

Liberty for America

Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement

Volume 3 Number 10

March 2011

Table of Contents

National Political Conference in New Hampshire

Libertarian Wins Primary

Graphics Support

Alaskans Advocate Activist Activity

More Good News

LNC In Action

Redpath Tries to Fill LNC Vacancies

Ruwart Speaks Out on Secret Mattson List

LNC vs. LNC Executive Director Benedict on Ad Tactics

Massachusetts Libertarians Schedule National Political Event

Massachusetts Libertarians have organized a national political event 'The Future of the Libertarian Political Movement'. The event will be held Sunday, June 19 at the Highlander Inn in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Keynote speaker Judge John Buttrick of Arizona will speak at lunch. Libertarian Presidential candidates will debate. For morning, afternoon, and early evening, there will be a main session, a parallel breakout session, and a large dealer/exhibitor room.

Libertarian politics has made serious inroads into New Hampshire. A panel including libertarian members of the state legislature is anticipated.

Light breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be served. Registration including all meals is \$100. Send your

checks to Massachusetts Libertarians, POB 1154, Worcester MA 01613. You can join on the web at LPMass.org. Click on "donate", go down the page to "To donate to our Federal PAC, click here", and advance to DonorTown Square. Please mention in the 'notes' section of the donor form that you are coming to the conference.

The Highlander Inn is right at the entrance to the Manchester Airport. If you're flying to PorcFest, come a day early for an extra serving of libertarian political discussion.

Asked about location and timing, LPMass officers said 'We have PorcFest, right there starting the next day, June 20. It's a great way to put attendees on our doorstep. And we just had two similar events tragically cancelled. We're offering a replacement.'

Libertarian Wins Primary

Maryland Libertarian Party Vice Chair Muir Boda has won the primary and advanced to the general election in his race for Salisbury, Maryland City Council. Boda finished a strong fourth out of eight candidates, and advances to the April 5 general election, in which there will be three winners.

Graphics Support

The Libertarian Party National web site reports that Clayton Ray Gee (claytongee@suddenlink.net or facebook.com/ClaytonRayGee) has offered graphics support to Libertarians, with graphic design for computer and iPhone backgrounds (or wallpapers), bumper stickers, and yard signs. Several of his designs are available to be downloaded and used for free: lp.org/shared-graphics. All Libertarian Party affiliates and candidates are authorized to use the items without gaining further permission.

Alaska LP Advocates Sixteen Worthwhile Activist Activities

You can read much more about them at alaskalibertarian.com. Meanwhile, they advocate:

1. Write your legislators; taking the time to write is always well regarded.
2. A phone call is always worth the time about an important issue.
3. Sign up with online petitions.
4. Email your legislators, most actually read them.
5. Become informed about Libertarianism, the Constitution and Bill Of Rights.
6. Volunteer for campaigns of supported candidates.
7. Vote for the candidates supported by the Libertarian Party.
8. Subscribe to the Alaska Libertarian Newsletter.
9. Join the Alaska Libertarian Party.
10. Attend a teleconference.
11. Attend ALP meetings, Alaska Libertarian activities are scheduled here.
12. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper.
13. Send Public Opinion Messages to our state legislators.
14. Stay informed about pending legislation.
15. Excellent info for Alaska State activism here.
16. Send Activism News to Alaska LP Communications Director.

More Good News

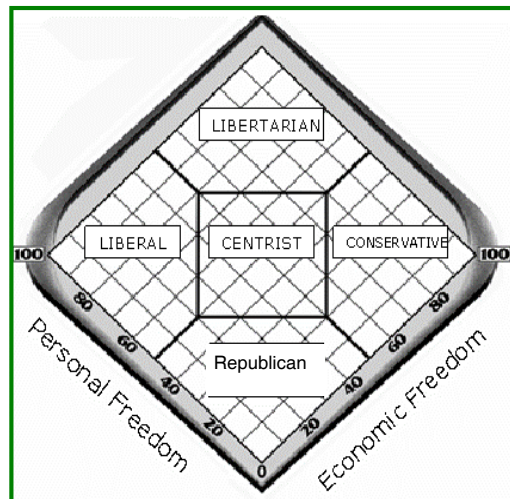
Antiwar.com successfully completed its first-quarter fund drive, raising \$100,000 in three weeks despite the loss of several major donors in the current fiscal unrest.

