

# Liberty for America

Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement

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## The LfA Branding Project

### Wagner Will Run for LNC Chair



Libertarian Party of Oregon State Chair Wes Wagner has announced that he will run for Chair of the National Party. The Chair will be elected at the Libertarian National Convention in Las Vegas at the start of May. His statement to Independent Political Report reads "...I intend to go to Vegas and run against Mr. Hinkle or any of the other Starr-cabal for

Chair."

Liberty for America has confirmed that Wagner is in the process of recruiting a complete team of candidates to run with him. Liberty for America will cover his emerging libertarian leadership group as they emerge.

### Presidential Debates

February 11 Florida State Convention: Lee Wrights, Bill Still, Carl Person, R. J. Harris, Roger Gary

February 25 Georgia State Convention R. Lee Wrights, Leroy Saunders, Carl Person, Gary Johnson

March 17 Colorado State Convention Lee Wrights, Scott Keller, Gary Johnson

March 24 Kansas/Missouri Heartland convention

April 7 Grapevine, Texas Libertarian Presidential Debate

April 21 New York State Libertarian Convention

This list is probably incomplete.

### Addendum

Our report on LNC Finances last month missed a rare feature of FEC filings, arising from the unusual appearance of Line 9 reports (someone owes us money) on Form D for the "December" filing (filings covering November).

The December LNC Filing asserts that Aaron Starr owes the LNC \$4090 for "Reimbursement for Oregon Dispute Legal E". Reference is seemingly made to the \$4090 the LNC gave to the Tyler Law firm for Oregon-related legal expenses (the basis of an authorization by the LNC for this spending is unclear). The January filing reports the same line, with the memo addition that this debt is "in dispute".

### Fellow Libertarians!

It's 2012! We have elections!

It's time to brand the message  
"Vote Libertarian!"

For the younger crowd: "You tried that other party. What did you get? This time, vote Libertarian!"

Or perhaps "Con, opposite of pro. Con-gress, opposite of pro-gress. For progress, vote Libertarian".

Our National Committee could do branding. Alas, it isn't. We need to make the difference!

We run ads. We point at a Facebook page. We send the message: There is a choice. The Libertarian choice.

I propose to use Facebook ads first, because they reach young people. I propose web ads second, if we raise the money.

Fortunately, it just so happens Liberty for America has a Federal PAC. We can take your money, \$2500 a year of it, and we will spend it on branding.

We are good to go on launching the campaign.

So, that's my proposal. Donate on the web via Donortown Square. The link is at LibertyForAmerica.com. Mail a check payable "Liberty" to George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive. Worcester MA 01609.

We will create and advertise a Facebook Page.

Donations are not tax-deductible. Donations will be deposited in our PAC bank account and used in connection with Federal campaigns.

Federal law requires us to make our best effort to determine the occupation and employer of all donors of \$200 or more. Not approved by any candidate or candidate committee. We can only accept donations from individual American citizens, and for no more than \$2500.



## Reeves Group Sues Libertarian Party of Oregon

Other approaches having not led to results that they apparently would have found satisfactory, the Oregon Libertarian group of Tim Reeves, David Terry, M Carling, Greg Burnett, and Richard Burke has filed suit against Wes Wagner and the Libertarian Party of Oregon, in essence for possession of the Libertarian Party of Oregon. They also ask that Wagner be banned as serving as an LPO officer for an extended period of time. The attorneys for the plaintiff are Tyler Smith and Associates, who appear to be the same attorneys who were — according to the LNC's FEC filings — recently paid over \$4000 by the LNC for the LPO Legal Review.

The Libertarian Party of Oregon has retained Robert Steringer of the law firm Harrang Long Gary Rudnick PC as their attorney and firm. Martindale.com identifies their specialties as "...business law, litigation and appellate practice, and public law and legislative relations to a highly diverse clientele that includes large, multinational corporations, government agencies and public corporations ...". It is our belief that Wagner, as a separately named defendant, will separately be engaging counsel.

