

Liberty for America

Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement

Volume 4 Number 1

June 2011

Table of Contents

Libertarian Political Conference June 19

The Libertarian Future is Here

Roger Gary Announces Presidential Campaign

Toward an Effective Libertarian Movement

LP Ohio Member Appointed to City Council

News from Nevada

Racism is Not Libertarian

LNC In Action

Oregon Explodes Again

Future of the Libertarian Political Movement
Conference Announces Full Schedule
Don Gorman to appear and Speak
Presidential Candidates Will Debate

Registration Deadline: June 14!

Long-time Libertarian State Representative and one-time candidate for our Party's Presidential nomination Don Gorman has joined the speaking roster of the Conference 'Future of the Libertarian Political Movement'. He will join New Hampshire state House Majority Committee Whip Seth Cohn, New Hampshire Liberty Alliance political director Joel Winters, and LP-New Hampshire State Chair Rich Tomasso on the panel "New Hampshire Politics", scheduled to start at 3:15 PM.

For more information about the conference see the web sites LPNH.org and LPMass.org/conference. The conference is being run by the Libertarian Parties of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, not by the National Party.

Libertarian Party Presidential candidates with an extended continuous record of Libertarian Party activism, completed FEC filings, and a substantial campaign team in place are welcome to participate in the evening debate. Following the debate, a straw poll will be used to determine one pledged first-place delegate vote from Massachusetts, and an outcome to be announced from New Hampshire.

The Conference

Highlander Inn at Manchester Airport Sunday June 19, 2011

Registration opens — 9 A.M. (Coffee, Pastry)

9:20 A.M. Welcoming Remarks (Rich Tomasso — LPNH;
David Blau — LPMass)

9:30 Session A: Guest of Honor Mary Ruwart
"Future of the Libertarian Political Movement"

10:30 Session A: Guest of Honor Ernie Hancock
"Future of the Libertarian Political Movement"

Session B: Outreach to Young People
(Alex Peterson, Loren Spivack, Nick Murray)

11:30 Lunch

(Buffet: Caesar salad, Chicken Piccata or
Chicken Saltimbocca, pasta, cookies)

12:30 Keynote Speaker: Guest of Honor Judge John Buttrick
"Future of the Libertarian Political Movement"

1:30 Invited Speaker Panel: "Future of the Libertarian
Political Movement" (Ruwart, Hancock, Buttrick, Keaton)

2:15 Session A: Electronic Politics (Bonnie Scott, Mark
Edge, Dan Reale, Ernie Hancock)

Session B: Libertarians and GLBT Outreach (Angela
Keaton, Carol McMahon)

3:15 Session A: New Hampshire Politics (Don Gorman, Seth
Cohn, Joel Winters, Rich Tomasso)

Session B: My First Run For Federal Office (Joe Kennedy,
Bob Clark, Dan Reale)

4:15 Session A: Libertarians and the Antiwar Movement
(Angela Keaton, Alex Peterson, John Walsh, Will Hopkins)

Session B: Candidate Recruitment
(Alwin Hopfmann, Dave Blau, Rich Tomasso)

5:30 Dinner

(Buffet: clam chowder, salad, maple glazed pork tenderloin,
London broil, rice, seasonal vegetable, dessert)

6:15 Presidential Candidate Debate:

Roger V. Gary and R. Lee Wrights
Moderator: George Phillies

7:30 Straw Poll to Award Delegate Votes &
LPNH Reception

9:00 Convention Ends

The Libertarian Future is Here and Republicans have only bad news incoming.

Exciting news from the Pew Trust. They just completed their latest study of American political opinions. They do these every few years, with careful statistical analysis. You can read the whole study at people-press.org/2011/05/04/beyond-red-vs-blue-the-political-typology/

The implications of the latest study are totally spectacular for the libertarian political movement. In particular:

*There are many more left libertarians than there are right libertarians.

*Libertarians are at least as large as Republicans. All libertarians need to do is to bring our supporters together.

*Are you wondering why you suddenly see "Libertarians should run no Presidential candidate and vote Republican"? Without libertarians, Republicans are completely dead in the water.

What did Pew do?

If you do not care how Pew came to its conclusions, skip to "What did Pew Learn?"

