

Liberty for America

Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement

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Editorial

As I said back in 2008 when I ran for our Presidential nomination against Republican Bob Barr, Republican Wayne Root, and their LNC supporters:

- 1) Electronic Warfare is Warfare. If you don't believe me, look up how much money the military spends on it.
- 2) America is the American People. America is not a flag, or a piece of hemp paper. America is its people.
- 3) Waging electronic warfare on the American people, listening to their phone messages and reading their email, is waging war on the American people.
- 4) Waging War on America is treason. The Constitution says so. It's one of the three crimes enumerated in our Constitution.
- 5) The last requirement: We have our two witnesses to the same overt act: Senator Feinstein. Senator Chambliss.

Therefore:

Indict, and if successful try, the electronic warriors against America. That appears to be around many of the 40,000 NSA employees, for starters.

When I was asked how we could possibly try and imprison so many people, I had an answer. Look up the war on drugs. We can try these people, too. There are fewer of them. Some of them may even be innocent. Hopefully grand juries will sort them out correctly. That's why we have judges and juries.

As for the rest, after we free the drug users, there will be plenty of space in Federal prisons for twenty or forty or a hundred thousand new prisoners.

Perhaps in 2020 our Libertarian National Convention will get things right, rather than running yet another Republican rose-fertilizer-for-brains.

NSA FISA Warrants Are Writs of Assistance

A writ of assistance is a search warrant with no limits or bounds. In the 18th century, the agents of that odious tyrant George Hanover III sent his agents armed with writs of assistance to search wherever they wanted in colonial places. The colonists knew that the Writ of Assistance is against all English law going back to the Magna Carta. The Writ was a fundamental ground for the American Revolution.

That's what the FISA warrants served against Verizon are. They are Writs of Assistance. That's why we now have the 2nd American Revolution: The American Government is revolting against the Constitution and People.

LPPA State Convention

A state board was elected, with:

Chair: Steve Scheetz – 18; Roy Minet – 13
Eastern Vice-Chair: Betsy Summers – 21; Ed Reagan – 6
Western Vice-Chair: George Brown by acclamation.
Secretary: Ivan Glinski by acclamation.

Treasurer:

Round 1 Patti Fryman – 14; Richard Schwarz – 15; NOTA – 2;
Invalid ballots – 2

Round 2 Richard Schwarz – 20; NOTA – 12; Invalid ballots – 1

Judicial Committee:

Bill Sloane; Ken Krawchuk; Erik Viker; Henry Haller; Tim Russell

Statement by the new LPPA State Chair Steve Scheetz:

I would like to take a moment to thank the members of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania who attended the convention business meeting today. We have had a large amount of trauma dealing with this past year, but Libertarians have taken charge of their party starting in April at the emergency board meeting whereby we took control of an organization that was heading in the direction of complete disaster.

During today's business meeting I was thrilled to see so many people taking an interest in what is going on within the party and taking an active role.

As newly elected Chairman, I would like to congratulate the following individuals:

George Brown, Newly elected Western Vice Chair
Betsy Summers, Re-elected Eastern Vice Chair
Ivan Glinski, Newly elected Secretary
Richard Schwarz, Newly elected Treasurer

And all members, elected/re-elected to the Judicial Committee:

Bill Sloane
Ken Krawchuk
Erik Viker
Henry Haller
Tim Russell

To these people, I am looking forward to working with all of you! To every Libertarian in Pennsylvania, I am looking forward to serving as your Party Chairman!

Sincerely,

Steve Scheetz

The elected Libertarians are replacements for a team proposed by departed state chair Tom Stevens.

Alabama State Convention

Vice Chair Leigh La Chine was elected Chair. Secretary Aaron Watkins was elected Vice Chair. Regional Chair Christopher Allen was elected Secretary. Ross Lowe was elected Treasurer. Jim Albea and Jennifer McGowan were elected as At Large members. Crissie Brown was elected Director of Outreach. Colin Albea, Mark Bodenhausen, and Mr. Knizley were elected as Regional Representatives. Most votes were at least nearly unanimous, or with a single vote for NOTA. IPR correspondents report that attendance was in the range 30-40, the best it has been in several years.

Liberty for America Donations

After a prolonged period of considering alternatives to Donor-town Square, which went out of business, Liberty for America procured an account with Click&Pledge. The minimum-payment account costs \$20 a month, but we did not find acceptable alternatives that did not require sophisticated programming steps. Donations may still be made via the Liberty for America web pages at LibertyForAmerica.com.

LNC Votes Ballot Access Funds

A motion by Chair Geoff Neale "To increase the LNC budget for Ballot Access expense for 2013 by \$25,000, to assist in funding a petition drive for the Libertarian Party of Arkansas" appears to have been passed by the LNC with one dissenting vote.

Wes Benedict Has Lawn Signs

In a note to the State Chairs list, Wes Benedict wrote: I wanted some good Libertarian Party yard signs to decorate my truck for a July 4th parade. I couldn't find any I liked well so made some myself and am selling the extras. I'm selling them at <http://www.freelibertarianstickers.com/>, a site I started in 2008, put on mothballs for a few years, and recently reactivated.