Antiwar.com reports that the Marine Corps has resumed Abu-Ghraid-type torture of prisoners, this time of Army soldier Bradley Manning, by stripping him naked and leaving him unclothed during a formation; for more http://www.politico.com/blogs/joshgerstein/0311/Kucinich_Is_this_Quantico_or_Abu_Ghraid.html

Alaska Libertarian Party Convention, May 7, 2011
Sign-in will begin at 8:30 AM. The convention will be held at the Best Western Golden Lion Hotel at 36th & New Seward, in Anchorage.

The Alabama State Convention was in October 2010. Elected to the state committee were Chair Mark Bodenhausen, Treasurer Gordon Maddox, and Secretary Sara Wires.

After an extremely long period of somewhat limited activity, the LP of Arkansas appears to be getting under way again. Current officers are Rodger Paxton-Chair, David Pangrac-Vice-Chair, Brian Leach-Secretary, and



A Redesigned Nolan Chart — matching contemporary American political reality.

District Representatives Mark Young, Michael Pakko, Storm Nolen, and Thomas Carpenter. The Libertarian Party of Arkansas will be having their 2011 State Convention on April 9th, 2011, at the Comfort Inn in Downtown Little Rock, 707 Interstate 30. Registration begins at 9AM. Guest speakers will be Dr. Mary Ruwart, R. Lee Wrights, and Bill Redpath

The LPCA State Convention reports an extremely long list of speakers, including Steven Greenhut (Pacific Research Institute's Journalism Center), Judge Jim Gray (ret.), John Stagliano, and Carlos Rodriguez, who will speak on the national organization Libertarios in America.

The LP of Colorado State Convention is Saturday May 21st at the DoubleTree Hotel in North Denver.

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut has put out two new bumper stickers for use as a thank you to donors. You can see them both at lpct.org/Donate.html

The Libertarian Association of Massachusetts has launched a new 12 by 2012 campaign to run and support 12 candidates in the next two years. The Association already has Jon Loya for Town Planning Board (running unopposed) and two probable candidates for City Council in a major Massachusetts city. Searches continue for someone to run for U.S. Senate ("Liberty Party" line)

Liberty for America is published by George Phillis, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609 (508 754 1859). To Subscribe, go to LibertyForAmerica.com and click on the 'subscribe' button. Back issues of **Liberty for America** magazine are available on the web at <http://LibertyForAmerica.com/LFAMagazine.htm>.

along with the 2012 LP Presidential team. The Senate candidate would use the same nominating petition as is used by the Presidential candidate.

Readers being pestered by anthropogenic climate change deniers, who are sort of like evolution deniers except the evidence is closer to hand, may find useful Climate Progress's list of Denier Talking Point rebuttals at climateprogress.org/2010/12/28/

The following information articles are heavily based on our sources in and near the LNC, whose reliability we are inclined to trust, but when we quote from the LNC's correspondence, we are relying on material that has been sent us indirectly.

LNC In Action

For January, the LNC Standard Statement of Operations showed \$91,237 of revenue, a number that does not include, e.g., the outstanding bequest, as reported in the LNC January FEC report. Extrapolation implies about \$1.1 million in total income for the year, somewhat below the budgeted 1.4 million dollars in income. The month's surplus was \$6043. For the end of February 2011, LP National Party dues-paying membership was at

Sample—This is your only issue of
Liberty for America

For more issues, [subscribe!](#)

Subscriptions are free at no charge.

To subscribe, go to LibertyForAmerica.com
And click on the Subscribe button

Join **Liberty for America** — \$15.

Donate electronically at LibertyForAmerica.com
Checks, payable Liberty for America, to George
Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive Worcester 01609.

Membership lets you call yourself a member.

Liberty for America will be performing political acts, 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. Paid for by Liberty for America. Your donations may be used in relation to a Federal Election.

13807. A year earlier membership was at 14469. Very similar numbers are seen back to 2007, which was almost 2600 up from the 11014 of December 2006. However, 2006 membership counts were greatly confused by proposing dues of \$0, \$25, and \$50 during the same year.

