

# Liberty for America

Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement

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## Good News from Across America

The Libertarian Party of Indiana held its state convention. Their new officers are: Sam Goldstein - Chair, Jerry Titus-Vice-Chair, Dale Wedell-Treasurer, and John Schick-Secretary

Attendance this year was only about 70. Indiana has the great good fortune to nominate by convention, state or county, and 30-40 Libertarian candidates for Mayor and City Council (these are all partisan races) are expected to be nominated.

The Libertarian Party of New York held its state convention. The elected officers are:

Chair: Mark Axinn  
Vice Chairs: Audrey Capozzi and Richard Cooper  
Treasurer: Gary Treistman  
Secretary: Blay Tarnoff  
Immediate Past Chair: Chris Edes  
At-large members: Chris Garvey, Michael Houze, Adam Martin, David Narby and Christian Padgett

Long-time New Hampshire libertarian (and elected member of the State Legislature) Seth Cohn calls our attention to a long list of whinings from a non-libertarian that libertarianism is advancing in New Hampshire, and Free Staters are taking over the state legislature: For the list of links: [www.ronpaulforums.com/entry.php?292-New-Hampshire-Democrat-bloggers-declare-Free-Staters-the-winner](http://www.ronpaulforums.com/entry.php?292-New-Hampshire-Democrat-bloggers-declare-Free-Staters-the-winner)

The Libertarian Party of Rhode Island 2011 State Convention will be held Saturday, May 14 · 2:00pm - 4:00pm at the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI For more information, contact Christian Chirino [chris.chirino21@gmail.com](mailto:chris.chirino21@gmail.com) or 401-919-0121

## National Political Conference

The National Political Conference ‘Future of the Libertarian Political Movement’ is rapidly coming together with a spectacular list of speakers, including John Buttrick, Ernie Hancock, Angela Keaton, Joe Kennedy, Mary Ruwart, and Bonnie Scott. A presidential debate will be held: Come to hear R Lee Wrights and Roger Gary debate.

The Conference will be held June 19 in Manchester, NH, at the Highlander Inn on the front entrance to the Manchester airport. If you are coming to Porcfest, which starts the next day, why not fly out a day early for an extra dose of good Libertarian political discussion? The convention is sponsored by the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire and the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts.

It’s an all-day event, with registration starting at 9AM, and post-Presidential-debate reception ending at 9 PM. The convention trifold with full schedule are pages 7 and 8 of this issue.

Come to Manchester! Hear exciting panels on Libertarianism and the antiwar movement, Libertarianism and young people and young families, candidate recruitment, GLBT Outreach, and the political situation in New Hampshire. Convention registration includes morning coffee, and full meals at noon and in the evening. That’s a finer set of speakers than our last National convention, no Reborts Rules of Disorder Debates, and it’s all only \$100.

For more information, and to register <http://LPMass.org/Convention> or send a check for \$100 to Libertarians, POB 1154, Worcester MA 01613.

## We Hear from Readers

Apparently our April issue went over particularly well with people, in that we had messages including

“George, thank you!” and  
“Nice work.”

And in response to the Republican Wall of Shame ad

So if the Libertarian Party can be bought for \$15,000 can they be bought for \$7,500? Could we get them to run an ad calling Obama a twinkly?

## Other News from Across America

Rachel Hawkridge has resigned from the LNC. She sent us her letter of resignation, which we quote in full.

The Libertarian Party of Nevada State Committee disaffiliated all its County and Regional affiliates. LPNV Vice Chair Wayne Root voted in favor of the disaffiliation, thus attempting to end all local Libertarian organization in Nevada. What is said to be his justification of the action, as sent to Debra Dedmon, was forwarded to us and appears after this article. There is also LNC news, but we are running out of space.

## Hawkridge Resigns from LNC

LNC Regional Representative Rachel Hawkridge has resigned from her post. Her letter of resignation as circulated to us reads:

Dear State Chairs, Friends & Allies –

Most of you know by now that I have abandoned you, disappeared, and you have probably heard that I have left the LP.

It's all true. I'm finished. Life member of the LP. LPWA's "Activist of the Year – 1999". I'm not going to be silent, nor take any more BS from this bunch of misogynists.

Several months ago, Hinkle demanded that I step down from the Convention Oversight Committee. He said I wasn't participating, that furthermore, "everyone tells him" that I hadn't done anything last term on COC.

Except the Admiral (last year's COC Chair), who when asked if this was true, said "Absolutely NOT"!

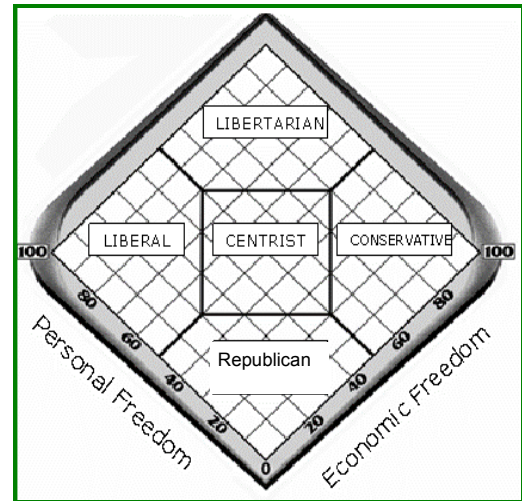
I said I had been participating – just about one week before this demand, I had been on a conference call WHERE HE WAS PRESENT, where I talked a lot!