LP Kentucky Lib Registration up

As forwarded to us, Ken Moellman reported that between May 2012 and April 2013, Kentucky party registration changed Democrat registration increased 1.22%; Republican registration increased 3.59%; Generic "Other" registration increased 1.63%; Independent registration increased 24.20%; and Libertarian registration increased 40.83%. Congratulations to Kentucky Libertarians.

Florida

Our informants in Florida report unhappiness with the Florida situation. Once a decade, it becomes incredibly easy to put people on the Florida ballot. That happened in 2002. In 2012, the opportunity was substantially missed. Our informants also report that the state party is badly in debt. They did just have a new State Convention, and elected a new Chair. There are complaints that Dana Cummings, the new chair, has not been active in the state party for very long, and is inexperienced. Readers may recall times in the past when we published policy statements from Floridian Libertarians that seemed somewhat remote from traditional Libertarian thinking.

Where Your Money Went Libertarian National Committee

We now have the LNC's FEC report for April (the "May" report) and can compare with information direct from the LNC. According to its FEC report, the LNC began the month with \$243,659.03, had receipts of \$139,822.22, spent \$89,295 exactly, and ended the month with \$294,186.25. A substantial part of the income and cash on hand corresponds to the building fund, the money the LNC has set aside to purchase a building in the belly of the beast, Washington, DC. In particular, the income total includes \$59,000 in donations of \$1000 or more, far more than in many other months, most of which is reasonably attributed to people who one way or the other support the building. According to the FEC report, the LNC has no money owed to it, and owes no money to other parties.

The Financials presented to the LNC by the Treasurer show a somewhat different set of numbers, because they are compiled under different accounting rules. I quote from the LNC Treasurer, his monthly financial reports to the LNC.

January: "Financially, the year started in good condition. The unrestricted checking account increased to \$100,731, which is back above the reserve requirement. The Building Fund was still at \$116,717 at the end of January (not including pledges)." March: "Revenues are running \$38,013 below budget. Donations, Membership Dues, and Board Solicitations are all below budget. Costs of Support and Expenses are also below budget, allowing the reserves to remain above the reserve requirement." April: "The increase in revenues is from successful fundraising for the Building Project Fund. The Building Fund increased from \$120,482 in March to \$176,194 at the end of April. However, general fundraising has dropped each month this year. The sum of membership dues, donations, recurring gifts, and board solicitations is \$75,273 below the year-to-date budget. The total for these for January through April is \$311,076, while \$386,350 was budgeted."

Cash on hand, end of April, was reported to the LNC as \$294,186, considerably larger than the \$41,830 cash on hand at this point in 2009. Of the \$252,000 difference, \$176,000 is the building fund, leaving \$118,000 not encumbered by the building.

Rounding off slightly, for the first third of the year the LNC was receiving \$78,000 a month in general donations. The LNC staff, which historically brought the annual report out in February, just got it out the door. The report has often led to appreciable donations. Nonetheless, \$78,000 a month is under

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\$950,000 for the year. The annual report may yet enhance this. The last time LNC general income was as low as \$950,000 a year appears to have been 1994. Total income may be somewhat better, one and a quarter million or so, because there is a building fund campaign.

How did they spend the money that they had on hand? Employee net pay for six people came to \$15,126. The actual amounts ranged from \$752 to \$2302. Executive Director Carla Howell received almost 50% more than any other employee; a little math shows for her more than \$55,000 in direct yearly pay, implying a salary well over \$60,000 a year. Other employees received rather less. There are also costs related to having employees. The District of Columbia and the state of Virginia receive withholding taxes. The District of Columbia has unemployment and other taxes. There are also the federal Social Security and Medicare taxes, federal unemployment tax, employee health insurance, employee 401(k) payments, and a quite small charge for keeping the books. These total \$12,759, but might include payments for some of the other people who are not technically employees. In addition, Paula Edwards received \$1500 for doing the FEC filings, while Gary Sinawski received \$3000 for LP legal expenses. \$100 went for administrative support services to a resident of New Hampshire.

The LNC met in remote Las Vegas. The deposit on the event location, Caesar's Palace, was \$1500. The cost of transporting, feeding, and housing the employees who were transported to the LNC meeting came to \$4884.39. Of this, the actual travel was \$867. One would reasonably infer that a single employee did not in a few days go through \$3489 in hotel and food costs,

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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.

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and therefore the dollar amount includes the refreshments and other items served at meetings. The cost of meeting at a remote location is therefore seen to be significantly over \$6000. That number does not include the cost to the LNC members of transporting themselves to a remote location and having a place to stay and something to eat while they were there. Some readers will recall Starchild questioning the cost of a remote meeting. For four meetings a year, the LNC would be going through close to \$25,000 a year. The LNC also has director and officer insurance, which for the month came to \$5687. That is not a monthly fee.

The LNC rents an office. The cost of the office does not always show up uniformly in every month. For this month, the rent, utilities, and so forth came to \$105. Sooner or later, the additional cost of that office will show up. If there is an office, you have to put things in it. The maintenance, lease, and supplies for the copier came to \$698.40. Other office supplies came to \$693.