## Johnson Campaign Owes \$203,761



The Johnson 2012 Libertarian Presidential nominating campaign has filed its end-of-2011 FEC disclosure. Its total debts at the end of this period were \$203,761, which is an unprecedented amount for a Libertarian campaign to owe — not counting loans from candidates themselves — this far before the National Convention.

There were rumors that Johnson was the beneficiary of large-scale donations when he switched parties, but apparently this money mostly reached him after the start of the year. Given the relatively limited donations that Libertarian Presidential nominating campaigns have received in the most recent three election cycles (2004, 2008, 2012), it appears unlikely (unless there are candidate donations) that Johnson 2012 will be able to make these debts go away before the convention. Johnson 2012 campaign debts reported to the FEC include:

EH2 Consulting of Denver, Colorado: more than \$91,000 for Fundraising.

Political Advisors of 731 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah: \$51,158 for Operating Expenses.

Jonathan M Bydlak of Alexandria, Virginia 22301: More than \$50,000 for Fundraising.

Hackstaff Law Group of Denver CO: \$8166 for Legal Services.

Daines Goodwin and Co PC, Salt Lake City, Utah, \$301 for Accounting and Bookkeeping Services.

## Saratoga

The LNC and the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance have a new IT technology project under the code name "Saratoga". The draft proposal, all 329 pages of it, went out on January 10, with requests for response within less than ten days. Readers familiar with large computer projects may see where this is going.

The project is already spelled in amazing detail before asking state users what they wanted in such a thing. I gather it will replace web pages, membership list records, state data bases, outreach bits, and many other things. According to the LNC Meeting Minutes for December "The estimated costs for creating such a platform are \$35,000 for development plus \$15,000 for first-year hosting and then \$12,000 annual recurring costs for hosting the system in subsequent years."

So far as your editor can tell, Saratoga is another top down project very much like Blackbaud. Internal software is based on Joomla and CiviCRM. The LNC has apparently appropriated money with a completion date; the project appears challenging to complete on the proposed time scale and budget.

## The Death Threat

Oh, yes, we received a death threat from an irate Ron Paul supporter. It was posted on an internet discussion group, pointed directly at your editor himself. Ron Paul? Yes, *this* Ron Paul [http://littlegreenfootballs.com/article/39801\\_Video-Ron\\_Paul\\_Gives\\_Speech\\_on\\_Civil\\_War\\_in\\_Front\\_of\\_Giant\\_Confederate\\_Flag](http://littlegreenfootballs.com/article/39801_Video-Ron_Paul_Gives_Speech_on_Civil_War_in_Front_of_Giant_Confederate_Flag)

There was an outcome. We called the issue to the attention of the two ISPs involved — I suspect that they look dimly on the action. We notified several libertarians who I suspect know the threatener. We also sent a note to the FBI Counterterrorism — shooting your political opponents is, like, terroristical — Tip Page. I expect that they are too busy to investigate farther, but if something happens to me they know where to start looking.

We finally received an abject apology from the guilty party.

## Words and Deeds of Mark Hinkle

What Mark Hinkle promised in 2008:

"Here are just some of the goals that the LNC should undertake during the 2010 to 2012 term:

1) Ballot Access in all 50 states (to the extent our members are willing to fund it).

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- 2) Membership growth among at least 2 key demographics:  
 1). young adults (we need fresh blood; and 2). business professionals (we need rich blood).  
 3) Create single-issue coalitions with any other liberty-oriented organizations. Power in numbers!  
 4) An online Congressional lobbying effort, something akin to DownsizeDC.org.  
 5) Candidate and affiliate support training akin to the LP's nationwide .Success. seminars of the late 1990.s.  
 6) Internal education. We need to remind our members of why we exist and what we stand for. Ideological drift will doom the LP to an early death. This must not happen!  
 7) Creation of a Liberty Sales Team: Pay Libertarians a finder's fee to obtain LP memberships.  
 8) Creation of a Libertarian Speakers Bureau to provide Libertarian experts to discuss issues of the day with the media.”

And how have those gone?

#1 has advanced: The LNC has been working on ballot access, as it always does.

And the others?

#2 has not been successful — membership has fallen.