The Libertarian National Committee had proposed to it a form to be filed by would-be new state affiliates. At present, there is a recognized affiliate in every state, and the LNC can only recognize one affiliate at a time in each state, so there is little possibility of recognizing more affiliates. However, some current affiliates do not rise to the standards set for an active affiliate by the 2010 goals statement, and it could be argued that those affiliates were disaffiliated by inference by the LNC vote putting that rule into effect. Some LNC members vigorously deny that it was their intent to disaffiliate any current affiliates. There was debate within the LNC on this motion.

LNC Rep Brad Ploeger urged that the effort needed to pass the resolution would better be spent on candidate support, writing in a longer message:

should not our efforts be focused on developing and strengthening state affiliates so that atrophy no longer poses an issue? Passing a policy manual amendment essentially mirroring our By-laws, in my opinion, does nothing to solve the issue of atrophy any more than the government "solves" an issue with a new form.."

Ploeger also warned as part of a longer message:

"...There is no way I would ever support revocation unless they acted in an exceedingly egregious manner. For any lesser reason, a revocation would be political suicide for our party.

This body already faces a tremendous PR problem with the affiliates. My experience shows that a fair number of affiliates view us either a hindrance or a waste of time. If we were to start revoking charters we could quickly have a big problem on our hands. I wholeheartedly reject the idea that revoking charters would make the "structure more solid."

Instead of another form I would rather see us actually support affiliates. We do this by assisting with Ballot Access but that is only one part of the puzzle. Our affiliates must be assisted in learning what to do once they are on the ballot. Politics is more than just showing up. Our candidates and affiliates need things such as training for candidates and campaign principals, website templates, boilerplate advertising templates or basic campaign materials. We are so concerned about affiliates become inactive yet we do little to support them. The most important thing we can do

as the National Committee is help to share best practices discovered by our affiliates. "

LNC Rep Norm Olsen agreed, writing :

Brad is 100% correct.

Furthermore, placing the form on the Web site is like advertising to the whole world the fact that we really only have 31 affiliates (as Bob Johnston has now verified for us) rather than the 51 we like to boast about. Let's keep our dirty laundry to ourselves and get Bob Johnston on the road to make sure that we nurture affiliates where necessary. When a prospective affiliate matures properly, I'm sure Bob is going to sure they have the proper form to become an official affiliate.

Liberty for America is currently attempting to ascertain the details behind Olsen's assertion "...we really only have 31 affiliates..."

The LNC is currently working on constructive projects to improve ballot access in Oklahoma and North Dakota, in both cases by lobbying-type activities in favor of particular ballot access law changes. \$6000 was appropriated for the purpose.

Redpath Tries to Fill LNC Vacancies

In a letter to the LNC, former LNC Chair Bill Redpath moved for a mail ballot to elect Rebecca Sink-Burris and John Jay Myers to the LNC to fill vacancies. Mail ballots require a total of four co-sponsors before a vote is taken. Redpath wrote:

I am looking for co-sponsors for the following mail ballot.

We move to appoint Rebecca Sink-Burris and John Jay Myers as At-Large Representatives to the Libertarian National Committee for the remainder of the 2010-2012 term.

It make this motion, because it is my understanding that, at the St. Louis convention, Pat Dixon placed 6th in At-Large Rep voting, RSB placed 7th and JJM placed 8th.

I have read an email from Pat Dixon saying that he does not want to be considered for one of these At-Large Rep openings, otherwise I would be nominating PD and RSB.

I think adding RSB and JJM would most reflect the will of the delegates to the St. Louis convention last May, and, as a courtesy to all who might seek these At-Large Rep positions, I think we should re-

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.

solve this before people travel to the Alexandria, VA LNC meeting in April 2011.

I am seeking three other co-sponsors to this mail ballot.

Thank you.

Bill Redpath

Our sources have not reported that Redpath's motion received any support from the LNC. Other persons proposed for the LNC openings include Sam Goldstein, Lee Wrights, Ross Scalise, Randy Eshelman, and Judge Jim Gray.

Ruwart Speaks Out on Secret Mattson List

Mary Ruwart, we are told, has sent the LNC a message: As you are aware, I have asked Ms. Mattson by phone, on her "private LNC" list, and on LNC-discuss to change the name of her "private" list so that it does not look as if this divisive tactic has LNC approval. So far, she has not done so.

Ms. Mattson has every right to have a private list and invite whomever she chooses. However, when she names it "private LNC," she implies that it has the sanction of this body. As of this date, this sanction has not been given.