The LNC did outreach. Noncandidate party printing services came to \$18,565 disbursed to Bigeye Direct, Direct Mail Marketing Group, Stigler Printing, B and B Duplicators, LPStuff.com, McBain Printing Company, and Capital Promotions. There were also information technology expenses. Note \$48 for address and telephone verification, \$91 for cable and Internet, \$1474 to Icontact for email marketing services, 574 to Softlayertechnologies for email server hosting expense, \$329 for Facebook ads, \$595 for PC remote access service, \$2151 for the telephone system and usage, \$950 for website maintenance, \$368 to Rackspace USA for website hosting, and \$35 for telephone services. Readers who have kept track will notice that IT costs are in fact going down.

Raising money costs money. The building fund Project fundraiser cost \$7030. Telephone fundraising consulting charges were \$4172. Merchant processing fees came to \$1742.10 to four vendors. Postage and shipping came to \$1604. A bank service charge was \$180.

The net result is that the cost of paying people is around \$50,000 out of \$89,000 spent. In a typical month, the office for most of these people is another \$11,000. There were other office and insurance charges, so with a small party the available funds for doing politics are rather limited. In fact, the identifiable advertising for the party came to \$329 for Facebook ads and whatever fraction of the IT costs are appropriately charged to public advertising and outreach. There do not appear to have been any direct expenses at all for ballot access.

Where Your Money Went Libertarian National Congressional Committee

A more detailed report will appear in a future issue. The LNCC for a considerable time was under the control of Wayne Root. It now has former LNC member Mark Rutherford as chair and Evan McMahon as Executive Director. This year it has had \$7680 in receipts and has spent \$12,249 so far. Almost all money comes from donors of \$1000 or \$1100.

Johnson 2012 Finances The end of 2011

We continue our report on how Johnson 2012 spent its money. This article is a continuation of articles in the past few issues, all of which may be seen at LibertyForAmerica.com. You may wish that this information had been known before the National Convention. Johnson did file financial disclosures back then. Those disclosures turn out to be wrong. The new disclosures do not resemble the old disclosures in key respects.

Johnson 2012 began the last quarter of 2011 with \$610,741.78 in debt; it ended the quarter with \$828,738.32 in debt. These are levels of financial obligation never before seen in a Libertarian Presidential campaign. For the Quarter, Johnson 2012 had \$161,694.38 in income and spent \$154,563.76. The increase in debt for the quarter was \$218,000. The Johnson campaign -- note the increase in debt -- was spending money more than twice as fast as it was taking it in.

How did Johnson spend his money? For the last quarter of 2011, Daines Goodwin (the accountant) received \$5525. Zions Bank received \$4839.76 in Merchant Fees and EF Bank charges. Jonathan Bydlak (who later sued the Johnson campaign, and finally received his money) and EH2 consulting each received \$3500 for fundraising-related matters. Beehive Insurance Agency received \$1599. Hackstaff Law Group received \$500 for legal fees. Media Temple received \$150 for EFT Internet Services. Identifiable political spending included \$1000 each to the Missouri Republican Party and the NH Secretary of State for a "primary fee" and a "booth fee".

Then there was the major expense: \$132,800 to Political Advisors for "payment on obligation". That was the payment toward the \$610,741.78 that Johnson 2012 owed at the start of the quarter .

Let's first look at Johnson 2012's new debts for the last quarter of 2011. They show very clearly how the campaign was being run, and suggest why Johnson failed to establish himself as a Republican candidate. The debts appear each month as pairs, a large debt for staff salaries and a much smaller debt for everything else. A few other small debts appear along the way. We'll take the larger of each pair first. I'm giving you the line numbers so that you can keep track of what was paid when.

Line #46829 for \$119,915.69. The invoice is said to be dated "October". None of this debt was paid in this quarter, in which it was incurred. Costs included:

Senior Political Advisor 50 hours at \$16,250 (\$325.00/hour)
Creative Advertising \$13,500 for 60 hours (\$225.00/hour)
Press relations \$18,040 for 164 hours (\$110.00/hour)
Mid-level Management \$45,625 for 365 hours (\$125.00/hour, same as last month)
Mid-level Management \$15,083 for 158 hours (\$95/hour, nearly a 33% increase in the rate)
"Outside subcontracts per agreement" \$10,703.79

Line #46828 for \$19,689 for October, none of which was paid in the period. This money is spending on politics, including:

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.

Travel, staff and candidate \$10,075
Ad Placement, web \$1250
EMail Marketing Costs \$4264
Miscellaneous/Supplies/Office \$2078
Shipping \$2023

Observe that the staff hours total to 800, about 5 FTE staff members, none as a class paid less than \$95 an hour. Spending on politics is about 6% of spending on campaign staff.

