

Liberty for America

Journal of the Libertarian Political Movement

Volume 6 Number 10

Crusading for Liberty Since 2008

March 2014

Editorial

We Are Libertarians

by Roger Paxton

We are not “Republican-light.” We are not “Democratic-light.” We are Libertarians.

It is tiresome to continually be asked why we would want to run a Libertarian candidate against a “good Republican” or “a good libertarian leaning Republican.” Would this same person ask that of the Democratic Party? Would this same person expect the Democratic Party to not run someone against a “good moderate Republican?” Of course not. So why do they ask us?

I believe Republicans and conservatives do this because they have a fundamental misunderstanding of what it means to be a Libertarian. They believe we share some sort of camaraderie with them but can offer no proof of what makes them think this way. They throw around words like “Republican-libertarian,” and “conservative libertarian,” and “constitutional libertarian” like these word salads have some sort of meaning. They do not.

A libertarian is someone who believes in the non-aggression principle, plain and simple. Simply put, the non-aggression principle states that no man may initiate force or fraud against another person or his property. This is also called “classically liberal” in many circles and fits just as well as the word libertarian. The political party that upholds these libertarian principles is conveniently named The Libertarian Party. Republicans and Democrats have no such moral compass. This is evident in the sort of legislation both parties have brought us. However, since I am talking about the Republicans today, let’s see what they have done to this state and country recently.

- Republicans have brought us, in the last legislative session in Arkansas alone, a bill that steals \$125 million from the taxpayer’s pockets to give to a for-profit steel mill.

- The Republicans also passed legislation in the last session making it more difficult for the Libertarian Party to get on the ballot, restricting our freedom of speech and freedom of choice.

- The Republicans also passed legislation increasing an already ridiculous burden for the citizens of Arkansas to bring ballot initiatives to the people to vote on.
- The Republicans also brought us a bill to be voted on that will double their term limits.

- The Republicans have also brought us a bill making it much more difficult and expensive for a person to get certain body modifications to their own body. And this was all just in the last session alone!

- Now, in the current fiscal session, the Arkansas Republicans are trying to ram the private option funding through the House any way they can! The private option is the largest expansion of Medicaid in Arkansas history and was passed

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LNC Meets

The LNC met in Alexandria, Virginia, on March 3.

Party income for January was \$110,257; for February it fell to \$79,200. We Benedict as Executive Director proposed expense reductions, namely Alabama ballot access – \$12,500; Illinois ballot access – \$65,000; Member communications (LP News?) – \$8,000. The activities proposed for cuts are points where the LNC is doing real politics.

The LNC debated a motion from Dianna Visek, directing Political Director Carla Howell to repay \$449.27 to the LNC for using party funds to ship personal belongings. The motion failed 4-10, the vote being Hagan – no, Hinkle – no, Redpath – abstain, Starchild – yes, Johnson – no, Visek – yes, Lark – yes, Vohra – no, Tomaso – no, Pojunis – yes, Wiener – no, Goldstein – no, Kirkland – no, Olsen – no, Blau – no, and Neale – abstain. The coverage on Independent Political Report has former LNC member Stewart Flood asserting that Howell assisted LNC member Michael Cloud — who was not at the meeting — in relieving the LNC of over \$30,000 for services rendered, as covered here in past issues.

Pojunis moved, effectively, to replace the APRC members. A motion to extend debate for two minutes failed 8-7-1, the roll call taking longer than two minutes. The motion itself failed 5-9-1, Starchild, Visek, Pojunis, Wiener, and Olsen voting in favor, and Neale abstaining. Starchild reports asking why the committee structure we set up does not seem to be functioning, as Bill Redpath always still seems to be giving ballot access reports, rather than this happening via a committee report. The claim is that the Ballot Access Committee was not set up to handle ballot access.

There was a debate on giving Illinois \$65,000 for ballot access.

With respect to the forthcoming building purchase, I quote from Starchild “Diana Visek pointed out something that Aaron Starr told me, that the Marijuana Policy Project just bought a new building for the same price we’re paying (\$825,000), but in D.C. (2 miles from the White House), and with 40% more floor space, and all on the same floor instead of split between three floors as ours is. Said this property had been on the market for a year. She wanted to know whether we were informed about this property. Noted that Robert Kraus lives in Alexandria and has wanted us to locate there. “The MPP building is a co-op with a large fee. Neale moved to take the \$65,000 for Illinois ballot access, and use it to pay down the mortgage. The motion failed.

The LNC agreed to pay Attorney fees

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initially last session in our Republican-controlled legislature! And one of the biggest supporters of getting this passed in this fiscal session? Nate Bell, the supposed “libertarian Republican!” And you wonder why these word salads like “libertarian Republican” have no meaning.

Federally, things are just as bad, if not worse. Republicans brought us the PATRIOT Act, Homeland Security, TSA, Medicaid Part D, multiple stimulus packages to prop up private companies, multiple wars to massively increase the military budget, pork, etc. I could keep going, but you get the point. All of these programs stole money from our pockets and stole freedom from our lives.

These are supposedly the “fiscally conservative” Republicans. And yet you wonder why Libertarians candidates run against “good Republicans.”

As independent reporter Steve Brawner said in the Times Record today, “Libertarians are the party of less government — really less government. . . That sounds like Republican rhetoric, but Libertarians are a lot more serious about it, and the party’s less government philosophy lands it to the left of many Arkansas Democrats on social issues.” Mr. Brawner gets it. Why don’t the Republicans get it?

This is the reason the Libertarian Party is the third largest and fastest growing party in Arkansas, because we get it. We get that the people of this great country and great state are fed up with the false choices they are being given at the ballot box. We get that people are finally saying, “ENOUGH!” The Libertarian Party is giving these voters real choice, a real difference from the eerily similar Republican and Democrat parties. People every day are fed up, looking around, and realizing that they too are Libertarians.

R. Lee Wrights, the Vice-Chair of the Libertarian National Committee, said today on his Facebook page, “Libertarians do nothing for America or themselves by joining and supporting our oppressors! WE gain nothing and America loses every time someone falls for this load of elephant droppings. Republicans cannot be trusted. We have learned even the Democrats have more integrity than Republicans. Not by much, mind you, but by a degree. Democrats tell us they are going to take our money and give it to others, then, they get elected and do it. Republicans lie through their teeth and tell us, “Vote for us, we are not like that!” Then, they get elected, take our money, and give it to their friends. Republicans and Democrats are two wings on the same bird of prey.”

I could not have said it better myself. We are no longer content with elephant and donkey droppings. We are no longer content pulling the lever for these people who campaign one way and then legislate another. We are no longer willing to play their games and allow them to run roughshod over us. We are not Republicans. We are not Democrats. WE ARE LIBERTARIANS! And, in Arkansas anyway, we are here to stay and to win.

Rodger Paxton is currently the secretary of the Libertarian Party of Arkansas. He ran for Congress in 2012, receiving more than 20 % of the vote in a two-way race.