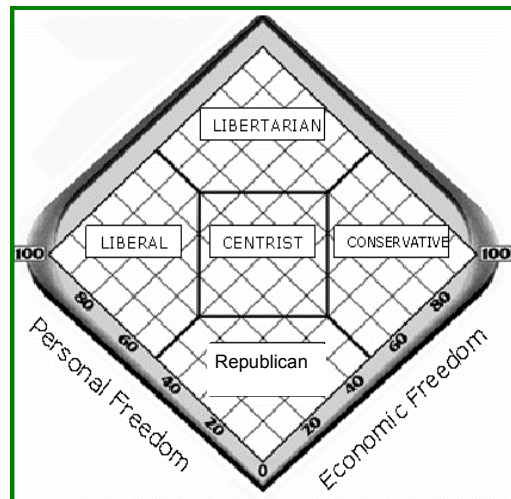
They asked a very large number of Americans a long list of questions. Then they used computers to do "cluster analysis", meaning they looked for groups of people who agree with each other on lots of their questions. Of course, very few people agree with anyone else on everything. However, it turns out experimentally that you can break voters into groups of people who agree with each other on most issues, and you can show that the space between groups has relatively few people in it, and everyone is in some group.

That outcome, well-defined tribes of people with similar sets of views, and few people with views midway in between, does not have to be the case. You could find, having asked your questions, that people giving each combination of answers are exactly as common as people giving any other combination. You could, but you don't. For example, you don't find a lot of people who support gay marriage, believe that the social safety net is important, support government intervention to protect climate, and ... think that abortion should be totally illegal. You don't find zero people like that, but they are rare, while people who support gay marriage, the safety net, and carbon emission control, and who are pro-choice, are common. That's clustering.

The reason you do computer analysis is that computers are relatively unbiased politically. They will find clusters that exist in your data, will not find clusters that are not there, and will tell you the odds that a cluster is real rather than random chance. If you are worried whether this approach makes sense, it is the same as the classical approach that decides whether two groups of not-entirely-similar birds are the same species or two different species.

What Did Pew Learn?

Pew found that you can divide Americans into nine political



A Redesigned Nolan Chart — matching contemporary American political reality.

clusters. That's way more clusters than a liberal-conservative line shows, and it is considerably more clusters than fit on the Nolan chart. What are these clusters?

"Bystanders" are young, politically disengaged, and amount to 10% of the population, but approximately zero percent of the registered voters. For political purposes, they don't matter because they don't vote. They could matter, if they became voters.

So what are the groups that matter politically?

Three groups of people that are mostly Democratic. There are 'Solid Liberals', amounting to 16% of registered voters, who take liberal stands most of the time. There are 'hard-pressed Democrats' who are religious and financially challenged, amounting to 15% of the electorate. Finally, the 'New Coalition Democrats' at 9% of the electorate take a positive view of our institutions, including business, and tend to be Latino and other minority groups. These groups differ on some questions; the liberals are much more socially liberal.

Count them up; the Democratic base is 40% of the voters.

Then there are the two groups that are mostly Republican, the 'staunch conservatives' at 11% of voters and the 'Main Street Republicans' at 14% of the voters. The 'staunch conservatives' are very conservative on almost everything, and include the people favorable to the conservative tea party types. However, the Tea Party is much more complicated than the Staunch Conservatives, and is not a unified movement. The Main Street Conservatives are also conservative, but less so. Observe that the conservative tea party types, who are not all the tea party

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>.

types, the staunch conservatives, are a minority in their own party.

How do the Republican groups differ? Staunch conservatives think environmental laws hurt the economy and businesses do not make too much profit; Main Street Republicans are just the opposite. Counting them up, the Republican base is 25% of the voters, way less than the Democratic base.

Pew identified three totally different groups in the middle, which the Pew writers described as 'Disaffected', 'Libertarian', and 'post-modern'. The three groups are very different. Post-Moderns might reasonably be described as Left Libertarians, while Pew Libertarians are actually 'Right Libertarians'. Non-libertarians may be unaware of that there are right and left libertarians, let alone that they disagree. The Left and Right Libertarians are substantially split, even as the two groups of Republicans and the three groups of Democrats are badly split. The Disaffected may be described as very upset, but not in the same ways as some other people; they think that government is almost always ineffective and wasteful, and also government should do more to help the needy.

Left and Right Libertarians are both fiscally conservative and socially liberal, left libertarians being younger and more diverse, while right libertarians are 2/3 white males. Oh, yes, left libertarians are young people, largely under 30. The Right Libertarians are 10% of the population, the Left Libertarians are 14% of the population and the Disaffecteds are 11% of the

**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.

population. Left and right libertarians differ on such issues as
global warming.