Line #46830 for \$103,646.39. The invoice is said to be dated "November". None of this debt was paid in this quarter, in which it was incurred. Costs included:

Senior Political Advisor 50 hours at \$16,250 (\$325.00/hour)
Creative Advertising \$10800 for 48 hours (\$225.00/hour)
Press relations \$10,578 for 96.17 hours (\$110.00/hour)
Mid-level Management \$47,832 for 382.66 hours (\$125.00/hour, same as last month)
Mid-level Management \$7943 for 83.6 hours (\$95/ hour, same as last month)
"Outside subcontracts per agreement" \$9529

Line #46894 for \$12,778.13 for November 1-30, 2011. This entry establishes that dates with a month identified were for expenditures during that month. None of this debt was paid in the quarter. This money is spending on politics, including:

Travel, staff and candidate \$6209
Ad Placement, web \$688
EMail Marketing Costs \$2474
Miscellaneous/Supplies/Office \$482
Printing \$1235.05

Staff hours for December 2011 correspond to four full-time-equivalent people. When spending receded, staff spending was cut by a sixth, by cutting pay of the least-well-paid people. At the same time, spending for candidate travel, advertising and the like was cut by a third. The people with the highest salaries -- \$325 and \$225 an hour -- were not cut at all. After all, at this point you are reading about a Republican campaign. Spending on politics is down to 12% of the total.

Line #46743 for \$90,620 for December, none of which was paid in the period. Costs included:

Senior Political Advisor 50 hours at \$16,250 (\$325.00/hour)
Creative Advertising \$2250 for 10 hours (\$225.00/hour)
Mid-level Management \$64,669 for 517 hours (\$125.00/hour,)
Mid-level Management \$3926 for 41 hours (\$95.00)
"Outside subcontracts per agreement" \$3525.

Line #46745 for \$7142, none of which was paid in the period.

Costs included

Travel, staff and candidate \$4498
Ad Placement, web \$173
EMail Marketing Costs \$1299
Miscellaneous/Supplies/Office \$328
Printing \$366
Media \$478

As the campaign shrank, press relations and bottom-salary employees were massively cut, but the senior campaign advisor kept raking in \$16,250 a month -- that's \$195,000 a year.

Spending on politics is now down to 8% of staff salaries. And now the riddle: What did you *not* see in the above list? "subcontract" has a moderately well-defined meaning.

Answer: Do you see any sign of a campaign office? Barr rented that interesting space in Georgia. Badnarik had an operation in Texas. Read my book *Funding Liberty* to see what Harry Browne did. There is no sign at all here that Gary Johnson had a campaign office for which he was paying rent.

The Johnson campaign did pay off some debts in this quarter. The payments to Jonathan Bydlak, EH2, and Hackstaff law group were repayments on debts dating to the year's second quarter.

Of the payments to Political Advisors, \$96,150 covered much of line #4173, which had originally been created when the campaign began. The remainder of the payment to political advisors, for \$36,649, paid off the last of line #46740 created in July. This debt had originally been:

Senior Political Advisor 50 hours at \$16,250 (\$325.00/hour)
Creative Advertising \$13,500 for 60 hours (\$225.00/hour)
Press relations \$14,325 for 95.5 hours (\$150.00/hour)
Press relations \$17,543 for 158.67 hours (\$110.00/hour)
Mid-level Management \$18,886 for 198.91 hours (\$95.00/hour)
Mid-level Management \$14,630 for 357 hours (\$41.00/hour)
"Outside subcontracts per agreement" \$9,427.50

Notice that many of the lines in the salary entries look remarkably similar to each other, month after month, except that the lower-level salary lines showed some remarkable increases in average wages.

Howell Contract Expiring

Geoff Neale has circulated a letter noting that LNC Executive Director Carla Howell's contract is expiring at the end of June. Instead of reappointing her, he is inviting other applicants for the position, with the warning that Carla is the incumbent and will receive credit for not needing to be brought up to speed. The letter reads:

Dear LNC and State Affiliates:

Our existing contract with our Executive Director, Carla Howell, expires at the end of June. At this time, I have deferred making a decision regarding extending her contract.

The reason I am doing this is that I do NOT want to do the easy thing - I want to do the right thing. I believe that there will be members who will question this action, but I also know there will be members who would question the appearance of an automatic extension. I am seeking a middle ground by pursuing what I consider to be a diligent path.

The Executive Director role is critical, and impacts all of us in ways both small and large. It is also a difficult role because the expectations are high, and the requirements for the job make the vast majority of people unqualified to fill the role.

At this time, I want to review our available talent pool before I make a decision. I am asking all of you to assist me in this endeavor. If you know of someone who you would like to recommend, please communicate with me directly. Additionally, if you have feedback of any perspective that you think will aid me regarding our current Executive Director, I am all ears.

I have told Carla that this is like an election, and she has the advantage of being the incumbent. While I have the only vote, I avoid making decisions in a vacuum. If I have viable candidates, I will not only investigate, but consult with the members of the LNC before making a decision. The decision I will make will have the support of the LNC, because they will advise me, and I will listen.

Remember: Carla is setting the bar, and I will only seriously consider candidates that are in her range of skills and expertise, but no one candidate will have every skill we need. We will have to weigh the strengths and weaknesses of each.