For Liberty!

...R. Lee Wrights

Libertarians are NOT stealing your money and giving it to someone else. Libertarians are NOT sending your sons and daughters to foreign lands to die to make rich people richer. Libertarians are NOT passing legislation that reduces your liberty and restricts your freedom. Libertarians are NOT trying to disarm you and put you at the mercy of murderers and thieves. Wake up! Anyone who thinks what they complain about as far as the LP goes does not also apply to the other parties, only magnified about 420 times, has NOT been paying attention to politics in America. There is NO good excuse for helping your oppressors continue to oppress you. Clean your consciences some other way. Blaming the LP is too easy.

You know, much has been said lately about all the comings and goings on my page. Yes, it is true that for every "good Republican" who leaves my wall, or I see fit to unfriend or block, there is a Libertarian/libertarian waiting to join us. Some have been waiting patiently a very long time to join. These are the people we need! These are the folks we want! THEY are our base! The ones who see us with all our faults and STILL want to join us. Who are thrilled to find us and rejoice in their new-found political family. So, while we divest ourselves of members who do not really believe as we do, and only seek to change us or discredit us, let's not forget to welcome with open arms those of like mind. When you see someone new, let them know they are wanted, needed and welcome. Remember how you would want to be treated yourself, then, treat them accordingly. You do your party a great service when you do this. Now... have fun and spread the word!

...Lee Wrights is Vice Chair of our national Party.

Three Unspeakable Words

Libertarians around the United States face the challenge of organizing a serious, fully-competitive, major political party. That organizational effort requires satisfying a variety of needs. A major political party needs activists, ballot access, candidates, local, state, and national organization, fund-raising, supportive voters, and **VICTORIES**. Progress on all of these needs must be made simultaneously.

The Libertarian Party cannot hope to match the Republican, Democratic, and Green Parties in toe-to-toe electoral contests until it has the prerequisites for being a major political party:

- **tens of thousands of activists and hundreds of professional campaign advisers,**
- **full ballot access** in every state in the union,

Liberty for America is edited 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. Subscriptions, sent by email to your computer, are free. Back issues of **Liberty for America** magazine are available on the web at <http://LibertyForAmerica.com/LFAMagazine.htm>.

- **a full slate of candidates for every office:** Federal, state, and local
- a complete set of **special-interest groups, PACs, supportive investigative foundations, and think tanks,**
- **millions of registered Libertarian voters,**
- **hundreds of millions of dollars** in campaign funds,
- and **tens of thousands of Libertarians in elective and appointive political office.**

It is totally impossible to develop one of these prerequisites without having made progress on the others. The only path to achieving a Libertarian society is to make progress on every one of these fronts at the same time. Steps that advance progress in the long-term must be understood to be favorable; steps that retard progress must be understood to be unfavorable. What can we do to convince the American public that the Libertarian Party deserves to be recognized as a major political party? With the current number of activists and current financial resources, there are two different ways in which Libertarian Party can compete on even terms with larger parties: we can win local elections; we can run large numbers of Libertarians for higher office. We should do both. Local victories require the right candidates for the right offices. Running large numbers of candidates, so that people become accustomed to seeing Libertarians on the ballot, and so that people become accustomed to seeing Libertarians being quoted in the news media, requires having activists who are willing to sacrifice their time and money to get on the ballot and stand for office.

It is quite challenging to persuade party activists, even those who have given years of their time and thousands of dollars of their money, to sacrifice their spare time for the best part of the year and run for office. Candidates for office sacrifice their privacy. They may have reporters on their doorstep. They are probably required to file detailed descriptions of their financial circumstances. Libertarians, most of who are not interested in seeking political power, find this sacrifice to be especially painful.

Under these conditions, there a few worse things that can happen to Libertarian organization than to have members or visitors pronounce that there are conditions under which Libertarians should not run for office, or should run as a candidate of some other party. The last thing a local or state organization needs is for someone to speak to their potential candidates, note that the potential candidates have one weakness or another, and tell the potential candidates that because of their weaknesses they should not run. It would be nice if every candidate had a campaign manager, a political committee and staff of volunteers, success at fund-raising, astonishingly-attractive physical appearance, and a long record of success in the civic arena by holding local or other office.

There are tens of thousands of Libertarians in the United States. It is possible that a few such paragons of every virtue exist among our numbers. However, most of our potential candidates are not surrounded by thousands of supporters, do not have vast reserves of funds, look like most of their fellow Americans, and have not been politically active for very long. Our candidates

can only offer the electorate principles, wisdom, and a willingness to serve the Republic.

Under these conditions, absolutely *the last thing that the Libertarian Party needs is for someone to wander around Libertarian Party conventions telling prospective candidates "Just don't run!"*, or at least Just Don't Run unless you have a long list of attributes that most Libertarian candidates lack. The advice not to run is undoubtedly well-intended. In some cases, it is based on long experience in running Republicans for Democrats for elective office, often under adverse circumstances. Nonetheless, for a Libertarian group **the advice "Just Don't Run!" is Just Plain Wrong.** Yes, every so often there will be a member who should not be a candidate, at least of our party. Hopefully those events are rare. No rule is absolutely perfect. My rule is written for the penguin flock, not for the solitary crow.

Someday the Libertarian Party will regularly run a candidate for every office. Until then, if we chase away the candidates that we do have, we act primarily to weaken the Party and every one of its candidates. As was clearly demonstrated by the Pennsylvania Libertarian Party activist group, in a newly-emerging political party, higher level candidates ride on the up-draft generated by lower-level political candidates. To strengthen our presidential and Federal and state-wide candidates, nothing is more useful than to be running above slates of state-legislative, County, City, Town, and Ward candidates.

Someday, the Libertarian Party will have regular primaries for every elective office. To bring that day closer, the Libertarian Party needs more members, more money and political campaigns, more activists, more media-spinning think tanks, more candidates, and above all More Victories! Under these conditions, the **three word policy we should never hear** advanced at a Libertarian Party convention **is** the blanket advice to erstwhile candidates **"You Shouldn't Run!"** The advice that almost all of our potential candidates should be getting, is **"Go For It!"** If no one runs, we will surely not have a Libertarian elected to that office."

Do You Need a Lot of Money to Run?

Most Libertarians believe that government generally tends to be inefficient. Why, then, should it surprise us that our Congressmen and legislators are also inefficient in spending money, even on the thing nearest to their hearts, getting re-elected? And Republicans running as Libertarians are no better.

For members of a pro-Liberty coalition, government employee waste and inefficiency in spending campaign funds is very important good news, because it means that pro-Liberty candidates who spend their funds well can get strong positive results, even when they have much less money than their opponents. An article some years ago in the Boston Globe by reporter Michael Kranish reported on details. In summary:

Little of the money given to candidates goes to TV ads, bumper stickers, or the like. If you are running for office, campaign donations can legally be spent on almost anything that improves your election chances, like trips to countries in which your constituents had roots, flowers at funerals, staff salaries, and, of

course, raising more money. In many cases, only 2 or 20% of donations are actually spent on advertising.