For most of the conference calls, I had been present, but muted, as they were invariably scheduled during dinner time with my Hugs. I listened to the discussions, sometimes unmuted and commented, but mostly eMailed in between.

I told him this, and he continued to insist that I resign, or he would remove me. He said it would "be better for me" if I resigned.

Former treasurer James Oaksun told me that most COC correspondence was not being distributed to me (nothing that went through the Secretary, Alicia Mattson). Mattson confirmed that she was not sending me the information on a conference call when David Nolan asked.

I provided proof of my presence (hours of damned conference calls from my phone bills, and eMails), and also told him that the conference call reports listed participants.



A Redesigned Nolan Chart — matching contemporary American political reality.

Hinkle then called me a "bald faced liar" to a friend of mine.

Then there was the Oregon debacle – Hinkle, Mattson and Carling showed up at an Oregon convention, and Carling and Mattson intimidated the State Chair into canceling due to lack of quorum. They maintained that the quorum requirement (according to RONR) was not met, as it required a percentage of the entire membership. Another Registered Parliamentarian [Ed: and several other people] provided a differing opinion, as Oregon's conventions are NOT conventions with "elected representatives" as in the RONR requirement, they are "mass meetings" where everyone who is a member is welcome. Hinkle threatened Oregon officers with "We'll be watching."

The LNC's secretary, Alicia Mattson, established a secret discussion list from which I was excluded, apparently on the basis of untrue allegations that I couldn't be trusted with confidential information. This list is used to conduct business, as the Vegas binder had printed pages from it on agenda items.

In January, it came to my attention that Pat Dixon was actively sabotaging the LSLA conference.

At that point, the health problems that I had fighting for a couple of months became a crisis, and I went into surgery. The result of putting off surgery for a couple of months meant that I was seriously run down, and hellaciously anemic. I spent several days in the hospital just getting TPN BEFORE I could have surgery. (TPN is nutrition by IV; in my case by a line directly to my heart.)

I was in the hospital for a total of 2 weeks, followed by a long and very tough recovery.

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My Hugs demanded answers from Hinkle, and has never gotten any response other than "Tell her to resign."

Hinkle is a liar, and will cut out any representative that he doesn't like. As State Chairs, we are not important enough for him to respect our State autonomy, nor our representative. He refused before his election to vote against "his friend, Aaron Starr", and now Starr has a firm hand on the puppet strings. Starr's paramour Mattson is Secretary, and taking over much of the decision making on agenda and RONR, since Hinkle is incompetent.

Finally, the "data dump" sent to State Chairs more or less monthly, most recently in April 2011, did not list me as a member, even though I'm still officially the state chair of the Libertarian Party of Washington, and a Life Member of the Libertarian Party. (Headquarters claims to know nothing about why my name wasn't on the April "data dump" for the LPWA, and claim that I'm still listed as a member).

Hinkle will lie, with no compunction, even about things that can be proven.

My Hugs and I are leaving the LP completely. He's been a member since his original member number of 324. I've been a member since 1995.

Please accept my gratitude for allowing me to be your representative, and forgive me for quitting on you. I cannot contin-

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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.

ue to be part of the disgrace that much of the LNC has become.

I urge you to elect Vicki Kirkland to Rep., and elect a new Alternate on Monday evening. Don't let the seat fall to someone who will misrepresent you.

I appreciate getting the chance to get to know all of you, and would love to continue to have a social relationship with you, even though I will not be involved in the Party.

Peace.

Rachel Hawkrige

Sovereign Woman, Nama Waycho & Lover of Hugs

"When the truth is replaced by silence", the Soviet dissident Yevgeny Yevtushenko said, "the silence is a lie".

The above is Rachel Hawkrige's letter of resignation from the LNC as circulated to many activists in her LNC region.

## Nevada State Committee Disaffiliates Its County and Regional Committees

In a surprise move without precedent or advance warning, the Libertarian Party of Nevada State Committee disaffiliated its three County/Regional Committees, which cover Las Vegas, Reno, and the Capital District. Readers of this newspaper may recall that the Clark County, Nevada LP group is financially independent of their state party, files separately with the FEC, and raises more money than a large fraction of all LP State Parties.

A pair of audio tapes, said to be from the meeting, appear on Youtube at [youtube.com/watch?v=O-3UnWQFRZ8](http://youtube.com/watch?v=O-3UnWQFRZ8) and [youtube.com/watch?v=bzggxmqjRo](http://youtube.com/watch?v=bzggxmqjRo). Readers unwilling to type these links may find them on [IndependentPoliticalReport.com](http://IndependentPoliticalReport.com). A draft transcript of the tapes appears on IPR.

The Clark County LP has already responded. Debra Dedmon, writing on IPR, reports: The Libertarian Party of Clark County is valid due to the bylaws violation. The remaining members have elected Angela McKinster Chair .

Here is a partial edited transcript. Each paragraph is a different speaker. Your editor was not at the LPNV State Committee meeting and can neither identify most of the voices nor vouch for the validity of the recordings of this public meeting:

**Motion #1 I move that we have three Libertarian Party of Nevada membership levels. These levels would also maintain national sustaining membership status as defined in (inaudible): level 1 \$50 annually, level 2 \$213.12 annually, and level 3 which would be \$1776 annually.**

(Person making motion is invited to speak and does not.) This is Dave Colborne. Out of curiosity, are we actually allowed to do this? Our bylaws leave membership fees to the local affiliates presently.