#3 has not advanced: There seem to be no single-issue coalitions.

#4 did not occur: There is no libertarian Congressional lobbying effort.

#5 I would view as an epic fail: One of our Massachusetts Congressional candidates called the LNC to ask for assistance, and was left with the impression that he was being told not to raise

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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.

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.

money so he would not have to file with the FEC.

#6 There seem to be no signs of internal education. Indeed, publication of LP News has shrunk from monthly to quarterly.

#8 There is no speakers bureau.

Oh, yes, #7: Instead of rewarding members who recruit fellow Libertarians, we gave a telemarketing firm \$25,000 and did a 50,000 piece mailing to former members.

Add that up, and Hinkle has done almost none of the things he proposed to do. You can also look for his proposals to do these things, in budget items, in LNC motions, in directives to the staff. You can spend a lot of time looking. You may be disappointed.

The case for re-electing Hinkle seems to leave something to be desired.

## People Who Endorsed Hinkle

So you may better estimate how sound their judgement is, if you hear them speak up at the 2012 convention, I offer a list of people who endorsed Hinkle for National Chair. Quoting from his own web pages:

Past LP Chairs who've endorsed Mark Hinkle (and their former party offices)

Alicia Clark, LNC Chair  
 David Bergland, LNC Chair  
 Steve Dasbach, LNC Chair  
 Jim Lark, LNC Chair  
 Geoff Neale, LNC Chair  
 Dave Walter, LNC Chair

Ed Clark, 1980 presidential candidate & LNC member, CA  
 Dan Karlan, LNC Regional Representative  
 Chuck Moulton, LNC Vice Chair, VA  
 Sharon Ayres, LNC Vice Chair, WA  
 Dale Hemming, SD  
 Jack Dean, CA  
 Ted Brown, CA  
 Steve Alexander, LNC Fundraising Chair  
 Jo Jorgensen, Vice Presidential candidate 1996  
 Rodney Austin, CA  
 Elizabeth C. Brierly, CA Former Editor California Freedom  
 Cathi Brown, Past Publicity Chair, Santa Clara County LP  
 Marla Kojima (Bottemiller), WA  
 Richard Cooper, former New York LP Chair, NY  
 Mark Dierolf, former Hartnell College Board Chairman, CA  
 Josh Hanson, Secretary of State candidate, IL  
 John Inks, elected Libertarian  
 Steve Kubby, former LP candidate for Governor, CA  
 Bruce Lagasse  
 Philip Laibe, LP of Florida Region 7, FL  
 Nancy Neale, national LP convention organizer, TX  
 Kate O'Brien, elected Libertarian, Simi Valley, CA  
 Jason Pye, GA  
 Saul Rackauskas, Secretary, Pima County LP, AZ  
 Mike Renzulli, AZ

Juan Ros, former LPC Executive Director, CA  
Al Segalla, President: Calaveras County Taxpayers  
Christopher Schmidt, CA  
John Wayne Smith, LP candidate for Governor, FL  
Richard Winger, Editor: Ballot Access News, CA  
Less Antman, long time activist  
Carla Howell, President Center for Small Government, MA  
Pat Wright, former LPC Chair

## New Libertarian PAC

Wes Benedict has launched a new Libertarian PAC, the Libertarian Booster PAC. PAC management also includes former LNC staffer Art DiBianca. The financial basis was a single donation of \$150,000. The initial focus will be non-federal candidates in Texas. Benedict writes of his plans for his PAC "Our plan is to provide basic campaign assistance to Libertarian Party candidates. We don't foresee handing out cash contributions, but we do expect to provide websites, printed brochures, yard signs, paperwork assistance and more. We want to make running for office efficient, effective, and enjoyable for as many Libertarian Party candidates as possible."

The PAC can be reached by mail: Libertarian Booster PAC, 619 Friar Tuck Lane, Austin, TX 78704. Editorially, we wish Wes all the best in his new effort.