A major objective of spending is to scare away potential opponents. Massachusetts has 10 Congressional seats. In 1998, there was a Democrat running for office in each seat. There were Republican challengers in 5 seats, including a primary in the 6th District. The 3rd and 6th Districts also had a third challenger: There is a conservative Independent in the 6th District, and a Libertarian in the Third District.

The Globe cited Congressman Meehan's estimate that an incumbent Congressman needs a half-million dollars to frighten opponents out of running. Meehan has 3/4 of a million in his campaign accounts, and no Republican, Green, or Libertarian opponents. Similarly, Congressman Moakley raised a half-million dollars at one fundraising event, and had no opponents that Fall. Meehan was also co-author of the Shays-Meehan Bill that would make it illegal for private groups -- except the two major parties -- to say in public who should be elected to office, at least for the two months prior to election. Under the law, a private citizen who posts "Elect Jim Smith" to an Internet News Group during the two months prior to an election would be making a campaign contribution, not through the candidate's Campaign Committee, and would be subject to criminal penalties.

The Globe did note some challengers have spent a great deal of money on advertising, citing the case of Congressman Tierney, who in 1996 spent 56% of his funds (nearly \$800,000) on TV ads. Tierney was running against incumbent Congressman Torkildsen, and defeated him by a very narrow margin. Note the effectiveness of spending money efficiently: Tierney was able to use his ad campaign to gain election.

LNC Meets for 2012 ballot access. The Attorney had apparently expected to be paid \$5000 by the Johnson campaign. A motion to spend \$20,000 on supporting candidates in Alaska was postponed indefinitely. Starchild determined that the LPedia.org site is inactive, but is still up. The Executive Committee, following the LNC session, voted \$65,000 for Illinois ballot access.

Starchild moved to have Cloud repay the LNC the money he had been paid. The motion failed for lack of a second. Starchild moved to search for outside meeting space. His motion failed 9-5.

A motion to spend \$50,000 for political advertising in political magazines was rejected 2-13. Olsen and Kirkland voted Yes; there were 13 noes.

Vice Chair Lee Wrights missed his second meeting, was automatically removed from the LNC, and was then reappointed to the LNC by LNC vote.. He was then reappointed to his current committees. In chronological order: Geoff Neale proposed that the Chair get to appoint the chairs of all LNC committees. The motion passed 11-3, with Starchild, Visek, and Lieberman opposed, and Tim Hagan abstaining.

An extensive list of reports were forwarded to Independent

Political Report; links to them appear in the comments on <http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2014/03/Inc-meeting-in-arlington-va-this-weekend/> near the top; a search on <http://www.> should find all of them.

IPR correspond report says that Brett Pojunis is running for National Chair this June. Another correspondent predicts that Rutherford, Knedler, Mattson, and Starr will run. The apparent report from Indiana is that Rutherford would rather stay with the LNCC. Starchild indicates that he will probably not run for National Chair.

LNC Issues DisasterGram

"...fundraising...\$26,000 below budget..." reads the email from Wes Benedict.

The papermail letter reports "...our general fund bank account is critically low." The letter goes on to outline cuts"...withdraw ballot access support from some large states...lay off staff...not be able to finance the purchase of our Libertarian Party Headquarters..."

Floridians Object to Benedict Radio Statement

One of Florida's candidates for the Libertarian gubernatorial nomination, Adrian Wyllie, sent Geoff Neale a vigorous protest over a Wes Benedict interview on a Florida radio station. Wyllie asserts that Benedict claimed that we win a few local offices but for our candidates for statewide and Federal office "what we are doing is trying to influence public policy."

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Benedict is alleged to have said "...I encourage people to get involved in the Republican and Democrat parties and to try to change them."

By report, Neale wisely said he had to hear the full interview first. Starchild sent Wyllie and others a supportive message, one that was also highly critical of LNC plans to spend vast amounts of money on a Headquarters building in Washington. The full texts of the electronic messages as forwarded to us appear in the additional pages attached to the electronic edition of this issue.

Where Your Money Went

Membership in the national party at the end of February was 13,693. Looking back to the end of the year for 2012, 2011, 2012, and 2013, membership ranged from 13468 to 14070 in no particular order. The national party has been quite static in membership for some time now.

While January income was solid, February income was not. As reported from the LNC March meeting Party income for January was \$110,257; for February it fell to \$79,200.

LNC Member and thoughtful watchdog Norm Olsen has reportedly raised issues on 2013 spending with the LNC, notably by writing"

"Some questions with regard to the EOM Financials:

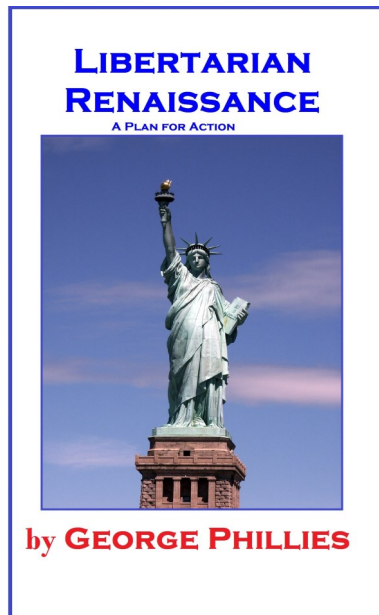
"1. My rudimentary knowledge of accrual accounting and GAAP tells me that, operationally (i.e. sans restricted funds and expenses), in 2013 we spent \$83,082 more than we received. Would the Treasurer please confirm this result in a rather clear definitive manner? I got this number by subtracting what appeared to be restricted funds from the revenue side and restricted fund raising expenses from the expense side. (\$143,404 ? 247,319 + 20,833) Please advise what the real 2013 operational bottom line is.

"2. Our basic source of operating revenue (lines 20 thru 23: generally unrestricted revenues) for 2013 appear to me to be \$177,612.95 less than budgeted. Our 2014 budget is based on increases (8%) in these (now) prior year numbers. Are we not skating on some rather thin ice?

"3. The Chair is rightly concerned about the difficulty of creating and managing special projects. We could not allocate budgetary funds for fighting Top Two because it was not a project. Yet I see budget/revenue/and expense lines for Radio Ad Project and Legal Offense Fund. Is there some double standard in play here? Who gets to create budget lines for projects? Why is it that we can't we have one for fighting Top Two?
Norman T Olsen
Regional Representative, Region I"

Audit Committee Finishes 2012

The LNC Audit Committee has reportedly submitted yet another report. They recommend that the LNC adopt explicit policies on document retention and on whistleblowers. In addition, as forwarded to us they write:



Libertarian Renaissance

George Phillipies has created and published a new edition of the New Path Plan for saving our party.

Libertarian Renaissance is an update of the 2010 edition with new information.