Desired Qualifications:

Must be a Libertarian Party member.

Experienced at managing a staff, including hiring, terminating, mentoring,
etc.

Able to delegate effectively.

Must be a solid spokesperson for the LP positions and platform.

Effectively work with a board of directors (LNC) and fifty-one affiliates.

Must be willing to locate in the Washington, DC area.

Effective and experienced at fundraising.

That's right - it's a job for a super-human. The timid need not apply.

Geoffrey Neale
Chair
Libertarian Party

LSLA in Search of Treasurer

Brett Bittner has widely circulated a message: For any who may be interested, the LSLA (Libertarian State Leadership Alliance) has an opening on the Executive Board in the Treasurer position. The position has been officially vacant since March, and we intend to fill that vacancy at our June 30th meeting. If anyone here is interested, please have your state chair/committee nominate you by sending a letter of support to me via e-mail at brett.bittner@lpgeorgia.com by June 23rd.

LNC In Action

A serious LNC Member on a serious issue. David Blau wrote the LNC:

“Despite my fervent desire to stay away from discussing the Boston bombing in favor of, say, getting on with my life, I feel it necessary to mention an aspect of the story that had escaped my attention until today. If true, it would be a grave constitutional violation, worse even than the suspect not being Mirandized, and one which everyone here would be interested in. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/apr/29/tsarnaev-right-to-counsel-denied>”

Sound thinking to the LNC, reportedly from Dianna Visek:

“Many members of the LP (and LNC) pride themselves on our being a meritocracy, which is well and good, but which tends to favor white men. Meanwhile many voters feel alienated from white men and the concept of meritocracy, which is thought to depend on privilege.

I think we need to work on appealing to women, minorities and others who tend to turn to the left and who may relate better to more emotional appeals than to our traditional intellectualism. Mary Ruwart's book, "Healing Our World", provides great examples of how to be warm and fuzzy but still libertarian.

And having more women and minorities in LP leadership positions would also help.
Dianna”

Arvin Vohra on our tag line:

“The current tag line, Minimum Government, Maximum Freedom, is not a good tag line.

1. It is a statement of opinion, not action.
2. It sounds petulant. It screams, "I want this, but I don't want to do any work."

The alternative, "Cutting Big Government, Increasing Liberty" is an action line, but "big" is not a good word. That's an opinion word, and it's a cliché.

We need something with more action in it.

Maybe, "Cutting government, building liberty"

"Eliminating Government Agencies, Repealing Laws" (yes, I know it's clunky, just a starting point.)

Anyone have suggestions? Unlike the eyesore logo, this can actually be changed by us.
-Arvin

Geoff Neale responded to Vohra:

“Is now the time to really address this? If it is, I'd really like to get see some talk on process.

Who decides the slogan? The LNC? Do the affiliates get input? What about our members? How about taking a really radical position - figure out which slogan appeals most to the high-propensity NON LP population?

My position is that first we have to decide who we are trying to reach with this slogan.

After all, we're all experts on branding, aren't we?”

Vicki Kirkland wisely reminded the LNC:

“The late Dave Nolan suggested Minimum Government - Maximum Freedom which he said came from Gary Sicard, one of our Congressional candidates from Iowa. It was voted on and approved by the previous LNC.”

Another serious LNC member on another serious issue: Paul Frankel on Nevada:

“Hi Brett and the rest of LNC

First up let me state that I am on Brett's side in the "faction fight" in Nevada. I have had friends there and visited a number of times over the years, and have witnessed what has happened to the Nevada LP in the last few years, as well as been told about it in detail by many people in person, online and on the phone. During my most recent visit in January, I stayed with Brett and attended a meeting of probably a dozen or so people who were unhappy with the present leadership. I've followed multiple stories and their discussion about this on IPR and facebook. So while I'm not a Nevadan myself, I know as much about it as anyone can from outside the state.

The list of LPN bylaws violations, grievances and questionable actions all seems correct, and I have previous knowledge of many of the items, while the rest seem highly likely given the "modus operandi" of the current LPN exec comm.

On the other hand, I also always strive to the best of my abilities to give the other side in any debate their due, IE make sure we don't go overboard in neglecting the correct process due to our personal biases or alignments in any given situation. Please take the following in light of that.

As far as I know, the only power LNC has to compel LPN exec comm to do any of the things requested in the petition is to disaffiliate them, and prior experience in other states suggests that if we do the Secretary of State will probably consider them, not us, to be in charge of the ballot line. While I think you can certainly make a good case that they have earned disaffiliation, I wouldn't want to suggest that we take on a five-figure expense lightly, especially since I might potentially benefit from it personally if we do.

We should not make the disaffiliation threat unless we are prepared to carry it out and pay for an otherwise unnecessary petition drive.

The last item of the petition calls for a national LP judiciary committee review of LPN actions. My understanding is that the

national judiciary committee has no such power; it can only determine the national bylaws compliance of actions of the LNC and convention. This was also what Judiciary Committee member Nick Sarwark stated in a comment on IPR.