I don't know. Irv do you want to address this?

Irv: I'm not aware of any bylaws. It wouldn't change our by-laws so it wouldn't change our qualifications for membership according to our state bylaws.

This is descriptions of donor levels. We're not really changing our state bylaws. That's all it is, just establishing three different levels. We can come up with names later. Basic membership, just the fifty to force the uh (unintelligible), the next level equates to \$17.76 per month, and the last level is the \$1776 for hopefully new members, big bucks ( big deep pockets).

Colborne: So, just as a question, would this override the local membership program or would it be on top of the local membership program? Answer: It just establishes three different names for the three different levels, that's all.

Colborne: Well the problem here is that and I hate quoting by-laws here but according to them any affiliated areas under article 3 section A all members of an affiliate party in Nevada are members of the LPN provided that the region has joined the local membership program, which basically requires forwarding ten dollars to the executive committee for each member registered in the affiliate. I personally have no problem, the 1776 brigade and things like that, accepting membership levels beyond whatever the affiliates currently have. I just want to make sure that those who live in Clark County and Nye County where they don't have dues or have dues that are considerably lower than fifty dollars are still members of state. I just want to be sure that is cleared up.

I can answer that. Nothing we do as an executive committee changes our bylaws, and I'm sure you're aware of that. Our Bylaws and our constitution do not create any kind of donor level or membership level. This just establishing a description rather than as establishment who is a member or not. Right we now we have membership as just as you quoted, that's what governs our body so I don't see this as a conflict. Nothing we do can change our bylaws. We have to do that at a state convention.

Colborne OK. Mostly I wanted to make sure that was clear to the entire body. I've got no problem with raising some extra money and having some extra donation levels. That's fine.

[Editor: There is then a vote. **The motion appears to pass unanimously.** We then reach the next motion, under which all regional affiliates are disaffiliated, meaning that the dues levels just voted cover the entire state.]

**I move to consolidate the Libertarian Party of Nevada by revoking the affiliate status of all Nevada county chapters including the Libertarian Party of Clark County, The Capitol Libertarian Party, and the Nye County Libertarian Party thereby folding them into one organization until such time as membership levels (?) have reached (?) rechartering of county organizations.**

## 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.

Colborne: I was expecting Irv to speak in favor of his motion before chiming in.

Irv: I really don't have anything to say. This thing speaks for itself. I just think it's a good time for consolidation.. (short problem with background noise)

Colborne: Why are we doing this? I guess that would be my first question.

Chair: David, are you speaking for this or against this? I guess that could be my first question.

All right, I'll go ahead with this and I'll speak against it. Assuming we go though we this and assuming that you vote in favor of this, which I have a sneaking suspicion you probably will, you are talking about requiring all perspective candidates from (list of counties) to go down to Clark County to be even considered on their local ballots. I really think this is inappropriate. I don't believe this will help grow the Libertarian Party of Nevada. I fail to see how this will increase activism, increase donations, or otherwise improve the functioning of our state especially since the largest most successful state parties in the country namely the Libertarian Parties of California and Texas have heavily relied on local and county affiliates and the Republicans and Democrats as much as you may dislike their ideologies win elections using local county and even precinct level organizations, so I think it's kind of unfortunate that we're talking about moving away from that direction.

This is Sandy Darby. I'm not quite sure, my phone kind of went out. What do you mean moving to consolidate?

Motion is read again.

I would like to speak against that. In Nye County we're growing pretty rapidly. I think that if we consolidate you'll ruin what we're starting here.

(Rowan?) I would like to comment,

Chair: You are not recognized. This is an executive committee meeting.

Joe, we also have two elected libertarian officials in our county.

We meet once a month. We had more people in our region than we've ever had before. That's not going to happen if we consolidate.

OK thank you Sandy.

**Colborne: I move to allow Rowan to speak for five minutes.**  
Sandy Second

*Transcriber: This is a motion to allow someone to speak in defense of her organization, on a motion to revoke (for cause) the affiliate status of the group. Observe that enough people vote against permitting a defense. An Aye vote is a vote to permit the defense.*

**Root Aye; Secretary Nay; Treasurer Aye; David Aye; Darby Aye; Roberts Nay; Hopkins Nay; The Chair votes: I vote no.**

Rowan: You realize you're shutting out two counties and we have real members here. There's fifteen of us.

The Nays have it. This is a tie vote and in event of a tie the motion fails.

Voice: Bylaws Article 7B says you have to put your reasons in writing if you have cause to revoke affiliate status.

Chair: You're not an officer.

**The vote on the disaffiliation motion was Silvestri – Chair; YES, Root – Vice Chair YES; Kris McKinster – Secretary YES, Michael McAuliffe – Treasurer YES; Irv Hopkins – At Large YES; Chris Roberts – Southern Region YES; David Colborne – Northern Region NO; Sandra Darby – Central Region NO**

The next motion is to authorize spending of funds. **I move to authorize the chair to use up any LPNV funds for certain functions: campaigns, fundraising, and annual convention.**

Is there any discussion from any officer? Hearing none we move to a vote

**Wayne Aye; Secretary No; Treasurer Aye; Colborne No; Darby No; Roberts Aye; Hopkins Aye; Chair I believe it passes — abstains. Passes 4-3.**

## Reported Root Response

Debra Dedmon released to us a response from Wayne Root explaining his position. We reprint with Dedmon's permission, omitting one entirely personal line.