My conclusions

There are many more left libertarians than there are right libertarians. The ratio is almost 3:2. Counting even a few of the disaffected 'government does not work' people as libertarians, 25%+ of the electorate is libertarian, and that's as many libertarians as there are Republicans. Now we see why Republican empty heads have been calling for Libertarians -- mostly right libertarians -- not to run a Presidential candidate next year, namely without the right libertarian vote the Republicans are in an impossible position. They have the same fine electoral chances as Massachusetts Republicans.

The Democratic block will not vote Republican. The Disaffecteds see that Republicans will tamper with the social safety net to the profit of the Republicans' plutocrat bosses. The Left Libertarians are overwhelmingly supportive of gay marriage and environmental protections, and will not go near Republican religious-anti-environmental types. Without Right Libertarians, the Republicans are stuck at a quarter of the vote, which is not even minority status in most places.

What Should Libertarians Do?

The Libertarian objective is to become the #2 and then then #1 party in the country. To become #2, one of the other parties must be sent to the grave. There are far fewer Republicans than Democrats, and their positions on issues dear to the younger generation are far less acceptable to that generation, so clearly the Republicans should be the first to go, the Democrats coming later.

Thanks to first-past-the-post elections, a 30% Libertarian bloc confines the Republicans to third-party status.

How do we unify left and right libertarian voters and others? We need to pound hard on the wedge issues that divide right libertarians from Republicans, and we need to remove some wedges that make it harder for left libertarians to support us.

The core wedge issues for pulling Right Libertarians away from Republicans are the social issues, notably abortion and gay rights. An effective libertarian campaign will take hard core libertarian positions on abortion, gay marriage, gay adoption, and other GLBTQPL issues, forcing right libertarians to consider the ways in which right libertarians are least like Republicans. Opposition to the Asian land wars and to the national security military welfare state likely also help.

Libertarian Party supporters will correctly recognize that Libertarian Parties in the deep south and parts of the Mississippi river basic may not like a pro-abortion stance. Supporting abortion access is like supporting the right to vote for African-Americans. Both are the right thing to do, racist reactionary manques notwithstanding, even if supporting voting rights did cost the forces of virtue the votes of white racist bigots. All the

Southern white racists shifted from the Democratic Party to the Republican. In the modern era, the libertarian position that immigrants strengthen American society not only drives away Republicans but links right and left libertarians.

Core issues for uniting right and left libertarians are again the social issues, the belief that we are a secular rather than a religious society, that we welcome immigration, that capitalism works, that we oppose the warfare national security state, and that America has substantially made the changes needed to give equal rights for all.

And now we come to a few wedges that need to be removed. Right libertarians are somewhat prone to fall for conservative anti-intellectualism, expressed as global warming denial, evolution denial, and a completely unworkable environmental defense scheme based on litigation on an unprecedented scale. Anti-intellectualism may have a long American tradition behind it. However, we are the wealthiest and most productive country in the world because of our engineers, our skilled workers, and our learned professions, not because the ignorant assert their right to believe their wrong opinions.

For a somewhat different progressive democratic take on the same data, see dailykos.com/story/2011/05/08/973770/-Pew-typologies: Beyond-mere-left-and-right.

Texas Libertarian Roger Gary Announces Presidential Campaign

Promises Restoration of Civil Liberties, Free Markets, and a Non-Interventionist Foreign Policy

(SAN ANTONIO) Roger V. Gary of San Antonio, Texas has filed a declaration of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission pursuant to a campaign for the 2012 Libertarian nomination for president.

Gary, who is 64 years old, said he would campaign on the "complete Libertarian message" of restoring civil liberties, the free market, and a non-interventionist foreign policy.

Gary filed the paperwork after visits to Florida, Tennessee, and Iowa. "Previous visits across the country convinced me enough Libertarians were eager for a candidate who will bring our full message to the American voter. Americans have been battered by the failed policies of the Democrats and Republicans long enough, and Libertarians across America believe that we can reach out to them successfully if we stand by all of our principles."

A campaign team has been assembled, with Iowa's Jake Porter as Campaign Manager, Texan Jeff Daiell as Communications Director, Bill Grisham of Texas as Treasurer, and Kelly Wall as the Tennessee Coordinator.

Gary has been elected to local office in Texas. In 1993, he won a seat on San Antonio River Authority. Additionally, Gary has served on the Libertarian National Committee.

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.

Some Campaign Issues:

Civil Liberties- Roger Gary believes that American citizens should be able to live their lives without government intrusion so long as they are not harming or trying to harm anyone else.