## Know Your Barr-Fors

Then there were the people who gave us Bob Barr. The 2008 National Convention minutes identify his nominators :

Nominating Barr were Rob Kampia, Mark Rutherford, Steve Dasbach, Mike Ferguson, and Bob Barr himself. On stage for Barr's thank-you speech after he won? Note Steve Gordon.

There were also the donor-supporters:

Steve Dasbach 2300.00  
Victor L Kocher 2300.00  
Luke D McKellar 2300.00  
Robert Jackson 1190.46  
Wes Benedict 1000.00  
Stephen P Gordon 1000.00  
Emily H Salvette 500.00  
Michael Munger 500.00  
RWilliam W Hall 500.00  
Guy C McLendon 250.00  
Arthur DiBianca 250.00

Who are these people and what did they do? A few are particularly notable.

Nominator Rob Kampia gained more attention for his libertine than for his libertarian tendencies. He was reinstated as Marijuana Policy Project Executive Director. Reinstated? As reported at celebstoner.com. "Seven staffers resigned in 2009 following his admission that he had sex with a female employee on Aug. 7." "Two MPP Board members, Debby Goldsberry and Mitch Earleywine, resigned over Kampia's reinstatement."

Gordon was owner of Third Party Watch, at the time the major

[Liberty for America](#)

## 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.

libertarian blog site. From him, Third Party Watch transferred to Richard Viguerrie. Soon thereafter, TPW became an attack site, inserting viruses that sought to trash visitor computers. Mine, for example. Gordon then turned his coat, becoming Chairman of the Alabama Republican Liberty Caucus and a member of Jefferson County (AL) GOP Executive Committee. He now runs Forward Focus Media, which services far right Republicans like Joe Scarborough.

According to the internet, Mike Ferguson turned his coat, became a Republican, and endorsed Roy Blunt's candidacy for the US Senate. Blunt is an ultraright Christian extremist who voted in favor of school prayer, voted to ban partial-birth abortions, advocated federal prohibitions of online poker, voted to criminalize transporting minors across state lines for the purpose of getting an abortion, and voted in favor of the Federal Marriage Amendment. He has also claimed that the vast number of medical procedures funded by Medicare never did "anything to make people more healthy". Yes, that's the sort of "libertarian" who gave us Bob Barr.

Robert Jackson affected to be a Presidential candidate, gaining attention that might otherwise have gone to real Libertarian candidates. When Barr entered, Jackson dropped, becoming a Barr surrogate.

Salvette was Chair of the Credentials Committee. Kampia asked to be recognized as a DC delegate, without the letter of appointment statement from the DC Chair. In fact, there was no DC Chair, and no functioning DC affiliate to make the appointment. In complete disregard of LNC Bylaws, Kampia was admitted as a DC delegate anyhow.

Wes Benedict and Art DiBianca later were made paid LNC staff members.

## LNC Debates Web Site Listings for Presidential Candidates

Meanwhile, the LNC has been debating which Presidential candidates should be listed on its web site. Our sources say that this question chewed up the most time over the past month. If you wonder why they are not doing other things, here is a record of what they actually said. I'm going to open with what was reported to me as the sound advice of Randy Eshelmann:

Randy Eshelmann urged the LNC to focus on serious issues:

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"Okay, why don't we just say, "no candidate for POTUS will be on our blog"? Zip. Nadda. Once we have a nominee, we open it up.

Who really cares other than us and the wannabes anyway? If there is an LP candidate, let them get out their own message.

This is so tiring. Minutiae when we should be working on uhm, our response to the SOTU perhaps. Or responses to the the ridiculously-low Congressional approval ratings or in developing candidates...

I remind this body that we have no mission statement. We have no vision statement. We have no 2-year, 4-year, 5-year, or 10-year plan. We're chasing our tails folks. No wonder we can't win an election. We're behaving like a bunch of rookies.

Worse, we're behaving like a bunch of "why can't my absolutely no chance candidate be treated like a contender" whiney babies.

We could be a political party. We could. We could also agree that being big fish in a very tiny pond is no great moniker. We could 'get over' ourselves and decide to actually benefit our country."