The volume is available on

Amazon Kindle
amazon.com/Libertarian-Renaissance-Essays-Liberty-ebook/dp/B00E1SVGAK and

Smashwords
smashwords.com/books/view/339159

for ninety-nine cents.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF INTERIM REPORT

The 2012 audit is complete and financial statements have been issued.

The LNC's FEC consultant, Paula Edwards, has made recommendations concerning some FEC related issues and stated that she would be available to implement those recommendations after January 31, 2014. We await Treasurer Tim Hagan's report of the outcome.

Mr. Dixon's reimbursed moving expenses are now documented, but staff has not correctly reported them as non-taxable on his W2, though the IRS requires it to be reported.

Payments paid on behalf of Ms. Howell for rental deposits and her friend's airfare in the amount of \$3,723.40 has been recovered from Ms. Howell as of December 31, 2013 and the 2012 financial statements were adjusted accordingly.

Ms. Howell was able to produce receipts supporting \$2,488.24 of the \$3,106.24 of previously undocumented expenses. The remaining \$618.00 has been recovered from Ms. Howell as of December 31, 2013 and the 2012 financial statements were adjusted accordingly.

An analysis of FedEx and UPS shipments made in February and March 2013 revealed that the Party paid for Ms. Howell's personal shipments. We recommend that the LNC direct Ms. Howell to repay the Party an additional \$453.27.

We have provided a draft whistleblower policy for your review.

We have provided a draft document retention policy for your review.

We are commencing with the annual audit of 2013.

Johnson August 2012 Spending

For August 2012 the Johnson 2012 "September" campaign filing reports \$356,406 in income and \$318,329 in expenditures. The income included \$73,692 of Federal Funds and \$282,714 of individual contributions. At the end of the period, Johnson campaign debts were reported to be \$901,699, far greater than the \$175,087 end-of-period debt reported in Johnson's original campaign filing on this period, as made in September 2012. Readers should note that we are reporting on the Johnson FEC disclosure dated February 2013, not the radically different report of September 2012.

Expenditures for the period included \$48,917 to Jonathan Bydlak, \$4435 to Daines Goodwin, \$20,000 to EH2 consulting for Fundraising and consulting, \$2000 to Charles Froman for consulting services, \$86 to Fundly and \$75 to Paypal for Merchant Service Fees, \$229,564 to Political Advisors in Salt Lake City, \$7050 to Zions Bank for Merchant charges, and \$2000 to Wagon Works for fundraising and consulting.

Payments to Jonathan Bydlak discharged campaign debts to Bydlak dating to April-September 2011, including lines 4172, 9491, 9492, 9493, and 9494.

The payment to Daines Goodwin included \$4435 on the new FEC Line 12.47152, showing \$375 still to be paid at the end of the period. This payment covers a current expense.

Payment to EH2 of \$20,000 reduced the debt on line 12.4170 from \$31,166 to \$16,166. This line refers to debts from April-June 2011.

Now the payments to Political Advisors. \$9200 was paid on line 46894, also dating to November 2011, for Travel, staff and candidate \$6209; Ad Placement, web \$688; EMail Marketing Costs \$2474; Miscellaneous/Supplies/Office \$482; Printing \$1235.05.

\$59,542 was paid on line 47119, completely paying it off. Line 47119 from July 2012 originally totalling \$127,493 was identified as

- Ad Placement, web \$2640
- Staff and Candidate Travel \$27,001
- Miscellaneous/supplies/office \$1916
- EMail marketing costs \$6672
- Printing \$62,150
- Vehicles \$2235
- Ballot Access \$15,200
- Mailing \$6159
- Shipping \$1114

\$160,821 was paid against the new line 47153, which had been for \$218,430. Costs on that line included:

- Ad Placement, web \$8241
- Staff and Candidate Travel \$21,245
- Miscellaneous/supplies/office \$5159
- EMail marketing costs \$6620
- General Attorney's Fees \$25,000

- Printing \$37,039
- Vehicles \$6599
- Ballot Access \$81,393
- Mailing \$22,023
- Shipping \$5108

The new Line 47154 for August 2012 totaled \$69,060, including Senior Political Advisor Zero hours for zero dollars; Creative Advertising \$11,250 for 50 hours (\$225.00/hour); Mid-level Management \$600 for 20 hours (\$30/hour); Mid-level Management \$31,157 for 1038 hours (\$30/hour); Mid-level Management \$4800 for 160 hours (\$30/hour); General Clerical Labor \$2860 for 130 hours (\$22/hour) and "Outside subcontracts per agreement" \$18,392.

Payments to prenomination expenses appear to amount to \$78,117, while \$276,000 or so seems to have gone to general election campaign expenses.

Stand Up for Liberty! Second Edition

Yes, I am working on a second, expanded edition.

Introduction What are you reading?

Stand Up for Liberty! discusses political strategy. Political strategy is a tool. Like every other tool, political strategy has a purpose. The purpose of good political strategy is to create conditions under which we win elections. We already win isolated elections now and then. Good political strategy will let us win lots of elections from Maine to Florida to Hawaii to Alaska.

This volume treats Libertarian Political strategy, the strategy I have been discussing for the past two decades. There are any number of fine references on political tactics -- what to do during a single election campaign. There are plenty of books on Libertarian theory -- what Libertarians would do if they took political power. This book focuses on turning "if" into Libertarians won lots of elections and brought the Libertarian future to America."

Strategy prepares the foundation for electoral victory, so when you and your fellow Libertarians all run for office, you win lots of elections. Strategy is about creating an environment in which Libertarians are routinely elected to office. Strategy is about creating an environment in which Libertarian policies routinely go into effect.

Stand Up for Liberty! advocates a particular political strategy for the Libertarian Party. That strategy has been discussed for years. Stand Up for Liberty! is an implementation proposal. Stand Up for Liberty! discusses turning strategic concepts into concrete strategic actions.

Stand Up for Liberty! is not about campaign tactics. If you are running for office right now, this book won't tell you how to win. When you are down in the trenches, it's too late for strategy. It's time for tactics. It's time to press the flesh and get out your vote.

Don't get me wrong. Just because this book isn't about campaign tactics, don't suppose that I am against campaigning. After all, I've done it myself. Running for office is a very important part of the strategy I advocate here. However, there's more to winning the Libertarian future than fielding candidates.

When you play chess, every good move has at least two purposes. When you run for office, your campaign should also have two purposes. It has a tactical purpose: Get you elected! It has a strategic purpose: Build an environment in which Libertarians win! The tactical and strategic purposes of a well-executed campaign never conflict.

How did I get here?

In 1996, I accepted the nomination of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts. I agreed to be their candidate for the United States Senate, running against Republican Bill Weld and Democrat John Kerry. In the end, the Massachusetts Libertarian Party despite my substantial work and investment failed to get me on the ballot.

I learned from my experience. Success demands understanding, targeting, planning, and initiative. If you don't understand where you are, it's hard to know where to go. If you don't target a destination, you'll have no idea which course to set. If you set off with no plan, you're unlikely to get where you were going. If you never take the initiative to start, you'll probably never get anywhere.

