 The 2010 LNC approved budget allocates only 4.5% of its projected revenues to real "Program" expenses (Ballot Access, Member Communication, Lobbying, Candidate Support, Affiliate Support, etc.)
- 3 Typical highly rated non-profit organizations spend less than 25% of their revenues on administration and fund raising, leaving the balance to be used for the purpose (i.e. the mission) of the organization.

Surely we all recognize that a political non-profit can never measure up to the standards set by the traditional charitable non-profit where, among other considerations, donations are tax deductible and often motivated by religious, moral, and ethnic considerations.

However, our 4.5% against the 75% of the traditional non-profit is an enormous difference that I cannot ignore. Clearly, we have no specific mission or purpose. If we had, we would be budgeting funds to promote/pursue that mission/purpose.

With this in mind, I use this opportunity to announce that at New Orleans I will be making motions concerning the budget to address this situation. Specifically, I will be moving to fund the line item titled "Affiliate Support" substantially.

I strongly believe that there are a significant number of LNC members who are sympathetic to this action. Should you be one of those, I would appreciate your contacting me soon so that we can collaborate on the nature of such motions and agree on some of the hard choices implied; and in this manner maximize the benefit to our organization, its affiliates, the individual members and, of course, Liberty for all.

There was a short budget draft — 14 lines or so. Questions were asked as to which major activity, including

things like ballot access — fell under which heading. The ExComm will considering what they want to do, and submit a reasonably detailed budget by February. Meanwhile, they passed last year's budget with the intent to amend it later.

The discussion on ballot access was a bit puzzling. For better or worse, it sounded to me that the LNC was more dependent on outside consultants, and less dependent on ongoing permanent knowledge, for state-by-state ballot access issues, rather than the other way around, which I find surprising. However, there are ballot access activities on going, including party status maintenance in Maryland and lobbying in Oklahoma. There had been a prior access of ballot access on LNC-discuss, with Executive Director Wes Benedict writing

"I'm curious if LNC members would be interested in knowing whether or not Ballot Access has been getting cheaper and easier for the LP over the last ten years, or harder and more expensive. I see complaints about the costs, and complaints about the plans or lack of plans.

It may be we're improving, and have plans, but are lacking in the presentation skills area. On the other hand, it may be that ballot access is trending harder and more expensive, and a better presentation would only clarify how bad things are getting.

My hunch is that most on the LNC do not know the answer to the subject question."

Your Editor suggests that the Party HQ might have been expected to have a large formatted chart with needed rules for each state, dates, costs, etc. and a matching spreadsheet regularly sent to LNC members, so that there would be nothing to ask. After all, this is a major part of the party's quadrennial spending, and it is not as though the list of the states is likely to change very often. Wes Benedict, however, is new on the job, had a major election, and inherited a ballot access system; seeing that this sort of effort is set up is a CEO (Chair) issue.

The LNC authorized a building fund capital campaign. The presentation by Geoff Neale was for a building in or near the District of Columbia. Neale gave a "What if we..." delivery straight out of one of Harry Browne's "just imagine" speeches... What if we get all the money we need? was close to a line in it.

I gather that the purchase cost is something around 700, 000 dollars with something like 30% down on a commercial mortgage, depending on what can be raised.

In the end, the LP will have locked up close to a year's budget in this palace. Neale described the choices as a building in DC or a double-wide in Arkansas, and the LNC sat there apparently not noticing that there is anything in between these two extremes. Starr gave an extremely good presentation on a series of issues related to the building, which you can read on the IPR liveblog. Neale was authorized to try raising money, with the understanding that if enough money is not raised the money will all be returned.

The LNC also discussed a goals statement and made amendments to it. An amendment, so far as I could tell to state affiliate expectations, was "(d) attempt to place candidates on the ballot in attempt to maintain ballot access". The mover felt that it was not acceptable for a state not to run anybody for some office. The goals statement, which apparently includes as an objective 20,000 members, passed.

Dan Karlan gave a presentation on his involvement in the Oregon issue. Oregon officers say they were not asked in advance about what he said, and were not asked by the LNC for a presentation on their positions. We present later in the issue the prepared text of Karlan's remarks.

Green Party in Apparent Decline

This article began as a comparison of Green and Libertarian Party spending and income patterns. Greens seem to be thrifty and efficient in their spending. Where do they spend their money? What in addition became apparent is that the Green Party, or at least their national operation, has suddenly gone into serious decline. The decline incidentally, seems to be out of phase with the economy; the Greens did much better in the 2009 bottom of the recession than they did this year.