Debra,  
You have you taken this wrong. The Nevada LP is failing badly. BADLY. It needs to be run from one central location and have one coordinated message. That's how all great companies and organizations are run. I'm a small business CEO. And a very successful one. The LP is a very badly run small business. If we were a business, we'd be run out of a crumbling building

in a terrible neighborhood downtown and facing bankruptcy after hanging on for 40 sad declining years. That has to change. We need a beautiful new exterior. We need to change locations to a gleaming office building on the Strip. We need new leadership that knows how to win. We need new employees with fresh positive attitudes. It's either change, or go out of business. I choose to make a change.

We need to organize...we need discipline...we need leadership...we need a fresh new attitude...we need everyone rowing in the same direction...and we need people who are all repeating the same message. 40 years of failure is enough. We are simply TRYING to change all that.

What I did for your baby cousin's cancer is CONNECTED to what I'm trying to do for LP. The people who have failed this party for 40 years are all talk, no walk. Or as they say in Texas—all hat, no cattle. They yak and yak...but take no action...attract no money...donate no money...elect no one. Wait, it actually gets worse...they don't just do nothing, they in many cases repel others from every joining our party with their extreme out of mainstream radical message and dysfunctional attitudes. They purposely want the LP to fail...so no one ever wins office, therefore the LP stays small, therefore they can be big fish in a small pond. That is dysfunctional thinking. That is disgraceful. That is what has killed freedom and liberty in this country. I hold them more responsible than Bush or Obama. Because the old guard of the LP allowed this to happen to us. They retarded progress...so they could remain big fish in a small pond...while progressives continued growing government bigger and bigger, and took more and more of our freedoms away.

That is the only thing last night was about...trying to shape the LP into a winning organization. If you want to come along, you are welcome. So are others. We are building a BIG TENT party. But to build a big tent, you first have to change the culture of losing and dysfunction. Anyone that wants to enter the tent has to work hard, donate, find donations, expect to win, change their attitude, look professional, and follow the rules. All the things that make up great organizations that win and produce results- from Microsoft to Wynn Resorts to the Navy Seals.

And whenever someone tries to do all this...to make changes...to rip up a losing organization and rebuild a winning one...at first...guess what ALWAYS happens? Screaming and threatening from the "old guard" that desperately wants to hold power...even in a losing and dysfunctional organization. These are the final screams of defeated people who hate change...and see their world ending...even if it's been a world of 40 years of painful, dysfunctional, humiliating losing. Even if they've been doormats with no voice for 40 years. They desperately want to cling to the little tiny bit of power they have.

They can only do that...if they stop change. It's that fear of success...and fear of change...and fear of winning that has ruined this wonderful freedom party for 40 years. We're just trying to change that. It isn't easy to revamp an entire losing culture. But we took it on. Now we have a tough job to do. Wish

us luck. You and everyone else should root for people (excuse the pun) willing to take on daunting jobs like this...for FREE!

But guess what happens after someone succeeds in changing a losing culture and rebuilding? For the first time you see progress and success. And then many hundreds or thousands or millions of voters see the same thing and join the movement... because everyone likes a winner and wants to join in. Change is good.

It doesn't happen overnight unfortunately. It takes years to rebuild the damage built by the negative and dysfunctional people with extreme views and nasty attitudes that frightened away good people that would have written checks and worked hard to win elections. But eventually, little by little, progress comes with the new fresh positive attitude. Then money follows, then one breakthrough victory, then the dam breaks open...and then you have a whole new culture of winning.

That starts TODAY. It is a beautiful new morning.

What you yourself said to me in your email this morning is the key to the puzzle. I am so sad for your baby cousin. I will say a prayer. BUT...I don't know her, and I barely know you. Yet I sent the biggest donation to a complete stranger. Why?

A) Because I'm a good person.

B) Because I always try to do the best I can to help others in need to succeed.

C) The LP is just like your baby cousin. It has been sick. It needs care. It needs money. It needs help from someone who knows how to attract others with organization and communication skills.

And why did none of your radical LP friends in Nevada send a donation like I did? Not because they are bad people. They are not. But because they just don't know how to succeed. No one ever taught them about success. They don't know how to win...how to help others...how to help themselves...how to organize...how to be disciplined...how to help the LP. They don't know how to communicate a winning message. I do.

It's time to put the people with communication skills...and people skills...and business skills...and leadership skills in charge and see the difference. It will take 2 to 5 years...but in 5 years you will see a political success story just like my parents' party, the New York State Conservative Party- which elected scores of candidates- including a U.S. Senator as a third party candidate.

There is nothing bad happening here. No conspiracy- although the conspiracy nuts will come out of the woodwork to rationalize their loss. You know I'm a good person who gives 180% to the LP...you know I have unlimited energy, passion and communication skills...the LP of Nevada Team is more important than me. I trust this management team. I'm working on national LP. They will be the force for change in Nevada. I know every

one of them wants success and victory for the Nevada LP. They all are hungry for change. These are good people with very positive intensions...who are sick and tired of losing...trying to organize this party and instill discipline...and a winning message. Nothing more, nothing less.

But let me make a final point...NO ONE COULD POSSIBLY DO WORSE, OR MAKE MORE OF A DISASTER THAN THE NEVADA LP (or the national LP) for the past 40 losing embarrassing years. We have nothing to lose. We can only go up from here. Change is not something to fear. Change is necessary...desperately necessary when you have been a doormat for 40 years. You MUST try a new direction.