Of course, sitting and waiting, eyes and ears closed with no planning, is a strategy. It's even a good strategy if you're a rock and your objective is to help the moss grow. It's not a good strategy if you're a Libertarian and want to reach the Libertarian future during your lifetime.

Real success demands understanding of the objective circumstances of your situation. Before you decide what your situation allows you to do, you need to learn what your situation is. You can't play the game until you learn enough rules. Real success demands targeting, because you must choose your goals for yourself. Real success demands sound planning based on your goals and your objective circumstances. The ship Liberty steers better after a course has been set for her. Finally, success demands initiative. In order to win, you -- yes, you the reader -- need to Stand Up for Liberty! and Make Liberty Happen!

In 1998, I again accepted the nomination of the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts. I agreed to Stand Up for Liberty! and run for the United States Congress in the Massachusetts Third District. This time, I'd studied the situation carefully. I made a sound plan with good safety margins. I took the initiative, rather than waiting for someone else to run me for office.

In the end, I got on the ballot without a glitch. I did the things a serious candidate does: Advertise. Meet voters. Send out press releases. Distribute bumper stickers. I was in a dozen debates against my two opponents. Press coverage reported

"Libertarian is Surprise Winner". Four days before the election, 7PM Eastern Standard Time, our three-way debate from Channel 3 Worcester went out on national television. For a full hour, a million viewers from coast to coast got to compare my Libertarian principles with the stale policies of the Democratic-Republican duopoly.

I knew that winning the race would be extremely challenging. However, in 1998, I had studied the objective situation. I learned enough of the rules of game. I identified my target. I Stood Up for Liberty! and ran for office. My plans executed as expected within the limits of my resources. My vote total more than doubled the vote percentage achieved in my District by our 1996 Libertarian Presidential candidate.

As it happened, I did not win. For us to win consistently requires a new environment, not just a new candidate. As a candidate, I did my bit to move America toward that environment, an environment that supports the Libertarian ideals of freedom, prosperity, and peace. We are not there yet. To reach the Libertarian world in our lifetimes, we must all apply our resources effectively. I wrote this book to show how we might better invest our resources. Stand Up for Liberty! sets out a path to invest our resources and attain our goals.

Stand Up for Liberty! outlines how Libertarians should apply their resources to promote their political philosophy. How can you best invest your time, money, and votes? Like many Libertarians, I want to see a future in which the Libertarian Party and libertarian political philosophy bring the United States to the Libertarian Future of peace, freedom, and prosperity. In Stand Up for Liberty I describe the path for reaching that future.

Am I a Libertarian?

While some people will take good ideas wherever they find them, others worry about their provenance. To some readers, an idea can be no better than its author. What, then, are my Libertarian credentials?

I'm a Libertarian. I want to move America in the direction of far higher respect for the personal liberties of every single American. I have no interest in abolishing government, though I will not complain if someone shows me something that's better in principle and in practice. Nor do I expect that a Libertarian future will be utopia. Our real world is limited by material constraints and human failings. Utopia is only limited by the outer envelope of human imagination.

I expect that a Libertarian future will have difficulties and challenges, many of which we will fail to anticipate before they happen. I also expect that a Libertarian future will have fewer difficulties than the alternatives. I am firmly convinced that "better than the alternatives" is all that really matters. We may not end disease, but a Libertarian future will have fewer obstacles between the sick and new cures. We may not cure poverty, but a poor man in a Libertarian future will enjoy comforts beyond the imagination of our forefathers. We may not end assaults on freedom, but in a Libertarian future government will as its primary duty protect the person, property, and free-

dom of every citizen, not enslave that citizen, destroy her property, and end her liberties.

What are you not reading?

As I type, it's 2014. I am now assembling the second edition of this book. Go to the internet. You can find stacks of books about Libertarian ideas. There are books discussing which ideas a Libertarian must support. There are books explaining how tell if a new idea is really Libertarian at its core. There are even books explaining which ideas a Libertarian cannot possibly support. Some of these books even agree with each other.

Stand Up for Liberty! is not one of those books.

I didn't write this book to tell you what Libertarianism is. If you want to find out what different Libertarians think Libertarianism is, read the Libertarian Party Platform, not to mention books by Boaz, Hayek, Ruwart, and Bovard.

I didn't write this book to convert our country's liberals, populists, and conservatives to libertarianism. I want them to convert, preferably before I pass away, but that's not why I wrote this book.

Nor did I write this book so I could sing hymns at the choir. All too many Libertarians are only expert at preaching the libertarian gospel to the faithful.

If you are one of our country's Democrats or Greens or Republicans, after reading this book you will still be a Democrat or Green or Republican. This book wasn't written to persuade you to change parties. It was written to create political circumstances in which you and your children discover for yourselves, in your own ways, that the Libertarian Party is the Party of the American Dream. It was written to create the political circumstances in which you too will voluntarily choose to Stand Up for Liberty! and Vote Libertarian!

[However, suppose you are a Democrat or Green or Republican. Ask yourself: Where are my party's strategy books? Much more than fifteen years ago, you can find some, not to mention postmortems on what happened in past elections. None the less, ask yourself: Where does my party debate the path to Democratic/Green/Republican victory? What is our plan -- as opposed to this year's fundraising gimmick -- for winning elections? Any number of authors, now in 2014, are advocating Victory by Demography, the promise that control of particular ethnic groups ensures victory. I am old enough to remember several of these positions, notably claims that the Democratic Party had a solid lock on Congress and the White House, based on its rock solid invincible control of the former Confederate States of America and the glorious achievements of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Readers will note that this plan did not withstand the tides of time very well.]

If Libertarian Party members debate strategy, and individual members of your party do not, what does that say about your party's openness? Is your party run by its owners, or by a small

elite? As I write, the Republicans appear to be working on disputing this point for themselves. If Libertarians do more thinking about strategy than your party does, do they think more carefully about their political ideas, too? That question is for another book.

The Libertarian Party has at its disposal a host of armchair strategists and practical campaigners. Many of these people have set out their own ideas on what we should do. I've been heavily influenced by these people in my reading, my conversations, and my EMail exchanges. I claim no monopoly or originality for any idea here. Up to the limits of a faulty memory, the words are mine.

If I appear to see farther than some other Libertarians, it's because like a certain fellow physicist I stand on the shoulders of giants. I acknowledge being influenced by the words and ideas of many fellow Libertarians, not all of whom agree with me, including in alphabetical order Jorge Amador, Jackie Bradbury, John Brickner, Gene Cisewski, Seth Cohn, John Famularo, Dan Fishman, Paul Frankel, Don Gorman, Mike Hihn, Mark Hilginberg, Gail Lightfoot, Jesse Markowitz, Carol McMahon, Chuck Moulton, Ken Peterson, Rob Power, Janice Presser, Gary Reams, Jim Robinson, Nick Sarwark, Bonnie Scott, Michael Sensor, Starchild, Ken Sturz, Wes Wagner, and R. Lee Wrights.