FYI in considering the possibility of disaffiliation, if it comes to that, I would estimate the cost of a prospective petition drive to be around \$30-40k, or possibly more, depending on what time of year the petitioning would be done and what other petitions are going on around the country at the same time, minus whatever volunteer signatures are gathered. It is close to 10,000 valid signatures, plus of course we need a good margin for validity. This is not to suggest that we should or should not do it (I'll recuse myself from that due to potential conflict of interest) but just so we can realistically consider what the cost is likely to be if we go ahead with that.

Given past actions, I would presume Silvestri and friends will push things as far as possible - so if the LNC threatens disaffiliation and makes demands of LPN exec comm along these lines, we do need to be prepared to have a ballot access drive.

Paulie”

If you are looking for LNC Members perturbed that their budget is going astray, you are looking in vain, at least as far as I have read messages. In voting against \$25,000 for Arkansas ballot access, Norm Olsen is reported to have counseled the LNC. He wrote:

“There are many reasons to vote in favor of this motion, and many reasons to vote against. Recognizing that this motion will pass overwhelmingly, I have voted Nay as a protest vote.

The events of the last 11 months (since Las Vegas) and the Libertarian National Committee response to them are at odds. Great numbers of Ron Paul fans, Tea Partiers, and Gary Johnson fans have joined our ranks. We've been given ample opportunity to fire these new Libertarians up:

- 1> Congress' approval rating is teetering at the single digit level.
- 2> The Simpson Bowles committee to reduce the deficit was a huge flop.
- 3> The super committee was an even bigger flop.
- 4> The Republicans caved and the fiscal cliff produced large tax increases.
- 5> Debt ceiling negotiations again failed to produce any reductions in spending.
- 6> An \$84 billion sequester is portrayed by politician and media alike as eviscerating a \$3.8 trillion government.
- 7> The Benghazi disaster remains covered up. (What was the ambassador in Benghazi to arrange arms for Syrian rebels?).
- 8> The Newtown Connecticut tragedy has revived attacks on the 2nd Amendment.
- 9> The president produces yet another budget that will not get a single vote.
- 10> Contrary to its own legislation, the Congress has not produced a budget in four years.
- 11> Student loan debt reaches \$1 trillion while many graduates end up as wait staff members..
- 12> Similar atrocities exist at the state level in most states.

13> How many did I miss? (\$9 minimum wage? 48 million on food stamps?)

Thanks to Arvin's almost singular efforts, a few peeps in defense of the Second Amendment were tardily made using our brand. We did get a good video produced. That was a long time in coming, but it was nice to see that degree of progress. Otherwise, the Libertarian brand was pretty much silent.

The real tragedy in this issue is that if we chose not to spend this \$25,000 on ballot access for one state (and perhaps just one election), do we have a clue as to how to spend \$25,000 on building our brand? Building our affiliates in general? Outreach material our affiliates and volunteers can use? Radio/TV ads our affiliates can place on local cable? Developing skill and experience at developing affiliates at the county level? Strengthening our ability to communicate our message? Get Project Funding out of the discussion stage? Relieving volunteers from the responsibility of maintaining our social media outreach?

Our unwritten and unapproved strategy is to obtain ballot access in 50+ states. This is noble, but our history suggests that this objective by itself does not produce success. I voted against this expenditure as a protest vote to draw attention to the fact that building our brand, building affiliate organizational strength, and improving our ability to effectively communicate the Libertarian solution to political issues facing our nation need to be factored into our strategy and plans for the future.

Norm”

Debate on LNCC Activities

In a widely circulated letter, LNCC member Starchild laments what he views as the continuing rightward tilt of the Libertarian National Campaign Committee. Our sources on the LNC indicate that his position received a response from the LNCC Executive Director Evan McMahan and support from LNC member Arvin Vohra. They supplied text quoted here. We omit from the letters we quote on this issue what appears to have been a more personal disagreement between Starchild and McMahan. Starchild reportedly wrote:

“Having just looked at the committee's site (LNCC.org) again today, I'm sorry to say that I still do not see any major shift in the committee's approach since W.A.R. was replaced with Mark Rutherford as chair of the committee. The banner depicting two Democrats (Obama and Nancy Pelosi) along with one Republican largely discredited among conservatives (George W. Bush) as the bad examples America needs to get away from, remains at the top of the front page. The LNCC's issues page is overwhelmingly focused on issues that appeal more to people on the right than people on the left (see <http://www.lncc.org/issues/>), and the manner in which the issues are discussed doesn't do anything to offset that. Even the sole issue presented that is more likely to appeal to people on the left than on the right, Non-Intervention Policy, is discussed primarily in financial terms and in terms of Americans' self-interest. Not a word is said about the humanitarian impact that bombing, drone strikes, and waging war has on civilians in other countries (see <http://>

Now I see that the LNCC is reaching out to talk show host Glenn Beck, who is generally seen by the public as a conservative and viewed by many on the left the way they view figures like Sarah Palin and Rush Limbaugh. You have written to him, "I would like to welcome you to the Libertarian Party." You further encourage the conservative-leaning radio host to "openly and honestly discuss Libertarian philosophy." There's certainly nothing wrong with that, so long as either Beck himself understands that philosophy or is having that discussion with guests who do, but how can the LNCC credibly ask Beck to openly and honestly discuss libertarianism when the LNCC itself does not do it? At present the LNCC continues to dispense a conservative-flavored take on libertarian philosophy.