The message here: A National Party that continues to be dysfunctional can go off the cliff very, very suddenly. The Green National party has long been obscure as to whether it wants to compete, if they might cause Democrats to lose, and there is a price for that confusion. For the Green Party:

Total receipts, 2002	\$496,944.69
Total receipts, 2003	\$497,255.76
Total receipts, 2004	\$464,791.25
Total receipts, 2005	\$338,949.44
Total receipts, 2006	\$332,752.28
Total receipts, 2007	\$362,865.20
Total receipts, 2008	\$413,499.54
Total receipts, 2009	\$357,152.82

Total receipts so far, 2010 \$203,006.85

But then we reach 2010, and the Green National Party appears to go off a cliff. Here is 2010 and the Green National Party monthly fundraising numbers, closing with the first two weeks of October:

January 2010	52398.64
February 2010	29784.35
March 2010	35577.14
April 2010	29954.14
May 2010	16337.41
June 2020	10054.83
July 2010	9339.86
August 2010 receipts	6878.12
September 2010 receipts:	9565.57
First two weeks of Octobe	r: 3116.79

For recent months, the Green National Party is down to a \$120,000 a year rate.

You can compare these with the LNC Numbers

2002: \$1 992 687 2006: \$1 337 702 2009: \$1 112 254

from 2002 through 2009, the Green National Party was in better shape, less decline, than the Libertarian National Committee.

Oregon Displeased,

Seeks Alternative Presidential Candidate

Liberty for America has learned that the Libertarian Party of Oregon continues to be greatly displeased about the disruption of their state convention by what they view as an LNC delegation. It is our understanding that members of the LPO leadership are approaching Libertarians around the country about the possibility of becoming the LPO 2012 Presidential candidate, should LPO be unable to send a delegation to Las Vegas, be dissatisfied with the National Convention candidate, and choose to conduct its own 2012 nominating convention.

California Rejects Different Resolution

Liberty for America has learned that the California State Committee has rejected a resolution much closer to the Nolan Resolution that the Florida resolution. The vote was 5 Yes, 4 No, 3 Abstain. The resolution's theme was that if someone is seen as a representative of our party, they should make clear when their personal position happens to be different than the position of the party. The resolution — whose text we are attempting to obtain — "also affirmed our desire for diverse opinions within the LP, and that we welcome those with views that do not al-

ways conform to the Platform or Statement of Principles." We gather that there was pointed debate within the LPCA State Committee about the resolution.

Was this actually an LNC delegation that went to Oregon? LP Oregon officers gave their position on the issue, as seen in the previous issue of this newspaper. For a different perspective, the following is the prepared statement of LNC Representative Dan Karlan on the Oregon matter, as presented at the LNC meeting and then circulated to Paulie Cannoli for general circulation.

Karlan's Statement as forwarded to IPR and thence to us read:

On the matter of the Oregon LP Special Convention of November 6-7

I propose to clear the air on at least one extremely important point: there has been no interference by the LNC with the LP of Oregon. The LNC has taken no action with respect to the LPO, the EC has taken no action, and in this entire discussion there has been no mention of any future action by the LNC.

The Chair attended the Special Convention, as an observer, as did the Secretary. There was another LNC member in attendance, who participated entirely as a member of the LPO. (The participation of M Carling will be discussed separately.) In addition, I participated behind the scenes, in a manner and for reasons which I will go into in much greater detail.

I will make an introductory statement, I will explain that statement, and then I will repeat that statement for final emphasis.

The leadership of the LPO were on the verge of committing so flagrant and egregious and far-reaching a transgression that intervention by the LNC would have been practically imperative. That they did not is substantially owing to the presence of two Professional Registered Parliamentarians, including the Secretary.

There were two crucial factors that would have composed this transgression, with one related but tangential matter. The two crucial matters both relate to outright disenfranchisement of legitimate LPO members. But first some explanation of how I became aware of these factors, and why I played the role I did ultimately play. ometime about the middle of October, I was contacted by a member of the LPO who was concerned about the developing

situation regarding the runup to the Special Convention of November 6-7. I was contacted simply because I am the Regional Representative for region 5N, which includes Oregon. I might have also been contacted because of my reputation for adherence to both rules and principles. This person revealed to me some of the particulars regarding members who were not allowed to participate at the upcoming Special Convention, yet who deserved to be so allowed. That they were not going to be allowed was because the LPO leadership had decided these people were not, in fact, members of the LPO, and this person believed that decision represented a violation of the LPO Bylaws.

That Bylaws issue started earlier because the current LPO Bylaws do not appear to provide for Life Memberships. The leadership decided that the change to the Bylaws that implemented that exclusion thereby also cancelled all pre-existing Life Memberships. That matter was taken before the Judicial Committee, which ruled in favor of continuing to honor past Life Memberships. But the leadership continued to treat SOME of those Life Members as no longer members – a total of near 3 dozen, in fact.