Could I have written Stand Up for Liberty! at less length? Probably. I'm a college professor. I'm long winded. My private employer pays me to be long winded. It's implicit in my job description. If you want to read a condensed version of this book, just be patient. If the demand is sufficient, the market will provide.

So how do we reach the Libertarian future?

Stand Up for Liberty! presents the Local Organization strategy, the path to Libertarian Victory. The core ideas reduce to pat phrases. Implementing the core ideas is a bit more challenging.

In economics, there's no such thing as a free lunch. There's no free lunch at the ballot box, either. If you sit back and wait for someone else to give you free money, you may have a bit of a wait ahead of you. If you sit back and wait for someone else to Stand Up for Liberty! on your behalf, you may have a very long wait indeed. Candidates do not appear on the ballot by magic. They appear because people like you convinced them to run, got them on the ballot, and gave them a serious campaign.

If you want America to move toward the Libertarian future, you yourself need to challenge the Democratic-Republican duopoly party. You need to challenge them in your ward and precinct. You need to challenge them in your town, your county, your state, even in the halls of the Federal Congress.

Not everyone will Stand Up for Liberty! in the same way. Some of you will run for office. Others will donate their time or money. Others will speak up for the cause of freedom, write letters to the Editor, or sound off on the Internet. Only one outcome is certain. If we all sit around and do nothing, if we refuse to Stand Up for Liberty!, the defeat of liberty is assured. Only when we all Stand Up for Liberty!, each in our own way, is there a possibility of Libertarian victory.

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Worcester MA 01609 or email to phillies@4liberty.net

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Liberty for America

Liberty for America is not currently a political party.

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

Editorials

We are Libertarians — For Liberty!

Three Unspeakable Words — Do You Need a Lot of Money to Run?

LNC Meets — LNC Issues DisasterGram
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Libertarian National Committee —Audit Committee Finishes 2012
Johnson August 2012 Spending

In the electronic edition

Geoff Neale and Brent Pojunis Discuss Strategy
Full Texts of Florida and LNC Letters on Wes Benedict

First Class Mail

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

Forwards from the LNC

Several of our sources on the National Committee have forwarded to us extensive reports on what is said to be the Libertarian National Committee's internal correspondence. Much of it as forwarded to us is massively repetitive; LNC members are seemingly fond of reposting the entire thread on which they are commenting, every time one of them comments. Various references in different places lead us to conclude that these forwards are substantially authentic up to electronic features related to transmitting files between different formats.

We begin with a reported exchange between Geoff Neale and Brett Pojunis. We then turn to missives said to be from the Florida LP to the LNC about a radio interview given by Wes Benedict. As always, we are most interested in hearing from people who feel that the messages we believe that we have received accurately are flawed or inauthentic.

Neale Differs with Pojunis, Compares Him with Eli Israel Neale Endorses Priorities of Project Archimedes

Mr. Pojunis,

I am not writing this email as Chair. It's just from me. Since you've been sharing your opinions with both the affiliates and the LNC, I beg the indulgence of both groups for this communication. These opinions are my own, not official LP positions. I'm putting down my Chair hat, and just speaking like a member.

I like you. I think you have many admirable qualities and skills. If I didn't feel this way, I would not have written this communication.

The LP has been around for more than forty years, and I've been involved for more than thirty. That gives me more insight, solely due to experience and memory.

There was a young gentlemen who came onto the scene in the late 90's. He was polished, and smart, and inspired people, just like you. His name was Elias Israel, and he was from Massachusetts. He quickly became chair of the Massachusetts party, and the party grew. He subsequently ran for National Chair in 2002. That was the year I decided to run for Chair. Some of his very prominent supporters urged me to wait a few terms, and my response was "Why? He's got more time to wait than I do." During the campaign, I got to know him pretty well. I liked him. He was the kind of leader we need more of, mostly. I thought the LP would have been in pretty good hands if he won.

His campaign was based upon growth - we must grow. He was right, and the objective is still the right objective. The 2002 Chair campaign was one of the most intensive and expensive campaigns for Chair in our history. I won't disclose how much I spent on this or any list, but the people I've told are dumb-

struck. All I will say is there are people in Alaska who think they can win two state assembly races for less money.

When it came down to the election, I won, and he lost. It doesn't matter why.

Since then, Elias Israel has disappeared from the LP. He took his enthusiasm with him. He took his leadership with him. Is the LP better or worse off from his brief history in the LP? Or was he just a "blip on the radar"? How many of our members don't even know his name?

During that campaign, he showed how the membership in Massachusetts had grown as part of his qualifications. My response to his totally accurate facts was that I had done the same in Texas, but at much lower costs. All substantiated facts.

Not one person in the LP ever asked me how I could match his growth rates with much less money, and I never volunteered, because it was not to my advantage. The reason why was that neither of us really had much to do with it. The growth in the Massachusetts and Texas parties was due mostly to Project Archimedes, which was a direct mail membership solicitation program. It was the number one reason why we both grew so much. The reason we both grew at a higher rate than the average affiliates was because we both had active state parties that were able to leverage those new members.

Project Archimedes was a project of the LNC. It added thousands and thousands of members to National and the affiliates. During that time period, the overwhelming majority of new affiliate members came from this project - from the LNC.

During the term of James Lark (2000-2002), and my term (2002-2004), the LP was hit with some really bad situations. 911. Anthrax. BCRA. Overspending. In short, within a brief period of time, our financial situation worsened so much that Project Archimedes became a now distant memory. Since then, we've spent very little money on prospecting - growing our membership - and our numbers show what happens when you stop prospecting.

Many formerly strong affiliates nearly disappeared. Some survived, some even thrived. For our entire LP history, affiliates have risen and fallen, some more than others, some higher and deeper than others. None of that was really due to what the LNC did or didn't do, with the exception of Project Archimedes. Like the proverbial high tide, it raised all the boats.

How many truly strong affiliates do we have in the entire country? There are some that have been consistent for decades. They rise and fall, but they don't shut down and disappear. Most are not. Many have had dramatic shifts. The LNC chose Atlanta for the 2004 Convention partly because of the dynamic Georgia LP - at the time we chose the site. By the time 2004 rolled around, we couldn't even find a handful of volunteers. Now Georgia is once again strong, and I hope they continue their growth.

Enough. My points are:

1). The number one thing that the LNC can do is grow the LP, NOT to fund affiliate candidates - that means members and donors first. After all, doesn't it make sense that raising funds from 30,000 is easier than from 15,000? With more affiliate members, the affiliates get more donors, volunteers, candidates, leaders, etc. Perhaps the affiliate gets large enough to thrive, if leaders emerge.

2). The reason why donors give to the LNC is because they want to. Only about 25% of our funds come from "basic dues". The rest is discretionary, and often targeted to specific purposes.