To not change would be the sin. To accept being a doormat for even one day longer would be dysfunctional. To keep the same losing message and repeat the same direction for 40 years (and counting) would be "Groundhog Day." To stay disorganized, confused and undisciplined would be tragic. To not learn from our failures would be ignorant. To try something new is the only way to go.

Today we start moving in a new direction- a positive one. One that aims for signs of progress...even small progress...and our voice to be heard. Not 20 different radical directions all looking like "Hail Mary" one-in-a-million suicide runs...that all lead to zero progress towards freedom.

We don't need to "go for broke" anymore. We need to move forward slowly and surely. We need to take one step at a time. We will aim for little victories. And we know as the ancient Chinese proverb goes...A journey of one thousand miles begins with one positive step. We have taken it.

I hope in the near future...when you see some progress...to see you fight alongside us!

## Ballot Access

We have vast amounts of additional news, too much to report, supplied to us by different correspondents. *An extended report on Libertarian Party ballot access plans appears in the electronic supplement to this issue, pages 11-13.* That report estimates what it will cost to complete ballot access by the LNC for its Presidential candidate in 2012. The number I know most accurately is estimated in an optimistic manner. Changes on the ground in Massachusetts mean that a more reasonable number for Massachusetts ballot access is upward of \$35,000.

## Petitioners

There has been an intense exchange between several LNC petitioners, state chairs, and the LNC National Chair.

On the basis of that exchange, this newspaper believes that several questions should be asked of the LNC by National Party members. In particular:

In the paper edition, this  
Page is one side of  
the National Political  
Conference ad trifold.

In the paper edition, this  
Page is the other side of  
the National Political  
Conference ad trifold.



#1) We have petitioners offering to do phone fundraising at 25% commission and petitioners offering to do phone fundraising at 40% commission. Which of these should be preferred? Why?

#2) Apparently we have several petitioners with very extensive fundraising lists. If these lists are actually as good as the LNC's, where did they come from? That answer would tell the LNC how to improve its own phone fundraising operations.

## State Chairs

State Chair Lupe Diaz of Illinois has indicated that he will launch a NOTA campaign for President if, come October, we [Ed.: only] have unstable persons running for our Presidential nomination. "I will not stand for unstable people, representing MY PARTY, MY FAMILY, and MYSELF." was his resounding message to the State Chairs list.

The 2011 LSLA meeting will take place on August 19 in Columbus Ohio. They are charging \$35, for no breakfast, a box lunch, and no dinner. The announced speakers include at this writing Jim Lark, Mark Rutherford, and Kevin Knedler. Their schedule follows:

### Schedule of Events:

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Introductions – All States

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Special Meeting – Proposed agenda:  
Proposed bylaw change to add Vice-Chair position  
Election of Officers

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. General Session –  
“Building A State Organization” – Presenters: Panel Discussion, TBD

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch – Speakers  
“Role of the Affiliate Support Committee” – Mark Rutherford  
“College Student Outreach Development” – Dr. Jim Lark

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. General Session – “Are You A Leader?” – Speaker: Kevin Knedler

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Workshop Tier I – Workshop options:  
“Building A Field Team” – Presenter: Ohio State LP  
“Website Development/IT” – Presenter: TBA

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. General Session – “Data Management; Membership, and Voter Info” – Presenters: TBA

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Break

4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Workshop Tier II – Workshop options:  
“Communications, and Social Networking” – Presenter: TBA

“Financing, and FEC Compliance” – Presenters: TBA  
Adjournment at 5:30 p.m

6:00 p.m. LNC/LSLA Networking Relaxation – Light appetizers

## Work with Republicans?

Take note of [salon.com/news/politics/war\\_room/2011/04/07/poll\\_mississippi\\_interracial\\_marriage/index.html](http://salon.com/news/politics/war_room/2011/04/07/poll_mississippi_interracial_marriage/index.html)  
Poll: 46 percent of Mississippi Republicans want interracial marriage ban, not to mention

<http://market-ticker.org/akcs-www?post=185390>  
a Tea Party rant against immigration.

## UMP Returns?

National Chair Mark Hinkle has proposed sketches for discussion for two plans to adjust the membership outcomes. #1 is reviving the Unified Membership Plan. #2 is the "Liberty Sales Team".

UMP Mark 3? *The last one almost put the LNC six feet under. This one is somewhat better designed.* The LNC would collect normal Federal and State dues, minus a discount whose number is under consideration, keep \$25/head for the LNC, and send the rest to the state. If there is a discount in what the member must pay, the state would cover it. The official quid pro quo is that in order to join, a state would have to share its list of state-only (no Federal) members with the LNC.

Any State Chair considering joining this should ask himself a few questions first. What happens to donations? With great frequency, I get membership renewal checks for LPMass, and someone has paid not our \$15 or our \$25 rate, but \$35 or \$50 or \$100. If we lost that money, we would lose a lot. Question 2: Can your state members renew without joining the Federal Party? And, of course, mindful that having a meeting, that does things, will motivate members to show up, how about using your state group meeting to mail out your renewal letters?

Liberty Sales Teams? In the words of one LNC member, the Liberty Sales Teams would offer "...great opportunities for entrepreneurial activity to recruit new members from Ron Paul supporters, Gary Johnson supporters, and Tea Partiers." However, "...we need to modify our membership database and membership forms (both paper and electronic) to be able to track activity by recruiters and pay them their commissions." That is, there appears to be a proposal to put membership recruitment on a commission basis.