Economics- The government should not give bailouts to large corporations. The government should also not tax unborn children with the national debt and unfunded liabilities.

Education- Parents should be allowed to open enroll their child into the school of their choice. The market effects of competition will drive down cost while increasing quality meaning everyone wins.

Health Care- The problem of rising health care costs is best solved by reducing cost transfers, opening up the market to competition, removing government red tape which drives up costs, and a focus on health savings accounts to help offset the costs.

National Security- Roger Gary believes in a strong national defense as defined in our United States Constitution as opposed to an international offense.

Who Is Roger Gary?

Roger Gary is a long-time Liberty activist, including many years within the Libertarian Party (a life member of both the national organization and the Texas party since 1977). He is a former elected official in San Antonio.

Roger served two terms as State Chair of the Libertarian Party of Texas. For six years, he was a Director of the San Antonio River Authority. He has the knowledge of the Libertarian Party to successfully unite members across America, and the proven vote-getting skills to appeal to the general electorate.

In 2010, his fellow Libertarians nominated Roger for a seat on the Texas Railroad Commission. With 138,978 votes, he surpassed the showing of the Libertarian Party of Texas gubernatorial nominee.

The "Charter Members" of the Gary staff:

Campaign Manager Jake Porter lives in Des Moines, Iowa and works in retail management. Jake has a Bachelors of Science

degree in Business Administration and owns the Des Moines Free Press.

Porter has volunteered for and managed several political campaigns, served a term on the Libertarian National Committee, was an At-Large Representative for the Libertarian Party of Iowa, and is the former Business Manager for a weekly newspaper.

In 2010, Porter ran for Iowa Secretary of State receiving 33,864 votes which was the second highest in the history of the Libertarian Party of Iowa.

Jeff Daiell, Communications Director, has been active in the Libertarian Party for over 35 years. In 1990, he conducted the most successful campaign for governor in the history of the LP of Texas. He serves on the Executive Committee of both the LP of Texas and the Harris County, Texas, Libertarian Party.

Campaign Treasurer Bill Grisham is a native Texan. A CPA, he lives in San Antonio. He also enjoys Texas Revolution and WWII Re-enacting, as well as scale model construction and 19th-20th century history study. Bill is Secretary for Board of Advisors of the Guadalupe Home, and proudly serves as Treasurer for the Bexar County, Texas, Libertarian Party.

Kelly Wall, State Coordinator for Tennessee, had been a libertarian long before running across the Libertarian party in 1999. She has been a member ever since. Ms. Wall has been the Mountain Region Coordinator for the Libertarian Party of Tennessee since 2005.

Toward an Effective Libertarian Movement

The recent misfortunes in Oregon, which are changing as I type, raise the question of how one might effectively arrange a national libertarian political movement. I offer here a few general thoughts.

First, there is no substitute for a national organization. A National organization pools the resources of members in various states and territories. It uses those resources to organize and break down obstacles that are too large for organizations within a state or territory to overcome. It creates resources that it would be pointlessly duplicative to repeat in each state, well enough that states do not find it necessary to do them anyhow. It identifies strong candidates for President and Vice President, and places them on the ballot, because political parties that do not run Presidential candidates will not be taken seriously. It raises money to carry out these functions, by having a dues structure, monthly donors, and a strong emphasis on project-based fund raising.

Second, the national organization should be controlled by its members, not by a hidden elite. To do this, the national membership must be allowed to choose its leadership and national candidates in an open and transparent way. Unlike the current Libertarian Party, each state should be able to cast a number of votes proportional to, say, its number of electoral votes, to

eliminate all the shenanigans and carpetbagging of LNC conventions. There are some problems still in need of solution, for example, ensuring that states send more than one delegate to cast all those votes. A convention rule that national members who show up from a state are entitled to be seated on their state delegation, if there is room, might be an approach.

Third, the governing body should be composed of people who want to do positive work for the organization, not bloviators who think that Roberts Rules of Order has a central role in moral greatness. The governing body should have subgroups corresponding to major functions, with an understanding that nonmembers of the governing board are to be recruited into those bodies to assist in doing positive work.

Fourth, there should not be an insistence that each state have precisely one affiliated party in it, as opposed to allowing several affiliated groups in a single state, with national members who reside in a state being allowed to choose which state affiliate they have joined.

Fifth, the accounting practices should agree with Federal Election Commission reporting structures, namely income and outgo should be reported to the National Committee on a cash flow basis rather than a basis appropriate for taxable corporations, with set asides for various expenses where that is appropriate, so that the national committee has a clear idea of cash on hand.