3). If the number one priority of the LNC becomes supporting the affiliates financially, through "handouts", then I for one will reduce my donations to the LNC, because I want to choose which affiliates I support, not put it into some fund like the Federal Highway Fund, where I get to pay for the "Big Dig" while driving on crappy roads. I will give more to Texas, and whoever else I choose. So will many other donors.

4). I am strongly in favor of offering whatever support infrastructure I can for the affiliates, but FEC rules make many things, like collecting affiliate dues, fundraising on behalf of affiliates and their state and local candidates, illegal.

5). Nothing the LNC can do will inject leadership into the affiliates. We are required to respect their sovereignty. But we can increase the pool from which to find their leaders.

6). The National Party is relatively stable, especially when compared over 40+ years with the affiliates. Many donors give to the LNC because they know it will still be here in two years.

7). To a huge number of LP members, there is no functional affiliate. For these LP members, the LNC is the LP.

8). The affiliates and the LNC are competitors for our members money. There's nothing wrong with that. However, it is my position that staff and the LNC should never denigrate the affiliates. If we can't say something good, don't say anything at all. The affiliates are not similarly constrained. If you and others get some kind of enjoyment out of slapping someone who will not slap back, go ahead.

9). You are both an affiliate chair, and an LNC member. While I might think the LNC members are stupid when they don't do what I want, and might even share that opinion with friends, I publicly recognize that my failure to convince the LNC of my proposals is my failure to sell the proposal, not their failure to see my perspective. Or maybe I'm just plain wrong sometimes.

10). Some changes are best made by people with patience, and sometimes small victories are better than glorious defeats. Leading the troops into battle is an admirable quality, but the boring job of recruiting, training, arming and feeding the troops, combined with the proper choice of the grounds of battle, improves the odds of winning the battle dramatically. Sometimes it is better to spend your money on more guns than to spend your troops on glory. But patience should never be-

come cowardice.

11). There is a fine line between optimism and delusion. All LP members need to be cautious of that line, and especially avoid jumping thirty feet over that line. Believing that we can beat an entrenched political system is good - broadcasting that we WILL beat an entrenched political system without adequate support is not.

12). In order to spend on either affiliate support or prospecting, we need available funds to do so. At this time, the choice does come down to grow the party, or support local races, because we do not have the funds to do both. Short-term, it sounds good to support candidates, but we're eating our seed corn.

Some of these conclusions I have come to are more than a little saddening, but they honestly represent what I think.

I did not want to attend the last National Convention. The only thing that stopped me from quitting entirely, and dedicating myself solely to the Texas LP, was that I'm a life member, and I think repudiating life membership needs to be reserved for something more egregious than disappointment. The last term of the LNC just astonished me. The highlight for me was giving \$50,000 for a losing campaign, when we could have used the same funds to add 1,000 members through prospecting. The only reason I came to the convention was because my wife, Nancy, agreed to be part of a team that stepped in and pull it off.

The one thing that turned me back to hopeful was the number of people who voted for NOTA. I learned then just how many shared my disappointments. It turns out I stuck around when I should have, instead of quitting when I wanted to.

This really boils down to one personal question from me to you:

Are you just another Elias Israel, full of promise, who will leave the LP and be forgotten if you don't get your way, or are you with the LP for the long haul, no matter how long the fight, no matter how low the odds, no matter what?

Geoffrey Neale

Pojunis is reported to have responded to Neale, including a very interesting state party two-year plan:

From Brett H. Pojunis
Date: Sun, 16 Feb 2014

Geoff,
I will follow suit and take the LNC and State Chair hat off for this response. First off, I feel this communication could have been accomplished through a phone call to me or a private message.

I have not made up my mind if I am going to seek an LNC position next term. I need to make a decision as to whether my time is better spent growing the Libertarian Party of Nevada or participating on the National Committee. Furthermore, I have an

exploratory committee established and we are conducting an indication of interest for me running for office. I can't do everything and I will need to make some decisions here soon.

When I recruited and worked with the Slate of candidates to run for the LP Nevada Executive Committee with me, I needed them all to make a promise to help shape our culture and our attitude on growing the party; *everything is possible, everything is achievable and past Libertarian performance will not dictate our future. Failure is good, as long as we learn from it, and if we fail it is because we didn't work hard enough. Never view the Libertarian Party as inferior, especially to the other parties. The Executive Committee does not tell me what can't be done, we find solutions to make it happen. I do not care that we are the 3rd largest party in Nevada, we are going to be the largest party in Nevada. *I believe in what we are doing and everyone around me believes that Nevada will be a Libertarian State. This is our attitude and I do not want people to be negative. We are a start-up company and we are treating it as such.

Last weekend we held our state convention and hosted the first Clark County Sheriff Debate. We had 4 of the 5 candidates participate and *Sheriff Richard Mack* as the Moderator. We had EVERY MAJOR MEDIA outlet in attendance. Here is the Neilson report:

Total Nielsen Audience: 265,907
Total Run Time: 4:42
Total Calculated Ad Equivalency: \$6,882
Total Calculated Publicity Value: *\$20,646*

Had I listened to conventional Libertarian wisdom, I would have accepted that Media will never cover us and the candidates wouldn't show up. I'm glad I didn't, this was a huge success! This has motivated our members to get more involved and encouraged more people to run for office. I have a blog post going out about this on Monday and it will be included in our next newsletter.

I reviewed your points and we are simply going to have to agree to disagree on most of it. I will not accept failure nor will I promote it. Our membership numbers are down, our fundraising is down, and we are not capitalizing on the Libertarian momentum!

I wanted to get involved on the National level to assist in 3 areas which if executed properly will have a trickledown effect in Nevada (as well as all states):

1. Better communication, branding and marketing.
2. Increase our fundraising activities.
3. Develop and utilize technology to build the party which includes technology infrastructure for National and the affiliates (voluntarily of course) and providing clean (updated) data.

As many people know I have not sat back, I have taken action. I have some successes and failures and I am not afraid to fail! I will not give up, I will continue to be resolute while trying new things until something works. What sickens me is the amount of time I invest in projects just for the LNC to vote it down *without understanding* what I am proposing. We need to

venture outside of our comfort zone and explore new things. I will not accept the "this is what we have always done" mentality. Lastly, *I do not celebrate our mediocrity*.

I don't want to address each of your points, but I will tell you that Nevada doesn't want a dime from National we are capable of doing things on our own. Alaska is a unique situation and I feel strongly that we should support their efforts. Here is my question, *what has the National Party done this term?* I think that supporting Alaska would be a good start in our efforts to provide affiliate support because we haven't done much, if anything other than ballot access.

There is no reason that the National party shouldn't provide training and support for affiliates. As mentioned before, I didn't receive a magical handbook on how to be a state chair when I was elected. As a matter of fact, I received nothing and our team needs to figure this out on our own. I really wish there was a how to guide for growing an affiliate. National can help all affiliates by providing institutional knowledge, I know we would use some of it in Nevada.