## Other LNC Acts

The employment contract for the Executive Director was discussed at great length. Mary Ruwart advised: "We can continue focusing on things like reviewing the EDs contract or we can grow the LP."

The March 2011 Membership report shows that in December 2010 we had 14077 sustaining members, and the by the end of March 2011 the number of sustaining members had fallen to 13675. That's a drop, from the 15358 sustaining members we had in December 2008 to the end of March 2011, of nearly 1700 sustaining members. There are, however, in total over 120,000 members --people who have signed the pledge.

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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LNC Acts — Libertarian Ballot Access Status 2011

First Class Mail

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Worcester MA 01609

We have had supplied to us the excellent report on Libertarian ballot access for 2012. It follows below. In some ways we are better off now than we were four years ago. On the other hand, the Massachusetts price for ballot access appears to me to be quite enthusiastic; instead of \$25,000 (the approximate cost in 2008), I would estimate \$35-40,000 will be needed.

**LIBERTARIAN PARTY BALLOT ACCESS REPORT**  
Libertarian National Committee meeting  
Alexandria, VA  
April 16-17, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

This Ballot Access Report takes the report from the November 2010 meeting in New Orleans and makes updates for the April 2011 LNC meeting IN BOLD. I want to thank Bob Johnston, LP of Maryland Chair and an Independent Contractor to the LNC, for his assistance in updating this report, and for his work in contacting various state parties and their Chairs.

Before I get to the main part of the report, I want to report on ballot access and vote totals for LP candidates in November 2010. I got this data from Ballot Access News ("BAN") (thank you, Richard Winger).

In the November 2010 election, according to BAN, "Minor parties and independent candidates did better in the 2010 election than in any other mid-term election since the 1930's or 1920's, by virtually every indicator."

According to BAN: Share of Vote for Top Office: for the top office on the ballot, the share of the vote going to minor parties and independent candidates in 2010 was 5.4%. This is the highest share in a midterm year since 1934. "Top office" is Governor. If a state wasn't electing Governor, it means U.S. Senate; for the four states that had neither of those offices, it means U.S. House.

Also, according to BAN: Voter Registration: data from the 29 states that ask voters to choose a party on voter registration forms, for October or November 2010, shows only 73.5% of the voters are registered members of the Democratic and Republican Parties. This is definitely the lowest share of voters registered into the two major parties since 1980, and almost certainly the lowest ever. Before the 1910's decade there was no such thing as registering into a party on voter registration forms.

In November 2010, 81.9% of US voters had at least one Libertarian candidate on their ballot. Green Party: 54.6%. Constitution Party: 39.0%. (There are three "Major Minor" political parties in the US.)

Total Vote for Governor: Libertarian: 731,285. Green: 488,953. Constitution: 872,498 (although 651,232 of these votes were for Tom Tancredo in Colorado, otherwise only 221,266).

Total Vote for US Senate: Libertarian: 780,676. Green: 526,669. Constitution: 338,593.

Total Vote for US House: Libertarian: 1,074,189. Green: 256,307. Constitution: 251,741.

Total Vote for State Senates: Libertarian: 375,367. Green: 45,146. Constitution: 17,972.

Total Vote for State Houses: Libertarian: 530,648. Green: 172,002. Constitution: 160,250.

The LP's relative electoral success is due in no small part to our superior ballot access.

November 2010 report, with updates IN BOLD:

If we lived in a nation with just election laws, we wouldn't have to pursue ballot access. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The following memo states where we now are, and what we need to do to at least acquire Presidential ticket ballot access for 2012.

After Election Day 2010, we currently have ballot access for our Presidential ticket in 2012 in the following 26 states: AK, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IN, KS, LA, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NM, NC, OH, OR, SC, TX, VT & WY. This assumes that all paperwork will be filed on a timely basis. According to Richard Winger, the LP had 24 states with Presidential ballot access at this time four years ago. UT has been added since the November 2010 meeting. We are now at 27 states.

This following is what it would take to acquire Presidential ticket ballot access in the following states. Possible expenses are estimates of LNC expenditures.

AL: Assuming we don't want to undertake the party petition (43,146 sigs), there is a 5,000 sig Independent petition for President. We cannot start until after the ticket is nominated, as no candidate substitution is allowed in AL. 2012 drive. Possible expense: \$15,000. Retention would take 20% of the vote for a statewide office. The number of signatures needed for a party petition is 44,560, which is 3% of the votes cast for 2010 Governor (1,485,324). Independent Presidential candidate signatures are due September 6, 2012.

AR: AR is the only state in which there has never been a Libertarian candidate in a partisan race for any office other than President. Rodger Paxton, Chair of the LPAR, was planning to be in New Orleans for this LNC meeting but cannot make it due to an important family matter. He wants to get the LPAR going and thinks, if a party petition is done, that the LPAR will run at least three (3) candidates. 10,000 valid sigs needed gathered within a 90 day window, with the final deadline in May or June 2012. Assume 15,000 gross sigs. He thinks that the LPAR could do 2,000 volunteer sigs. That leaves 13,000 gross sigs. At \$2 per sig, that is \$26,000. Mr. Paxton thinks the LPAR could raise \$6,000 (\$5,000 has been pledged by one person). Probable LNC expense: \$20,000. Retention: 3% for top of the ticket. Scott Kohlhaas is doing his "Ballot Drive in a Box" with the LPAR. Scott raises the funds, gets paid a commission, and the remainder is spent on petition signatures. Started collecting signatures on March 31, 2011, and must be finished by June 28.