**As reported to us, the debate and discussion went:**

On January 17, Carla Howell asked the LNC that she should be allowed to delete "self-described" LP Presidential candidates from her list, namely:

Hi all,

The volume is picking up of self-described LP candidates for President who want to be listed at lp.org.

Looking at their web sites, or doing a quick search on those for which there is no web site link, should quickly convince you of the need to clean up this page and remove potential fodder for media attacks. The media won't care that there is now a bold disclaimer at the top of this page. They may choose to ignore it and focus on some of the more embarrassing candidates for which there is no LP support.

As such, I ask that someone immediately propose a resolution to this effect for LNC approval:

The Executive Director shall have authority to exclude any Libertarian Party presidential candidate from the lp.org web-site. Any such candidate may override the ED's decision by seeking and obtaining the approval of at least 5 LNC members"

LNC Member Kevin Knedler agreed, reportedly writing: "I echo the concerns of Carla. We have worked too hard to have one lunatic ruin it for all of us."

Scott Lieberman instead proposed a set of objective criteria namely:

- a. The candidate must be a sustaining member of the Party
- b. The candidate must have raised at least \$5000 from people other than the candidate and his or her immediate family

c. The candidate must maintain "signatures of support" from exactly 3 State Chairs, with a given State Chair only being able to sign for one candidate at a time (but they could change their support from one candidate to another if they so choose). Since some states have contacts, not Chairs, that would mean the listing would have a maximum of about 14 candidates for President, and about 14 candidates for Vice-President.

Criteria c has the following advantage over having to get sigs from the general membership: one could make the argument that if the LNC is requiring dozens of signatures from rank and file members, then we have to give the candidates contact information for all of our members so that they can contact those members to get their sigs. Telling candidates that the only effective place to get sigs is at State LP Conventions doesn't strike me as a viable option. OTOH – the contact info for most of our state chairs is very public, so getting support from 3 State Chairs is not in any way burdensome.

If a candidate can not meet all three of the above criteria, I have no problem excluding their name from the LP web site."

There appears to have been a motion to amend the policy manual at about this point, to use as criteria:

- The candidate is a sustaining member of the national party; and
- The candidate supplies a list of at least 100 sustaining members of the national party who have declared that they consider the candidate to be "acceptable"; and
- The candidate has raised at least \$5,000 in campaign contributions from donors other than the candidate or the candidate's immediate family.
- During the month immediately prior to the national nomination convention, an additional criterion is that the total money which the campaign has raised since the candidate announced shall have exceeded \$10,000 (from donors other than the candidate or the candidate's immediate family).

Andy Wolf and Rebecca Sink-Burris asked that the Executive Director use her good sense on the topic. Mattson and Ruwart proposed that a good minimum standard was that the candidate had filed with the FEC.

On January 18, Howell indicated that she would be removing candidates from the LNC web pages:

"I believe Wes did set the current policy. Currently the web page points out that the people in the top list are all FEC filed; a few at the bottom are not. There are quite a few FEC filed - and more coming- that I do not believe should be posted.

As such, I am going to remove several of the candidates now on the list (by end of day today, to give you all a chance to look them over). I will only remove about half of the names that, if it were up to me, I would remove. The intent is NOT to be overly strict. Just to remove some of the more egregious candidates.

Some of the things that I would consider disqualifying a candidate from being listed:

1. a candidate whom a majority of LIBERTARIANS (NOT

voters, and NOT the media) would characterize as an embarrassment and a liability. 2. one who is seeking the nomination of any party other than the LP

I will start with these two and see how it goes.

I'd like to add a third:

3. one who PROMINENTLY FEATURES an issue that is contrary to the platform of the LP, This would not preclude a candidate who does not agree with the LP on 100% of issues; only those whose PROMINENT issue(s) are in direct conflict with the platform. For example, a candidate whose rallying cry is government welfare.

One could argue that monetizing the debt as a primary issue would be in conflict with our platform: "We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies."

I will reinstate and post any candidates for whom 5 regular (not alternate) LNC members direct me otherwise. I will ask Bob Johnston who handles candidate inquiries to be sure to inform candidates of this policy so they are aware that they need to seek your approval. I will, of course, change this policy should I get a clear indication that this is in violation of policy or if I am directed by the LNC to act otherwise."