For more on this theme read the 2010 New Path proposals and the LibertyForAmerica.com draft bylaws for state organizations.

LP Ohio Member Appointed to City Council

We are advised that the LP Ohio Communication Director, Mr. Todd Grayson was to be appointed to the city council of Perrysburg.

Grayson is said to advise Libertarians: Playing nice-nice with the R's and D's is a good idea. I made friends in high places, and then when I needed endorsements, support, introductions, donors, and a critical appointment it was all there for me! I'm getting to be a known commodity in a town of 20,000 people. It doesn't make me special or important, and it's not that hard to do. This is the path. This is the way. This is how we are going to get people elected. NETWORKING in real life groups and situations. Join the Chamber of Commerce, go to City Council meetings, volunteer for city positions, and be visible in general

News from Nevada

Our friends in the Nevada Capitol District report "Due to our disaffiliation, we can no longer call ourselves the "Nevada Capital Libertarian Party" since we are no longer a Libertarian Party affiliate. Instead, in a "clever" bid at retaining the same acronym so that we have a coherent reason to keep the same domain name, we're renaming ourselves to the Nevada Capital Libertarian Polity. Please note that this name change is strictly to serve as a placeholder for Northern Nevada Libertarian Party outreach efforts until the LPNV chooses to more formally organize and recognize our local efforts here nvclp.org/.

Letter to the Editor

Mark Vetanen writes:

“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".

LOL UMP was a disaster for the State parties and National the first time, why in the world would they want to do this...Oh wait, they want the states to give them control of their memberships! NOT!!!!

The national party needs to get with the times...Zero dues and project based funding as a means of revenue.”

Racism is Not Libertarian

Occasionally one must simply say ‘enough is enough’. I am not quite old enough to remember when Massachusetts employers would post little signs “No Irish Need Apply” in order to testify that they would not hire members of what were then described as ‘the colored races of Europe’, meaning the Irish and the Italians. My own Greek ancestors would in those days have been even less welcome, and my Hungarian ancestors — well, they didn’t even speak an Indo-European language.

And if you asked the WASP bigots who then controlled Massachusetts why they discriminated against the Irish, they would gleefully have explained that Irishmen are alcoholics — someplace a drunken Irishman had been seen — who sell their daughters to brothels — because at some date some daughter of Eire had no alternative to starvation — never worked reliably — because one day an Irishman had died rather than reporting to work — and were all slaves of a foreign prince — some of them were Roman Catholics. Of course, decent Americans recognized that the WASPS in question were bigoted morons, who were happy to take special cases and claim they applied without exception to every Irishman, even those who were sober, hardworking, honest, patriotic Americans who relatives had recently given their lives in great numbers in the Civil War.

Decent Americans still agree that attacking the people of a nation or a faith in this manner, smearing the group for the acts of a few, is racist, no matter whether the attack appeared in the pages of the Voelkische Beobachter or the pages of IndependentPoliticalReport. As libertarians, we defend freedom of speech, including the freedom to voice vile, racist, or just plain stupid opinions, but we equally defend our freedom to call out the bigots for their ways.

Indeed, our Party platform, section 3.5 Rights and Discrimination begins “**We condemn bigotry as irrational and repugnant...**”

And now we turn to the pages of IndependentPoliticalReport.com, reposting from RootForAmerica.com a blog entry by Wayne Root for May 20, 2011. We quote for purposes of review only one of the offending paragraphs:

“...On Thursday, Obama left no doubt that he sides with and wants to redistribute money from American taxpayers to Palestinians and radical Muslims like Hamas that target Israeli women and children...that encourage their own children to become suicide bombers...that hand out candy in celebration for the murder of an innocent Jewish baby...that force women to endure public lashings for disobeying a husband...that execute women for “allowing themselves” to be gang-raped...that pour acid on the face of little girls who dare to want an education...who throw gay men off the roofs of buildings...who marry off their 5-year-old daughters to pay the bills...who imprison all women for life behind dark veils in 120 degree heat, to keep them from being seen by other men...”

This is racist. When the LNC continues to accept Mr. Root on our National Committee, it ties our Party and each of its candidates to Mr. Root’s espousal of bigotry. Mr. Root’s positions on Islamites should be recognized as thoroughly beyond the pale and a menace to real Libertarian candidates.

LNC In Action

And now we come to events in our National Party over the past month. At the end of the month the National Party had 13549 members, down from 14077 members at the start of the year. Assertions that the national party has been over 15,000 members in the past year are based on counting non-member donors as members, a process seen with some frequency in the past during periods of declining membership but with some frequency denounced by conscientious LNC members.