Ms. Mattson indicated that she started this list to prevent LNC-discuss e-mails from being sent to George Phillies. She did not invite Rachel Hawkrige because she believed her to be the culprit, in spite of Dr. Phillies insistence in one of his newsletters that these e-mails were forwarded by a man. (He confirmed this assertion in a personal e-mail to me as well).

LNC-discuss is not an "eyes only" list. Nothing in our Policy Manual or bylaws designate it as confidential. Until a change is made to make it so, we have no standing to censure LNC members who care to forward our discussions on to their constituents. Indeed, some members of

this body may consider it a duty to keep their constituents informed of our deliberations.

Some members of this body would prefer that LNC discuss items be confidential. The proper way to make them so is to propose a change to the Policy Manual, not by excluding some members who may or may not be forwarding our e-mails with their constituents.

In the interim, the proper way to protect LNC confidentiality is to label sensitive material, such as discussion about lawsuits, as “confidential.” I’ve never known of an e-mail labeled this way making its way to Dr. Phillipies. When I challenged Ms. Mattson to cite one, she could only point to an attachment that the LNC had permitted Dr. Phillipies to have in answer to a question that he posed. When I pointed this out, she did not come forward with another example, suggesting that she couldn’t find one. If that’s the case, we don’t need a “private” list, we just need to label sensitive material as confidential.

On Ms. Mattson’s private list, I’ve noted that those who remind us that the list is confidential tend to do so after they’ve made derogatory comments about individuals or parts of our membership. My advice to those individuals is this: don’t say anything about anyone that you wouldn’t want repeated. If you aren’t willing to have your name associated with your comments, don’t make them.

In addition to being unnecessary, the creation of Ms. Mattson’s list was quite hurtful to Ms. Hawkridge. I invite other members of this body to take a moment and reflect on how you’d feel in her place. Our delegates gave Mr. Starr a dressing-down when he ran for Treasurer, largely, I suspect, because of his divisive tactics during the last LNC. Is this LNC going to go along with divisiveness as long as it is kept from being publicized?

Beyond its divisiveness, putting “LNC” in this list’s title sets a dangerous precedent. If another member of the LP chooses to name their private list something that we would find objectionable (e.g., “LNC Members in Support of Obama”), we have no legal standing to object since we have already set the precedent of allowing our name to be used without our consent.

I feel it is my duty to point out that this is not the only incident where Ms. Mattson has, perhaps unwittingly, implied that the LNC is behind her actions. At our last meeting, Ms. Mattson told us emphatically that she was acting personally and not as a member of this body when she rendered her parliamentary opinions to the Oregon LP’s officers. When I spoke to both the Chair and Vice Chair, they were adamant that Ms. Mattson had indicated

she was acting on our behalf and were actually able to quote phrases she presumably used to imply that. Indeed, I had a difficult time convincing the LP Oregon officers that most of the LNC heard about the entire incident after the fact and am not entirely sure that I succeeded. Ms. Mattson’s actions in Oregon have had other unintended consequences that I will bring forward at a later time; however, I wish to make LNC members aware that the “private LNC” list is not the only instance of Ms. Mattson’s apparent blurring of the line between LNC business and her own.

Ms. Mattson sees no problem calling her list “private LNC,” even after I’ve called it to her attention that the name implies LNC sanction, which she does not have. This is a reminder to all of us that as elected members of the LP’s governing body, we need to be vigilant in separating our private comments from our official ones. If any member of this body is unable to do that, other members of this body must point out the problem or risk being figuratively tarred and feathered for what is done in the name of the LNC.

Ruwart's message was supported by Brad Ploeger:

I operate under the assumption that anything I put in writing may be used for or against me at any point. Even if a list is "private" it can still be used again at some point. While I declined to join a private list, I did so for two reasons. The first reason was that I believed that any deliberation of this body should be open to the membership. The second reason was that I understand that any member of this body could at any point use anything I said to their perceived advantage despite a promise that it would remain confidential. Just because I promised the Secretary that I would not divulge the content of her private list does not mean the other members would not do so. We operate in a political world and anyone could sue and uncover information in a discovery proceeding. It is my belief that if someone is doing something they want to hide they are doing something wrong.