On January 19, Howell ordered that candidates should be removed from the LP.org web pages if they did not meet four criteria:

- Has filed to run for president with the FEC as a Libertarian
- Is seeking the nomination of the Libertarian Party exclusively
- Is a dues-paying member of the National Libertarian Party
- Has a campaign website that is current with contact information

It seems that Sam Sloan was removed. On January 19, Sam Sloan wrote LNC staff members asking why he was not listed on the LNC web pages, explaining that he had met the four posted criteria, namely: "I have had a website up for some time. It is at <http://www.anusha.com/sam4pres.htm> I am a long time Libertarian dating back to 1973 when the party was first being formed. My dues to the National Libertarian Party are paid up to date. I am not seeking the nomination of any party other than the Libertarian Party. I have filed Forms 1 and 2 with the FEC. Please find Form 2 attached. Unfortunately, it takes a few days for them to post it to their website. In short, I am qualified in every way to seek the Libertarian Party nomination for US president. Therefore, please reinstate me on your website as a candidate for US President."

On January 20 Howell reported to the LNC that the candidates who had removed were complaining, as witness the above message. She concluded: The bar is still probably a bit too low, but it's much better than it was - which dignifies our serious LP candidates. As we get closer to the nomination, I am inclined to add the suggestion of RJ Harris, which is to require that the candidate raise \$5k that's been reported to, and published by, the FEC to qualify.

Sink-Burris proposed that your humble Editor should be disqualified, which would be amusing if I were running.

Howell allegedly responded on January 20, speaking of your editor:

"Good reminder, Rebecca. He also threatened suit against Mass. LP leaders on several occasions in the past, although I don't know of any that he actually filed.

Then there was his attempts to keep his name on the ballot in several states after he lost the nomination in 2008. I don't have details on what transpired, but I trust others do."

Howell's claim that I tried to keep my name on the ballot in several states is remarkably untrue. I'm the fellow who organized the effort to take my name off the Massachusetts ballot, and replace it with Bob Barr's.

Howell then continued "I recall him making some kind of veiled threat during his speech on the convention floor. Anyone remember what exactly he said?"

On January 22, in a response to Randy Eshelman Howell proposed that Sam Sloan should not be listed: "

Randy,

The restrictions on presidential candidates is a separate issue from the blog. The former is just about who gets to be listed on this page:

<http://www.lp.org/blogs/staff/libertarian-2012-presidential-candidates>

To be listed on this page, 5 LNC members need to say, "I approve of this candidate being listed on this page." I would expect approval to be an indication that you believe the candidate will serve to advance a Libertarian agenda effectively in the context of a presidential campaign.

Again, this does NOT mean you endorse the candidate. And you can approve as many candidates for this purpose as you see fit. In theory, we could have 20 candidates that each get 5 LNC members to approve their being listed.

As one example, the declarations of a candidate named Sam Sloan are listed here (someone may want to verify these are his words): <http://drtomstevens.blogspot.com/2012/01/samuel-howard-sloan-aka-haji-mohammed.html>

The same blog notes he was excluded from a Manhattan Libertarian debate: > <http://drtomstevens.blogspot.com/2012/01/gary-johnson-trounces-harris-person.html>

I don't know this person. It can be argued that there is nothing un-Libertarian about his positions. And he has also (now) met the other 4 criteria posted at the above LP.org web page.

In spite of this, there may not be 5 of you who would approve of his being listed on the above LP.org presidential candidates web page, which would disqualify him. I will go on record

**Next 2 Pages: George Phillies Writes His 2008 Donors**

saying that, if it were up to me, I would not include this candidate because I consider anyone who finds the issue of polygamy to be one worth raising in a presidential campaign has a very poor sense of marketing and will not represent the LP effectively.

That's my view. You may disagree. If 5 of you want him listed, I'll list him."