On the bright side the number of new members is up to 265, which is well above what it has been for much of the past year. That is a notable change from the second half of last year, when membership fell from July to each of the later months. Historically, a decade ago, the national party tended to get a boost from the months before an election, but not in 2010.

One of our highly placed sources reports that the national leadership, or part of it, is extremely aware of the decline, and is inclined to blame a good part of it on the far-right-wing grandstanding of one at-large member of the committee.

For April the LNC raised 104 thousand dollars, and 438 000 for the first third of the year, putting the LNC on track to raise about 1.3 million dollars for the year. The Libertarian National Congressional Committee headed by Wayne Root raised sixty-eight cents for the first third of the year, on track to raising \$2 or so over the course of the year. And what has the LNC done of late?

An interesting Socratic answer is provided by Doug Craig, who asks the remainder of the National Committee a simple but important question that all politicians must in the end face: Guys the one thing I dislike about this is: We seem to spend more time on stopping work than doing work. What would we say is OUR big thing the we have done as a group . We have less then a year to go and I have no idea why people would reelect us as a group. Someone please list what we (not the staff but the board) have done to move this party forward . We again

are going to get blown away by the Gary Johnsons and Ron Pauls if we don't get our act together.

The lack of support the LNC has for Chairman Mark Hinkle's approach to issues was shown by the response to his motion on the latest California Pot initiative "Regulate Marijuana Like Wine". Hinkle offered a motion that the LNC should support the referendum, putting forward to the LNC a motion reading

"Motion:

Whereas the Libertarian Party has been a longtime supporter of legalizing marijuana and

Whereas two prominent Libertarians, Judge James Gray and Steve Kubby have joined in partnership to sponsor a new initiative to regulate marijuana like wine and

Whereas the LPC legislative analyst, Mike Seebeck, has approved the text of the initiative and

Whereas the LPC has voted unanimously to endorse and work for the initiative and

Whereas the initiative promotes individual freedom and substantially reduces the intrusion of government in our lives and

Whereas the demographics for the next election is very favorable to the passage of a legalization initiative and

Whereas this initiative will use former drug warriors as spokespersons for the initiative and

Whereas the chance for this initiative to pass are considered by pollsters to be very high and

Whereas the LP has a chance to take the lead as sponsors of the new initiative and

Whereas the victory of this initiative in November 2012 could be bigger and more historic than who wins as POTUS and

Whereas a historic victory for the party could dramatically change how it is perceived and

Whereas our party needs a big win to become re-energized,

Be it resolved that the LP hereby endorses the Regulate Marijuana Like Wine initiative and will do everything in its power to raise money for the campaign and to promote the initiative on a national level."

A fast response came from Secretary Alicia Mattson, who wrote:

"I have in mind the following wording for an alternative motion for a RMLW endorsement:

Be it resolved that the Libertarian Party hereby endorses the Regulate Marijuana Like Wine initiative in California.

That's it. Simple.

I'll wait until this evening to ask for co-sponsors so as to give folks an opportunity for feedback and possibly improving my wording in the meantime.

-Alicia"

A representative response was from Norm Olsen, who indicated:

"I vote NAY!!!

In addition to the problems pointed out by Alicia, I would add that:

We are already raising funds for a building.

We will be raising funds for a 2012 Presidential Candidate if we aren't already.

We have a perennial General Fund raising effort active at all times.

Local state affiliates are trying to raise funds just to stay alive.

Local county affiliates are trying to raise funds to get off the ground.

How many fund raising efforts do you think we can have operative at one time and yet expect any ONE of them to be successful?

Further, clearly the California folk consider this to be a great strategy for Libertarians in California. I don't question their judgment in the slightest. I do question if the folks in the bible belt, say Oklahoma, will appreciate having the California folks establishing the leading issue of the party for them. I believe the folks in Oklahoma and in other more conservative states might prefer to decide for themselves how to brand themselves and what issues to lead with."

The California Regional Representative voted against the Hinkle motion supporting a California referendum, noting that the LNC had other more pressing funding priorities; LNC Member Randy Eshelman also voted against.

The National Chair posed more rationales in favor: "I have no objections to re-wording the whereas's or to pass a simple endorsement, but Steve Kubby asks an important question: if the endorsement doesn't include a commitment to raise money for getting it on the ballot and for later getting it passed by the voters, "what good is it?"