This is where the tangential matter came into play. Some of you might have read that the Judicial Committee (JC) is currently deadlocked at 2-2. You might have wondered how it is that the JC has an even number of members. In fact, the LPO Bylaws call for 5 members of the JC. In anger with the decision of the Judicial Committee to insist on restoration of Life Members, a petition was circulated recalling the Chair of the JC, Ms Christiana Mayer. The success of that petition rested on the exclusion from the membership rolls of those 3 dozen Life Members. If they had been counted, the recall petition would have failed. But because those 3 dozen Life Members had been rejected, the recall petition was argued to have succeeded.

That is the flagrant transgression.

The person who contacted me also mentioned that he had signed up on the order of 15 new members prior to October 5. That date is important. The Bylaws require that in order to be able to vote, a person must have been a member of the LPO for at least 30 days. The cutoff date for voting in the Special Convention then was October 6. The 15 members signed up by October 5 should have been entitled to vote at the Special Convention. But the leadership of the LPO decided to 'review' 13 of those 15 memberships – on the authority, as conveyed to me, that because the Bylaws don't prohibit such review, the leadership is therefore allowed to conduct that review. Because the review was not completed before the October 6 deadline, it was argued that those 13 members would not be eligible to vote at the Special Convention.

That was half of the egregious nature of the transgression. The other half was the refusal to allow those 3 dozen or so Life Members to be recognized as members of the LPO eligible to vote at the Special Convention. That was the other half of the egregious nature of the transgression.

But none of that would have implicated involvement of the LNC. I would have been among those strenuously arguing that while the Bylaws violations were flagrant and egregious, they remained a matter internal to the LPO, for Libertarians in Oregon to settle. What made the transgression far-reaching was the purpose of the Special Convention.

The Special Convention was called specifically to revise the Bylaws of the LPO. As soon as I was informed of this aspect, a direct connection between the LPO and the LNC was clear in my mind. Within a fraction of a second, I saw the connection: if the revision of the Bylaws was conducted at a Special Convention at which legitimate LPO members had been disenfranchised, then all future actions taken under cover of the new Bylaws would be null and void. Such action would have included election of new officers at their regular Convention early next year, and in particular would have extended to the selection of the delegates to the 2012 National LP Convention.

While I have great respect for the people who have served and continue to serve on our Credentials Committee, I have reason to believe they would not have taken the drastic step of refusing to credential every LPO delegate on the basis of their Bylaws as of 2012 having been revised at an illegitimate Special Convention. Or if they had made such an unprecedented decision, the rest of the Convention delegates would probably have overridden that decision. What I saw therefore was that the events of the Special Convention of early November 2010 would have rippled directly to the National LP Convention in 2012, and would have rendered highly suspect every decision made at that National Convention.

That was the far-reaching aspect of the transgression. Had the Special Convention come off as planned, and the LPO Bylaws been revised, the LNC would have HAD to become involved, because the illegal events in Oregon in early November 2010 would have poisoned the entire National LP Convention in 2012, if allowed to stand. But that's not all. The adoption of the highly controversial Bylaws revision would have encouraged the LPO to splinter into two organizations, each claiming legitimacy as THE Oregon affiliate. This would have been a repeat of the 1995 mess, in which the LNC had to become involved to resolve the dispute that could not be settled lo-

cally.

I saw those connections practically instantly when I learned of the purpose of this Special Convention. At that point, I realized expert help was needed. (I would have been unable to attend in any case – ironically, because of a prior commitment to attend the Annual Convention of the New Jersey State Association of Parliamentarians, the New Jersey affiliate of the National Association of Parliamentarians. We were slated to adopt a Bylaws revision, and I was on that Bylaws Committee, so my attendance at that Convention was required.)

So while I do have some credentials in this regard, being a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, I knew of two others with much greater credentials. Ms. Mattson, the LP Secretary, is a Professional Registered Parliamentarian (PRP), and Mr. Carling, also a PRP, is not only a member of the LPO but an important contributor to the construction of the current Bylaws of the LPO. I informed the person who initially contacted me that I would bring those two individuals into this discussion, with the hope that one or both of them would be able to attend the Special Convention to be on hand to advise them of the serious Parliamentary questions that had arisen.

Over the course of the next several weeks, I first urged Ms. Mattson and Mr. Carling to attend the Special Convention – one of them as an observer, the other as a member with particular interest in their Bylaws – and also assisted in further discussions regarding gathering the essential evidence in support of the claims of Bylaws violations.

These included, for example, statements from many of those 35 Life Members, as well as from the 13 new members. The evidence also included e-mail exchanges between the LPO leadership and this person regarding these memberships.

Armed with that evidence, and hoping to avoid the farreaching consequences, Ms. Mattson and Mr. Carling flew to Oregon for the Special Convention. The role they played will be reported separately.

To repeat: The leadership of the LPO were on the verge of committing so flagrant and egregious and far-reaching a transgression that intervention by the LNC would have been practically imperative.

I took my actions not to involve the LNC but to try to avoid involving the LNC.

Dan Karlan

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