LNC vs. LNC Executive Director Benedict on Ad Tactics

Kevin Knedler apparently forwarded 'the best newsletter Ohio has ever done' to the LNC. It is wonderful to be proud of your state newsletter, however, in this case the newsletter issue in question has engendered a continuing controversy on the LNC. The center point of the controversy is the Republican Wall of Shame ad that the LNC ran at the CPAC conservative political action conference. The ad went over extremely well with CPAC attendees, it

would appear. You can see it at lp.org/files/wall_of_shame.pdf.

One attendee offered \$10,000 to help run the ad in Washington Post. We return later to the minor detail that there is no advertising budget appropriation allowing the money to be spent under the bylaws. Wes Benedict immediately began raising money to run the ad.

And then we come to the controversy. LNC Executive Director Wes Benedict read the newsletter, finding in it the front-page paragraph

"To further the previous point, the CPAC (Conservative Political Action Committee) conference was held recently, and the LP had a presence there. This was highlighted in the weekly LP newsletter that was emailed out on 15 February 2011 and written by LP Executive Director Wes Benedict. The attendees are typically educated, hardworking, and successful people who love this country. They are not the enemy of freedom. They are not statist, Marxists, communists, or fascists. Misguided on some social issues? Yes. Evil? Not so much, and yet we were confrontational and antagonistic in our display there. Instead of extending a hand toward areas of agreement, we focused on that with which we differ. This was a lost opportunity and a bad PR stunt. The 'right' leaning blogs did not take well to our presence, and this should not be a badge of honor for us. These are our constituents. We should be trying to convert them into Libertarians or bidding them the best of luck—because you never know when their mind might be changed down the road. This philosophy is behind how the B2B sales process works and it is tried and true."

Benedict was distressed, according to our sources writing to the LNC

"Kevin Knedler's idea of the best LP newsletter ever in Ohio is one with a page one article calling me out and attacking my work directly (per his note below). Of course I still love the Republican Wall of Shame and so do most Libertarians. It was a huge hit at CPAC.

I just skimmed the other LP Ohio articles, but haven't actually read them. Too busy right now to read all 8 pages in detail.

Who has actually already read the entire Ohio LP Newsletter--the best one ever, according to Kevin Knedler's standards?

If you have read it, please suggest which articles you think are the best, and I might consider one or more for LP News.

By now it should be no secret that I get criticized quite often by the LP Indiana and the LP Ohio leadership and Wayne Root, especially when I point out Ronald Reagan's and other Republicans' big spending records. <http://www.lp.org/blogs/staff/lp-monday-message-how-to-handle-ronald-reagan>

Putting the kind of attacks that Kevin Knedler approves of is probably the kind of thing that would drive up the interest in reading LP News and is something I'm considering.

I'm leaning towards running the page 1 article, and an accompanying article from a different perspective.

Interested in your thoughts. Who else thinks this Ohio News is probably the best one ever?

Anybody think it's good enough that you would take the time to post some of the articles on the LP blog?

Kevin, let us know if you do not want me to send your note to the state chairs list.

Thanks,
--Wes Benedict"

Root, to give defense where one is earned, did not agree that he had attacked Benedict, reportedly sending the LNC the clear statement

Not sure why you took the opportunity to drag my name into it. I have not to my recollection (although my memory gets bogged down lately due to the volume of calls and emails on my plate)...ever publicly attacked you.

Indeed, while Root differed vigorously with the proposed message (next message), his disagreement was clearly phrased in terms of the strategy, not the person proposing it. Root's letter goes on for a while, but it is really well written, and shows readers exactly where Mr. Root's positions lie:

"Wes,

The biggest news in America BY FAR...

Is Democratic teachers unions turning Madison, Wisconsin into Cairo, Egypt...and Obama supporting them while they rape the taxpayers...and Jesse Jackson giving speeches to rile them up...and Wisconsin's GOP Governor fighting on behalf of taxpayers and business owners like me...and showing incredible bravery while his LIFE is in danger...

And Wisconsin Democratic State Senators going into HIDING to avoid a vote that might cost teachers unions 5 cents on the dollar...while our country is in fiscal ruin.

And you don't see any of that?

You want expensive ad campaign...at this very moment all that is going on...attacking the GOP...while Democrats and their union goons threaten, intimidate and plunder the nation.