There are some other points in the letter to Glenn Beck that bear mention. The phrase you use to describe your own shift away from an interventionist foreign policy, "I drank the Kool-Aid and saw the light" seems to me an unfortunate choice of words that an additional pair of eyes or two looking at the letter before it was published might have caught. Was this letter submitted in advance to members of the LNC's Advertising & Publications Review Committee? The LNC Policy Manual (Section II.2, page 24) states that "The APRC shall review and advise whether public communications of the Party violate our bylaws, Policy Manual or advocate moving public policy in a different direction other than a libertarian direction, as delineated by the Party Platform." Your letter gives the impression of being a public communication of the Libertarian Party subject to this oversight.

You also write to Beck that,

"I would like for you to understand that the ire and outrage you've received in the past couple months from Libertarians comes not from some high-minded purity test or doubt in your sincerity. It swelled from the lack of any acknowledgment of how you have previously discussed and treated our Party's philosophy, leadership, candidates and our dedicated activists."

In fact I think many Libertarians do have doubts about Glenn Beck's sincerity in embracing libertarianism. Given the defections of both former conservative members of our 2008 presidential ticket, Bob Barr and Wayne Allyn Root, back to the Republican Party where they endorsed Mitt Romney over Gary Johnson for president, I think such doubts are entirely reasonable. But if Glenn Beck takes his cue from the LNCC, he may feel that all he has to do in order to show his commitment to libertarianism is pay some modest lip-service to the idea of a non-interventionist foreign policy, have "a couple" Libertarians on his show and make some vague statement about spiritual growth in accord with what you wrote in your letter, and that in other respects his present conservative-leaning approach will fit in just fine at the LP. If he comes away with this impression, the LNCC will have done our party and cause a disservice.

It seems to me that between conventions it is the job of the elected members of the Libertarian National Committee, not the unelected members of the Libertarian National Campaign Committee, to set tone and policy for the national Libertarian

Party and to engage in outreach to major public figures on behalf of our party. This would seem to have nothing to do with the LNCC's mission of promoting the campaigns of Libertarian candidates. Is the LNCC experiencing "mission creep"? Where do you draw the line? This jurisdictional issue is only compounded in my mind by the fact that the LNCC appears to be making little effort to distance itself from the conservative tone established by Wayne Allyn Root, and the committee launching a special effort to welcome a figure like Glenn Beck to the Libertarian Party further reinforces this perception.

What do you and Mark Rutherford (copied on this email) have to say in response to these concerns?

Love & Liberty,

(((starchild)))

A response from the LNCC Executive Director included:

"Concerning the website - Yes, there are still things on the website that need to be changed. I am the sole employee of the LNCC and I must prioritize my time and efforts. Most of my work is geared towards building outreach tools and training programs for candidates. To be 100% honest, I don't even plan on keeping an issue page on the LNCC website. Developing and promoting the Party's platform and philosophy is the job of the LNC and Libertarian candidates. My job, and the job of the LNCC, is to provide training, resources and promotion for Libertarian candidates. As we launch more online training and promotion tools some of these items you are talking about will be replaced.

Why did I write a letter to Glenn Beck from the LNCC. Simple...I'm calling him out, in a polite way, for claiming to be a Libertarian while promoting NeoCon policies. I'm welcoming him to his early-stage discovery of Libertarianism while still pointing out the things he's done in the past and even showing him how he can reverse the damage he has done. My goal is for him to have Libertarian candidates, that can hold their own in a debate, on his show. Candidates like Gov. Johnson, Steve Collett, John Jay Myers, Chard Reid, Gigi Bowman and many more. I want him to have members of the LNC (to talk platform) and LNCC (to talk campaigns) on the show. By having these people on, the message of the candidates and the party will be heard. There will be people, even if Beck disagrees with the message, that will have the light bulb click on because of these on-air conversations.

Nowhere in my letter did I advocate a change in policy or philosophy. As a matter of fact, I made it pretty clear that Beck's got a long way to go before he really understands Libertarianism. But instead of gutting him and screaming that he's not welcome here...I've said 'Hey, you're not there yet buddy...but we'll help you get there.' Taking the big tent, everybody can learn this stuff approach. I would rather be a helping hand along someone's path to Libertarianism than a fallen tree blocking the way.

I'm actually kind of surprised that you are surprised ... considering this letter was printed in the copy I gave to you over a week ago of the LNCC's quarterly magazine...

And just to show you it's not all about conservatives (which I do find funny considering I'm a gay man whose advocated for same-sex marriage, art collectives, personal choice and ending the wars), I'm working on a similar letter for Bill Maher. Since he is liberal that professes to be Libertarian, I want to work to have actual Libertarians on his show talking about their campaigns and platforms.