Already have over 5,000 gross signatures. I expect this petition drive to be finished by about April 25.

CT: 7,500 valid sig petition drive for Presidential ticket. We cannot start until January 1, 2012. Possible expense: \$25,000. Retention: All office-by-office. 1% vote needed to retain ballot access for President. Retention for party: 20% vote for Governor, or 20% of registered voters.

DC: 3,900 valid sigs will be needed for the Presidential ticket in the Summer 2012 drive. Probable expense: \$15,000. Retention: 7,500 votes. For Presidential candidate, must collect signatures equal to 1% of the registered voters, as of July 1, 2012. Cannot start collecting until July 1, 2012, and are due August 21. As of March, 2011, there are over 459,000 registered voters; 1% would = 4,590 signatures.

IA: 1,500 valid sig petition drive. Should be handled by the LPIA. Retention: 2% for top of ticket. Presidential signatures due August 17, 2012. Cannot start collecting until nominee determined.

IL: The LPIL and other possible interested parties are planning to go to court to seek a declaratory judgment that would interpret Illinois statutes and Board of Elections administrative rulings in ways more favorable to minor parties. In the first half of 2011, the LPIL may approach the LNC with a request for funds to assist in this effort. Dianna Visek will have more information at the November 2010 LNC meeting. She thinks that the LPIL will request \$15,000 in assistance in 2011 for this effort. No such request has yet been made.

In IL, there will be a 25,000 valid sig petition drive from late March to late June 2012. Possible expense: \$50,000. Retention: with 5% for any statewide race, retain ballot access for only statewide offices, with 5% for Governor (up again in 2014) means full party status for the next four years. Signatures must be collected in a 90-day period prior to the date for candidates to file; will be determined by June 2011.

KY: 5,000 valid sig petition drive. We can start in November 2011. Retention: 2% only for President. Richard Winger is urging the LPKY to lobby for a bill that defines a political party in KY as one with 1,000 voter registrations. I suggest we lobby the legislature this winter. If we do not succeed there, we should start the petition drive in November 2011. Possible expense: \$10,000. Presidential signatures due September 7, 2012. Can start collecting on November 9, 2011.

MD: The LPMD candidate for Governor (Susan Gaztanaga) earned less than the needed 1% to retain ballot status. The Executive Committee just approved a \$12,500 encumbrance to start a petition drive of 10,000 valid sigs to be completed by the end of 2010, in order to retain our approximately 9,000 voter registrations. Completion of the petition will give us party status through 2014. About 30,000 voter registrations is one way to retain party status in MD. Retention: 1% for Governor in 2014. State party was decertified on March 31, 2011, for not having enough valid signatures. MD Libertarians and Greens

filed a lawsuit on April 11 to overturn the very stringent signature standard. Board of Elections has agreed not to disaffiliate the party's registered voters for now. The LPMD also has secured a sponsor for next year's General Assembly session for a bill to lower the vote and registration thresholds.

MA: We will need a 10,000 valid sig petition drive for the Presidential ticket from February to August 2012. Possible expense: \$25,000. First Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on 11/17/2010 makes substitution not possible, for now. Ruling may be appealed to US Supreme Court. Retention: 3% for any statewide race, or registration of 1% of total numbers of registered voters. Must collect signatures between February 14 and July 31, 2012.

ME: 4,000 valid sig petition drive in 2012. No substitution allowed. We should start immediately after the Presidential ticket is nominated. Possible expense: \$10,000. Need 5% for President or Governor to remain on the ballot. A party petition is 5% of the last total vote cast. After you are a party, you must have 10,000 registrants who vote (for anyone) in the general election to remain a party. Presidential signatures due August 8, 2012. Maximum of 6,000 signatures can be turned in for Presidential petitions. Party petition signatures (29,027) are due December 15, 2011.

MN: 2,000 valid sigs for Independent petition for President. Should be handled by LPMN. Retention: 5% for any statewide race. Party petition is about 100,000 valid sigs. That procedure has never been used by anyone. Possible candidate for litigation, but Richard Winger thinks other ballot access cases should be decided first. Can start collecting signatures for Presidential candidate on May 21, 2012, and are due September 21.

ND: 7,000 valid sigs needed for a party petition. Only 7,500 gross sigs need due to no voter registration in ND. 4,000 valid sigs for an Independent Presidential petition. 4,500 valid sigs needed. We have never asked about substitution in ND. Otherwise, we could start anytime. Retention: 5% for one of four statewide races. Possible expense: \$15,000. Can start collecting signatures anytime for a party petition, but sigs only have a one-year time limit between signing date and petition turn-in date. They are due 60 days prior to the primary, which is in June 2012 (date not yet set). Cannot start collecting signatures for a Presidential petition until January 1, and are due September 6, 2012.

NH: The LP candidates did not get 4% for Governor or US Senate. 13,698 valid sigs for party petition. 3,000 valid sigs for party petition. Possible expense: \$7,500. Retention: 4% for only Governor or US Senate. Signatures are due August 8, 2012.

NJ: 800 valid sigs for our Presidential ticket in 2012. Historically handled by LPNJ. Date signatures are due not yet set.