Wow thats some timing Wes!

This is not how to run a business.

You have Democrats bankrupting the nation at a pace never seen in U.S. history...and supporting government employees and teachers unions that are destroying our children's future...and putting White House into PARTNERSHIP with American Bar Association to sue every business in America...

And Obama trying to double and triple every tax I pay...and take away my home deduction and charitable deductions...

And you have Republican Governor in Wisconsin and Republican Gov in New Jersey standing up to the govt employee union goons...risking their LIVES...and political careers...

And Republican Gov of Florida turning down billions in high speed rail money while Democratic Governors beg for it...

And Republican Governor of Virginia, as well as GOP Governors across USA, fighting in court to have Obamacare declared unconstitutional...

While Democrats ask for MORE- in the form of single payer healthcare run 100% by Big Brother.

And you want to waste tens of thousands of dollars attacking REPUBLICANS???

This is insanity.

Wes, your priorities are all wrong.

Your gut instincts are all wrong.

You sound like Obama...who wants to punish the taxpayers and job-creators and reward the people who produce nothing.

Here the LP has an obsession with attacking the GOP & Tea Parties...who have so much in common with us fiscally...who are not our best friends...but are certainly our "kissing cousins" who fight alongside us on fiscal issues...

and your goal is to punish and denigrate want to punish those who support smaller government... because what they ask for is not "small enough"...or because they drive us towards the cliff at 90 MPH... and you blame them for driving too fast...

But you give a free pass to those who are literally destroying America at 180 MPH?

But worse...you miss the whole point of how to get attention of media and voters.

Obama is in power...he is the one to attack.

When Bush was in office...did the LP spend all day attacking Democrats? Of course not. Why would you? What a waste.

You are wasting money and causing every conservative and Tea Partier in country that should like us at least for our fiscal views...

To HATE us and resent us.

This is truly insanity. You are off course.

Wayne"

Disagreement on running the ad was also received from Kevin Knedler:

"WHY are we attacking the GOP right now? Give them some rope and see what they can do with it.

If we have a wall of "shame" it should be illustrating people from both parties, not just targeting the GOP.

What "shame" with the GOP? Attack Governors in NJ, WI, OH (my home state). Are we nuts? Are we always the party that dislikes everything? KJK Ohio "

Mary Ruwart also spoke up for the benefits of positive advertising:

"Since you've brought this up again, let me put in my two cents worth. I've copied Mr. Grayson on this as well since he has expressed his opinion.

In general, I agree with the strategy that Mr. Grayson outlines in the Ohio LP publication that you sent us. Anyone who has read my book, "Healing Our World," is very aware that this is my default strategy (for those unfamiliar with "Healing," you can get a free download of the 1992 edition at ruwart.com). Indeed, gentle persuasion and seeking areas of agreement were so unusual in the LP back in the early 1980s, that I was criticized for being "too nice."

News Flash: Gently establishing areas of agreement not only works well with outsiders, it works well with libertarian colleagues as well. I invite you to try it next time before you criticize!

Had you or Mr. Grayson called or written our ED, gently pointing out your concerns, you probably would have gotten an explanation that might have changed your perspective. You might not have agreed with our ED, but I think that you would have realized that he had good reason to do what he did and that this ad is an exception to his usual style, not the rule. Our ED has accomplished amazing things at HQ. Mr. Benedict deserves our respect and our gentle corrections when he does, as each of us will, make mistakes.

Mr. Benedict does not deserve to be lambasted in a newsletter or have his team spirit called into question on this list---especially after our Chair has already approved his strategy. Mr. Benedict didn't just go out and do this project on his own. He needed the approval of the Chair and, on a more limited basis, the

APRC. If you are going to point fingers, point in the proper direction, please!

But back to the point at hand. For Mr. Grayson's benefit, I'm going to state my understanding of our ED's strategy. Tea Party groups, who would have likely attended CPAC, seem to believe a lot of Republican rhetoric. As libertarians, we know that the Tea Party movement has and will continue to be betrayed by the GOP. Mr. Benedict decided to try a shock strategy to call their attention to this. It's noteworthy that our feedback at CPAC in the past few years has been so anemic that many of us on the LNC were on the verge of forbidding staff to attend it again. My understanding is that we've never even recouped our expenses there.