And Norm points out we have other projects on the stove. So? Are we still stuck in the "fixed pie" mode where money raised for one project means less money for all the others?

There is no evidence to support this view. On the contrary, just the opposite is true.

The more we do, the more money we'll see contributed to the causes we support.

Let me paint two scenarios for us:

Option #1: The initiative gets endorsed by the LNC, but no commitment for any funding is given. The funding, and the credit for its getting on the ballot and its eventual passage, goes to those who funded the effort. The LP gets no credit and the funds for the initiative go to others who made it happen. The LP maintains its status quo as an organization of all talk and no action.....and poorly funded.

Option #2: The initiative gets endorsed by the LNC, who funds the initial startup of the project and the LP leads the effort to a successful victory on the November 2012 ballot. Virtually all of the credit goes to the LP. Because we'd put together a success initiative, money comes rolling in because donors like to back winners. Our bank account swells because of the outpour-

ing of support from across the nation.

The Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) raises funds from across the United States for specific initiatives within various states, why can't we?

In fact, we're leaving money on the table if we don't. The polling is favorable for success. We've got an excellent spokesperson in Judge James Gray (retired) to lead the project.

This time, instead of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, why don't we try and win one for a change?
Yours in liberty.....Mark Hinkle, LNC Chair”

From our sources, Hinkle’s motion does not appear to be doing very well. However, no one has yet pointed out option #3, namely that the LNC could sink a lot of money into the project, but not enough to get it onto the ballot, and afterward people would comment that the LNC has once again thrown away large amounts of money and had no return.

Oregon Explodes Again

Readers may recall that last month the Oregon State Committee took note that the State Convention had again met and failed to find a quorum, that there was no possibility of there ever being a quorum at a State Convention, and therefore took advantage of its legal power under state law to promulgate a new set of bylaws, subject to approval by the party’s members as defined by State law, namely the ca. 13,000 registered libertarians in the state. The State Law provides:

“ 248.072 Authority of state central committee. The state central committee is the highest party authority in the state and may adopt rules or resolutions for any matter of party government which is not controlled by the laws of this state. [1979 c.190 §84]”

That is, under state law a state central committee is the highest authority for rules setting, in Oregon, subject only to state law.

There seemed to be hope that the State organization would now begin to advance again.

Unfortunately, matters have gone downhill again. You can read far more details on IndependentPoliticalReport.com, which thanks to the wonders of the internet does not face the length and editing constraints that we do. See independentpoliticalreport.com/2011/05/open-thread-for-mayjune-2011/ especially comments 34, 36-40, and most of the long-winded comments following, down through at this typing comment 195.

What happened? Readers may recall that the prior unsuccessful state convention had adjourned to a date certain in May. Prior to that date certain, the State Committee in accord with its power under state law adopted a new set of bylaws—to be approved by the membership—and cancelled the seemingly pointless convention.

The other side in this issue then (1) ignored the cancellation and showed up at the convention site, (2) adjourned the convention, (3) claimed that the terms of the Oregon Officers (who are not the same as the State Committeemen) had ended, (4) claimed they had a state committee quorum present, and (5) claimed to have elected a new set of officers, namely Tim Reeves, Eric Saub, Carla Pealer, and Gregory Burnett.

The first side asserts that (i) the convention was cancelled, (ii) the Bylaws in question have been repealed, (iii) the people who claimed to be electing new officers are not and have not recently been on the state committee, and (iv) the valid officers and state committee members are Wes Wagner (Chair), Harry Joe Tabor, Mark Vetanen, Ron Bream, Jim Karlock, Richard Skyba, Herb Booth, Angela Grover, and Joseph Shelley, and that “None of those individuals were even present on May 21st, so there were 0 representatives present out of 9 for a state committee meeting that had not even been called.”

The Reeves faction submitted a stack of documents to the Oregon Secretary of State’s Office, and opened a new bank account. There is a history here, which apparently led the Secretary of State’s office to the path it took. The Secretary of State office immediately contacted LP Oregon State Chair Wes Wagner, who advised the office that the filings were invalid. The Secretary of State’s office rejected the filings.

One of the claims in the Reeves faction submission is that the faction ‘submitted our documentation to Alicia Mattson, Secretary of the Libertarian National Committee and a registered professional parliamentarian.’ They enclosed a copy of Mattson’s receipt. Now if you read Mattson’s receipt, it says ‘thank you for providing me with the update...I will forward the information regarding the new officers...’ with no sign that a parliamentarian’s opinion had been asked or given, but the statement from the Reeves faction could have been construed as implying that there was in fact such an opinion.