On a side note, I would like to invite you to submit an article for possible publication in the LNCC Spotlight. It would be nice to have a dedicated place in the magazine for a rotation of policy or party discussion from LNC reps/officers. Maybe something on CISPA, drones, GITMO, DoMA or another timely issue position.

In Liberty,
Evan McMahan,
Executive Director

LNCC At-Large Member Arvin Vohra raised doubts about the LNCC, saying:

I think Evan is trying to gently pressure Glenn Beck to cover actual Libertarian candidates. I have two concerns.

1. If Glenn doesn't, will the LNCC point that out? Will they point out his fraudulence and failures? Or can we expect the kind of bootlicking Wayne Root gave Paul Ryan?
2. An organization with a track record like the LNCC, which basically ended up being little more than an attempted boost for Romney last election, has a bit to prove in terms of their dedication, both to the LP and to the Liberty Movement as a whole. Thus far, I see much less progress than I had hoped for.
3. I think quite a few people, certainly including me, think it's a bit dangerous that we have an organization that currently acts as a pseudo-official representation of the party, with a track record of supporting Republicans, a current strategy that seems to do the same, that is operating completely without oversight from the membership, the APRC, LP staff, the LNC chair, or anyone else.
4. Current "Issues" according to the LNCC include "Anti Obama Sentiments". Even the most emotionally overwrought Democrats in the country know that sentiments aren't issues. However, ending the War on Drugs, the police state, and military overreach don't make the cut. I get the concept of reaching out to the right, but something that does that should be called "Former Republicans" or something, and not pretend to represent the Libertarian Party viewpoint.

In terms of the Glenn Beck letter: it would be a great thing to send to Glenn Beck's fans. It could be a great radio ad on his show, something to advertise to HIS fans on facebook, etc. I mean, it's a well written, subtle attack that basically calls him out. Sending it to HIS fans (which could be done for like \$250 on facebook) would make logical sense, because it would both challenge him, threaten his current situation, and introduce HIS fans to the LP.

Instead, it was sent to people ALREADY on the LP list. Thus, it ends up sort of endorsing Glenn Beck TO current LP members. Where is the possible sense in that? Something that may

have made more sense would be a subject heading or a note that said something like "Forward this to every Glenn Beck fan you know."

Anyway, I think it's time to seriously re-evaluate the current relationship with the LNCC. It's insane that they have less oversight than even the Executive Director.

I don't have as much policy manual finesse as many of you, so my motion will be something to the effect of, "Do whatever is necessary to either prevent the LNCC from using its current and highly misleading name, or require APRC approval for its outreach, or dissolve the organization." If someone has better wording, or a more elegant solution, please let me know."

End of LNCC discussion. At the start of May, the LNC was advised that a petitioner was still due payments for the West Virginia effort of last year. There was a remarkably hostile set of remarks, supposedly from William Redpath, directed against the petitioner and complaining that the issue had been brought to the LNC. I will try to remember to report a place where you can read the remarks, which I expect will finally be available on the Starchild reflector. I simply am not inclined to reproduce those sentiments here.

LNCC Employment Policy and Compensation Committee

The LNC has an Employment Policy and Compensation Committee, charged with: "Employment Policy and Compensation Committee shall develop documents, procedures, and guidelines for the effective administration, supervision and development of Staff, including but not limited to job descriptions, compensation ranges, hiring, training, performance reviews, promotion, progressive discipline and termination. The LNC may supersede any such documents, procedures and guidelines by adopting a replacement. The Employment Policy and Compensation Committee shall also be available to Staff to discuss on a confidential basis the working environment or observed violations of the Policy Manual. The EPCC shall also complete a review of any contract for director-level employment no less than 10 days prior to the Chair signing it."

Geoff Neale has appointed a new EPCC. It consists of James Lark, William Redpath and Mark Hinkle, replacing Andy Wolf, Doug Craig and David Blau. More on this next issue.

Hardy Macia, RIP

We quote the message from LPNH Chair Rich Tomasso on the passing of a fine Libertarian activist: It is with a sad heart that I share the news that my friend and fellow Libertarian Hardy Macia passed away today after his battle with cancer. He was surrounded by family and friends and had a peaceful passing. Hardy was an excellent volunteer and a candidate for the LPNH and the VTLP. Hardy served a vital role in the Gary Johnson 2012 campaign. He also served for a while on the LNC as alternate regional rep. Hardy worked very hard for years on the issues of medical marijuana and re-legalization. Some of you may have seen his recent video appeal for NH to pass the Medical law which made regional and national news.

Liberty for America

Liberty for America is not currently a political party.

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

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

Editorial

LPPA State Convention

Alabama State Convention — Liberty for America Donations

LNC Votes Ballot Access Funds — Wes Benedict Has Lawn Signs

LP Kentucky Lib Registration Up 40% — Florida

Where Your Money Went — LNC, LNCC, Johnson 2012

Howell Contract Expiring — LSLA Wants Treasurer

LNC In Action

Debate on LNCC Activities

LNC Employment Policy and Compensation Committee

Hardy Macia, RIP

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