Once again, you might not agree with the Wall of Shame, but someone sure did---enough to pony up \$10K to help run an ad in the Washington Post. That ad will have a "join the LP" coupon. Let's find out what happens for a fraction of the cost we normally would have had on this test. If it bombs, we know that the venue (the Post has a liberal rather than conservative audience) or the message didn't appeal. If it brings in members at less than about \$100/new donor, we've done better than most direct mail to "cold" lists. Remember that virtually impossible goal of 5,000 new members by February next year we've laid in the ED's lap? Can you blame him for trying something new?

None of us really know what will happen with an ad like this. We have our opinions. Let's test it and find out (you can tell I'm a scientist). If it bombs, you can rest assured that Mr. Benedict will be the last person to argue for a rerun. "

Also opposing the ad was Bill Redpath:

"I voted "I'm a Libertarian, don't run the ad and send the money back" on the poll today.

I do not like the Republican (or Democratic) Party at all. One reason that I ran for Congress in 2010 was that I strongly dislike my Republican congressman. I substantively criticized him frequently during the campaign, several times to his face in debates.

I became an LP member in 1984 because my profound disappointment with Ronald Reagan (an opinion of mine that has not changed).

But, what I don't think LP candidates or the LP ought to do with major party politicians is to get sassy with them.

In my opinion, unfortunately, the "Wall of Shame" ad crosses that line.

There is too much that major parties and their politicians can constitutionally do to harm third parties, including the LP.

We need politically fight them in many ways, and I am certainly not suggesting backing down in any substantive way.

But, I just don't care for the presentation of "The Wall of Shame." That is my problem with it.

And, it appears to be very divisive within the LNC, and that is another reason not to run it."

Finally, in a spot-on (in your editor's opinion) analysis of the proposed ad, Alicia Mattson showed how adherence to party bylaws can have a substantive effect:

Chairman Hinkle,

In addition to the other concerns I have voiced, I believe Mr. Knedler has raised a legitimate budgetary question. I believe the bylaws and the budget have something to say about whether this ad can be run.

LP BYLAWS - ARTICLE 10: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING: "1. The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 of each year. From January 1 until the National Committee has approved a budget, the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for any item incorporated in the previous year's budget as long as the level of expenditure is consistent with that budget."

We have not adopted a 2011 budget yet, so we're operating under this bylaws provision, and the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for the current year only in conformity with the 2010 budget.

Our budget from 2010 did not authorize spending on this activity. The closest line item I can find is the supplemental change we made to the budget back at the July meeting, when staff requested and the board granted a "budget for branding to be used for promotional items." The ED brought us specifics on how this amount was to be used, including door hangers, flyers, and t-shirts as promotional items to be sold.

There was no budget for advertising in 2010; therefore, there is no budget for advertising for 2011.

Unless I'm missing something, under our current circumstances, the proposed expenditure for this advertisement can only be made with the consent of the Treasurer in conformity with the prior year's budget. I am not convinced that it conforms with the prior year's budget.

-Alicia

Readers who have already seen the entire LNC correspondence on this — there seem to be many of you at this point — may accuse me of omitting the good parts of the correspondence. Not true! I have simply run out of space for this month. It gets much more interesting next month.

Support Liberty For America!

Mail form to Liberty for America c/o George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive,
Worcester MA 01609 or email to phillies@4liberty.net

Join!

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

Liberty for America dues are \$15.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Subscribe!

Subscriptions to Liberty for America, the Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement, are *free*. Send your email address to phillies@4liberty.net and prepare to be sent monthly PDFs containing our newsletter.

Donate!

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

Donate on the Internet

You can donate to our PAC "Liberty for America" at <http://LibertyForAmerica.com/>

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

Donors specify that they are American citizens, not a corporation or a labor movement, that they are not Federal contractors, and that they are donating their own money.

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".

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.

<http://LibertyForAmerica.com>

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

In this issue:

Now with News Color Coding: Good News **Other News** News from the World

National Political Conference in New Hampshire

Libertarian Wins Primary

Graphics Support

Alaskans Advocate Activist Activity

More Good News

LNC In Action

Redpath Tries to Fill LNC Vacancies

Ruwart Speaks Out on Secret Mattson List

LNC vs. LNC Executive Director Benedict on Ad Tactics

Address Corrections Requested
First Class Mail

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