There are allegations that there may also be a Republican hijacking effort here by the Republican front group Americans for Prosperity, perhaps coupled with the Cascade Policy Institute, whose Vice President chaired the Reeves’ faction’s alleged state convention. One of the leaders of the operation appears to be shown by the Oregon campaign finance web pages to be a Republican political consultant.

Matters now go downhill. (The observant will note we are now proving that accusations that Rachel Hawkrigde was our source on the LNC were lies.)

On June 2, we are advised that Mattson sent a letter to the LNC describing what had happened, according to the Reeves faction. That’s comment 34 on the IPR thread mentioned above, and also appears as supplied to us on page 11 of the electronic edition.

State Chair Wes Wagner responded with an extremely firm letter to LNC Chair Mark Hinkle. As of this typing, it is not

clear that the letter has reached the full LNC.

Colleagues,

In my capacity as LNC Secretary, I've been given some new information regarding developments in the Libertarian Party of Oregon, and I can give you a quick FYI update on a subject we've discussed previously.

As you already know, rather than simply adjourning their March 2011 convention, their delegates voted to adjourn to a future date and reconvene part 2 of their convention in the same location on May 21, 2011.

Then on May 21, 2011, Oregon members arrived at the place and time designated by vote of the March 12 convention. But none of the officers showed up at part 2 of their convention – not even Chairman Wes Wagner, who had made the motion to adjourn to that date and time.

The Oregon members present selected a chairman pro tem and a secretary pro tem, and they proceeded without the officers. As best as they could determine in the absence of the Secretary, they did not have quorum to continue with the regular business of electing officers, so the convention instead adjourned sine die.

Since the officer terms expire at the end of their conventions, all the officer positions became vacant at that point. The remaining board members (representatives appointed by the county affiliates) met immediately following adjournment of the convention, as required by their bylaws. Their board members are empowered to fill officer vacancies, so the board was able to elect a new slate of officers to serve for the new term, and business can continue with a full board in place.

-Alicia

In a memo leaked to this newspaper, Mark Hinkle advised the LNC on what was happening. We skip some bits that refer to outdated questions whose answers are now known.

Dear LNC,

We've got a new problem.

We have two factions within the LP of Oregon claiming to be the official Party officers.

The State Chair's email list has recognized the "new" officers led by Tim Reeves and removed the "old" officer Wes Wagner.

This list is controlled by M Carling, as LSLA Secretary, and is NOT a list we, the LNC or LP HQ Staff control in any way.

I've had an email exchanges with Wes Wagner, that was full

of vindictive comments and suggestions that Alicia Mattson, Dan Karlan, and I all resign.

I have not spoken to Tim Reeves of yet.

I understand that Carla Pealer, "new" LPO Secretary has filed papers with the Secretary of States office, but haven't verified this personally.

[Omitted as now updated to LNC: The Oregon Secretary of State rejected the claims of the Reeves faction. The two factions each have their own bank account.]

I, and I suspect the rest of you, would rather that the LNC not be involved in this internal power struggle within the LPO.

However, our Bylaws only allow us to recognize one group per state.

So, who do we send inquiry and new membership information to?

I've already been told by Dan Karlan that we can't send it to both per our Bylaws.

So, we either need to pick a side, or ignore both sides until one group or the other prevails.

But, if this drags on, the 2012 Convention Credentials committee will need to know which side to pick so they can credential the right delegates next year.

And I assume they and we will want to resolve this situation before then.

So, how do you want to handle this mess?

1. we could have a hearing via tele-conference and hear from both sides and then take a vote.

2. we could ignore them for the time being and see if one faction prevails, but who do we send membership updates & inquiries to???

3. invite both sides to fill out the new "new affiliate" form? And vote on which one to select?

4. or some other option....

FYI & RSVP.....
Mark Hinkle, LNC Chair

To repeat what was said earlier, I just put the lie to the baseless accusations that Rachel Hawkridge was our source on the LNC. She did not receive the LNC messages. We did.

Readers may find Chapter 17 of my book *Funding Liberty* significant at this point. See <http://3mpub.com/phillies>

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

Libertarian Political Conference June 19

The Libertarian Future is Here

Texas Libertarian Roger Gary Announces Presidential Campaign

Toward an Effective Libertarian Movement

LP Ohio Member Appointed to City Council

News from Nevada

Racism is Not Libertarian

LNC In Action

Oregon Explodes Again

First Class Mail

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