NY: It is still possible that Warren Redlich will top 50,000 votes for Governor, which would get us party status through November 2014. If not, there will be a 15,000 valid sig petition

for our Presidential ticket in July & August 2012. Possible expense: \$25,000. Can start collecting signatures on July 10, 2012, and must be turned in by August 21, 2012.

OK: 51,739 valid sigs for a party petition. 43,890 for Presidential ticket. I think we should lobby \$10k for lobbying in 2011. Retention: 10% for top of ticket. Independent Presidential candidate signatures must be turned in by July 13, 2012.

PA: A multi-candidate petition (including the Presidential ticket) will need about 25,000 valid sigs. Possible expense: \$50,000. The petition period is from February 2012 until August 1, 2012. Retention: Only done through voter registrations (pending case may rule this unconstitutional). Specific amount of signatures needed will depend on results of statewide elections for judges in November 2011. In the 2007 statewide election for judges, the top vote-getter obtained 1,233,265; 2% = 24,666.

RI: 1,000 valid sigs for Presidential ticket in 2012. I would hope that the LPRI can handle this themselves, even if they have to pay for sigs. Retention: 5% for top of ticket (get two elections with that). Must collect 1,000 signatures by September 6, 2012. Cannot start collecting until 2 days before close of filing endorsements; date not yet determined; usually by the end of June.

SD: 7,928 valid sigs for party petition. We can start anytime. That petition would get us ballot status in 2012 & 2014. We can use out-of-state petitioners for a party petition only. Possible expense: \$20,000. 3,171 valid sigs for Independent petition. Would have to know what the ticket is for Independent petition, and we could not use out-of-state petitioners. Retention: 2.5% for Governor. Party petition signatures due March 27, 2012. Independent presidential candidate signatures due August 7, 2012. While Bob Johnston has been in contact with Samuel Saunders of the LPSD, we cannot recommend a party petition as of this time.

TN: While there is a potential ballot access bill for a 2,500 valid sig party petition, as of now I expect the LPTN to do a petition for 25 valid sigs per congressional district. TN Secretary of State expects a ballot access bill to be passed by the state legislature by the end of the session, in May, possibly with only 10,000 valid sig requirement to form a new political party.

UT: Final November 2010 election results to be released on Nov. 22. We may retain ballot status. If not, 2,000 valid sigs for a party petition. Could be done anytime. Should be done by LPUT. Ret: 2% for any statewide race. UT has ballot access for 2012; candidate for 2010 Governor received 12,871 votes, 61 more than needed to reach the 2% threshold of votes cast overall for retention. Retention: 2% for any race.

VA: 10,000 valid sig petition drive, starting January 1, 2012. The LPVA has historically handled this petition drive itself, and I anticipate that will be the case again. Retention: 10% for any statewide office in either of the last two statewide elec-

tions. Signatures due August 24, 2012.

WA: 1,000 valid sigs for a petition for President. I anticipate that the LPWA will handle this themselves. Retention: 5% for President, although this law will probably change.

WI: The LPWI lost ballot status in 2010. They did not put someone on the ballot for Governor, only Lt. Governor, and earned less than 1% of the vote. A party petition could start on January 1, 2012, with 10,000 valid sigs needed. It would get us ballot status for 2012 & 2014. There is a potential lawsuit against a start date that late. Retention: 1% for any statewide race. An Independent petition drive could be done for 2,000 valid sigs within a two week window in 2012. Possible expense: \$20,000 for a party petition. Party petitions must be turned in by June 1, 2012. Can start collecting signatures for independent Presidential candidate on August 1, 2012, and are due September 4.

WV: A joint President/Governor petition for 7,135 valid sigs with a deadline of August 1, 2012. Start anytime. Substitution allowed for President, but not for Governor, so the nomination would have to be finalized. Probable expense: \$20,000. Retention for party status: 1% for Governor in 2012. It is my current understanding that if there is a special election to replace Joe Manchin, who was just elected to the US Senate to replace Robert Byrd, that we could not earn ballot status for 2012 if the LP candidate got 1% or more for Governor. A candidate getting 1% of the vote for Governor in the November 2011 special election to replace Joe Manchin will not obtain ballot access for a party going forward. That can happen only with the 2012 gubernatorial race, and ballot access would be good through the November 2016 election.

## Summary

In 2011, I foresee possible expenditures for ballot access of \$20,000 for Arkansas, \$15,000 for Illinois, \$10,000 for Kentucky, \$12,500 for Maryland, \$15,000 for North Dakota, \$10,000 for Oklahoma lobbying, \$20,000 for South Dakota and \$20,000 for West Virginia. Sum=\$122,500.

Remaining 2011 expenditures will likely be only \$10,000 for Kentucky and \$20,000 for West Virginia. Sum of 2011 remaining expenditures = \$30,000.

In 2012, I foresee possible expenditures for ballot access of \$15,000 for Alabama, \$25,000 for Connecticut, \$15,000 for DC, \$50,000 for Illinois, \$10,000 in Maine, \$25,000 for Massachusetts, \$7,500 for New Hampshire, \$25,000 for New York, \$50,000 for Pennsylvania, \$20,000 for Wisconsin, unknown for Oklahoma. Sum=\$242,500.

Add \$10,000 for North Dakota and \$10,000 for South Dakota. Revised 2012 Sum = \$262,500. Sum of 2011 and 2012=\$365,000.

Revised Sum of Remaining 2011 and 2012 Expenditures = \$292,500.