On January 24, Sloan received a response from Carla Howell: "Dr. Mr. Sloan, All presidential candidates must obtain the approval of at least five LNC members to be listed at the lp.org web site. I will forward your request to them today to inform them that you are seeking such approval. If and when we receive five approvals, we will immediately post your name at our web site."

Mary Ruwart promptly responded:

"I'm confused by this response. Can someone help me out here? I don't recall the LNC as a body agreeing to this criteria (approval by 5 LNC members) or the Chair stating that he has instructed staff to follow these guidelines. As I stated before, using this criteria is likely to have some blowback, so the LNC or its Chair should give our ED some direct guidance. Have I missed something?"

I don't recall LNC members being asked to submit names of the candidates they approve of. There are at least two people on our current list who might have difficulty getting such approvals. Have I missed some LNC-discuss e-mails once again?"

That is, according to Ruwart, the Howell response to Sloan was listing an entirely new criterion, one seemingly with no source.

However, Howell responded to Ruwart, writing "The policy, up until I changed it a few days ago, was issued by Wes. I have issued a new policy. In the absence of any other policy, this is the policy.

If the LNC sets a policy, I will abide by it. Apparently, it's been tried several times before. No one has made a motion and got majority approval. Until someone does, this is the policy.

We can post every Tom, Dick and Harry who comes along saying they're a Libertarian candidate for POTUS. Or we can set some standards. I chose the latter.

It will be impossible to make everyone happy, no matter what we do. We must do what we think is in the best interest of the LP and our members and donors.

It is my recommendation that LNC members approve any candidate who is not a blatant embarrassment and whose positions are fundamentally Libertarian.

If their only weakness is that they are a weak spokesperson, or green, or unknown, I do not suggest making this a reason to eliminate them. I've seen many under-confident Libertarians develop into brilliant, persuasive spokespersons. They're often

the best ones, in the end."

A series of LNC members, including Eshelmann, Flood, Root, Rogers, Rutherford, and Mattson, urged listing no candidates on the site.

At about this point, James Libertarian Burns of Nevada maintained that he was told by Mark Hinkle that there had been an LNC vote on the policy. On inquiry, this newspaper determined from Burns that there had been a phone call with him and Hinkle, so there was no material evidence or demonstration of a misunderstanding. Meanwhile, Mark Hinkle urged that the LNC not vote anything and let Carla Howell make the rules. Dan Wiener urged dropping references to the FEC, because those references legitimized what the LCN does.

On January 30, editing together several reports, there was a count of how many LNC members had authorized each Presidential candidate:

Those with 5+: Gary Johnson, Lee Wrights, Roger Gary, RJ Harris, Bill Still

Those with 2: Carl Person

Those with 1: Sam Sloan

Bill R - GJ, LW, RG, RJH, BS

Steward F - GJ, LW, RG

Wayne R - GJ

Mary - GJ, LW, RG, RJH, BS, SS, CP

Mark R - none

Randy E - none

Dan W - GJ, LW, RJH, RG, BS

Kevin K - GJ, LW, RG, RJH, BS

Rebecca - GJ, LW, RJH, RG

Dianna - BS

Kirkland - RG, RH, GJ, CP, BS, RW.

On February 2, Mattson offered a motion creating entirely new criteria:

"The LNC hereby directs Staff to remove from the Party's website the listing of individuals seeking the Party's nomination for President or Vice President."

Co-sponsors were Mattson, Sink-Burris, Knedler, Eshelman. Voting is now in process.

## Phillies Urges 2008 Donors to Support Wrights

2008 candidate for the Libertarian Presidential Nomination George Phillies has sent a letter to his 2008 donors and volunteers, urging them to support the Presidential campaign of Lee Wrights. Phillies reminds supporters that we have tried party switchers before. The 2008 Presidential candidate recently endorsed...Newt Gingrich. The 2004 candidate appeared in 2007 in New Hampshire ... and urged Libertarian listeners to re-register in the Republican party.

## Liberty for America

Liberty for America is not currently a political party.

But we would be less than astonished if this changed.

But you can join—\$15 per year — Memberships are not subscriptions

To subscribe: <http://LibertyForAmerica.com>

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

In this issue:

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