You are right, the National party is relatively stable, but stable isn't how you change the political landscape of this country by achieving growth. I feel the main difference between me and most people are that I will pull the trigger. I take calculated risks, but I pull the trigger.

We need the culture of National leadership to be more entrepreneurial. The rest of the LP looks to the LNC for leadership, if we don't provide it the weaker affiliates will fail. I do not believe in a top down approach, just top down support which is voluntary for the states.

I guess we will see how the Libertarian Party of Nevada does and then compare and contrast against National and other states. At the end of the day we are all in this fight together therefore, we need to start working together better.

You asked if I would be another Elias Israel. I don't know this gentlemen, but based on what you mentioned about it the answer is no.

I have dedicated my life to the LP. I am probably the only full time Chairman in the country. I personally fund our office, operations, staff, and just about anything else that we need. I left a career where I was making a lot of money and I have liquidated all my assets to invest in the party. I got rid of my Mercedes, the condo in West Palm Beach, FL, the apartment in New York City and significantly downsized my house in Las Vegas to bring my expenses down so I can afford to be a full time Libertarian. To say I have made financial and personal sacrifices is an understatement. I am in the office 7 days a week usually from 10am until 10pm and then I work from my home office for a few more hours each night.

My dedication stems from my wanting to be an elected Libertarian and I am willing to do whatever it takes to make this happen. I don't need to tell fellow Libertarians how messed up our country is, we are the only hope for the America. So no, I will

not be Elias Israel.

P.S.

Here is the first communication to the LPNevada membership:
<http://lpnevada.org/blog/item/154-letter-from-the-chair-building-the-libertarian-party-of-nevada-two-year-game-plan>

Letter from the Chair - Building The Libertarian Party of Nevada: Two-Year Game Plan

[image: Letter from the Chair - Building The Libertarian Party of Nevada: Two-Year Game Plan]<http://lpnevada.org/media/k2/items/cache/b6d7090a321aeca0f529ab265a288b1b_XL.jpg

Dear Libertarians and Friends of Liberty,

I am honored to write you as the new Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Nevada! The leadership of the Libertarian Party of Nevada (LPNevada) have watched the momentum swing in our favor for some time now, and we have been developing a sustainable model to capitalize on this historical shift in modern politics.

Historically the Libertarian Party has been ineffective in Nevada politics and failed influencing public policy into a more Libertarian direction. The Libertarian Party has not performed the basic functions of a political organization such as getting Libertarians elected, raising the necessary funds to build a strong organization and communicating the Libertarian message. The first step in solving a problem is identifying that there is one. Stated plainly, the Libertarian Party has not proved to be a viable option for Nevada voters.

With that said, since the state convention the newly elected leadership has been working overtime to change this by building a strong foundation and infrastructure to significantly grow the Libertarian Party in Nevada. Additionally, our goal is to provide a viable alternative to the broken 2-party political system and demonstrating the Libertarian Party is the answer.

Benjamin Franklin said "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." LPNevada leadership has very aggressive, yet obtainable goals and a plan to dramatically grow the Libertarian Party in Nevada. In order to achieve our goals, we need to utilize all assets and resources available while continuing to build our war chest for the battles to come.

Over the next *two years* we are planning to accomplish the following:

1. *Fundraising.* The LPNevada will significantly increase our fundraising activities over the next two years. Over the past few months we have developed the infrastructure to drastically change how we fundraise.

During this time we realized a few very important things. Notably, Libertarians are more than happy to financially support the Party and the advancement of Liberty, but we simply do not ask our members for donations! To compete against the other parties and win, we must have the resources to do so, and every donation will help us achieve our goals.

1. Please visit our Contribute page www.lpnevada.org

contribute <<http://lpnevada.org/contribute>> and support us today!

2. *Increased Membership & Leaders.* The LPNevada needs more members to build a sustainable foundation. We have secured professional membership database tools (CRM) and other technologies to streamline our operations to effectively manage our membership. As we continue to grow, more leadership roles will be available throughout the state and within the counties. In addition, we will provide the training and support to nurture individuals who seek a leadership role so we can thrive as a party. We will utilize data to effectively market to new members and turn registered Libertarians into active members while attracting new ones. Please visit our Help Wanted page www.lpnevada.org/help to see which leadership positions available you are interested in and apply today!

3. *Increased Communications.* With the launch of our new website www.LPNevada.org <<http://www.lpnevada.org/>>, our social media strategy and the first issue of this newsletter, we are setting out on a path to establish strong communications with our membership, media and the general public.

Please connect with us through social media by visiting our social media page www.lpnevada.org/social <<http://www.lpnevada.org/social>>.

Please forward this newsletter to a friend, refer them to the official website and introduce them to our social media accounts.

4. *Candidate Recruitment & Training.* During the last election cycle, we did poorly recruiting Candidates to run for office, we must do better in the future. LPNevada is dedicated to attracting a large number of Candidates and we will do this by providing the tools and support they need to win. In addition, we need to give Candidates the assurance that they are not running for office on their own. Furthermore, we would like to invest time and resources in serious Candidate and leadership training. Currently, we have invested in technology and data which is available for all qualified Candidates which will help aid in their campaign. We must continue to build support for our Candidates as they are the lifeblood of an organization.

1. If you are interested in running for office or learning more about it, please visit our Candidate page www.lpnevada.org/candidates <<http://www.lpnevada.org/candidates>>

2. Please visit our new Elected and Appointed office database at run.LPNevada.org <<http://run.lpnevada.org/>> to learn more about the offices available.

3. If you are not ready to run, or would be interested in volunteering on a campaign, please visit our Get Involved page www.lpnevada.org/get-involved <<http://lpnevada.org/get-involved>> fill out our Volunteer Form.

5. *County Party Support & Development.* Politics are won and effected at the local level! LPNevada understands this, which is why there is a strong emphasis on establishing new County Parties. We will provide training and support for the counties to help them grow and sustain.

1. We need local leadership, if you are interested in starting a County Party, please visit the County Party page www.lpnevada.org/about/county and fill out the form to get started.

Historical Notes From Your Editor

6. *Additional Office Space.* LPNevada will need to expand its operations to keep up with continued growth. Additional office space will enable us to mobilize more easily throughout the state and is crucial to getting more organized. Current headquarters are located in Las Vegas, visit the contact us page for more information.

7. *Additional Staff Members.* Other major political parties in Nevada have full time staff members to advance their party, we need to do the same! We love our volunteers, but in order to be competitive, we need to bring in full time and part time staff members who eat, breathe and sleep the Libertarian Party. As we continue to grow our staff, there will be a direct result in additional members, candidates and votes. We also need to give support teams the help they need, manage and answer any questions volunteers may have, recruit Interns, and be available to assist new and returning members.

8. *Statewide Marketing & Advertising Campaigns.* We have a winning message, but even the best products/services need promotion and distribution. LPNevada will organize significant outreach programs and fun and exciting state wide campaigns. As we get more and more people talking to one another, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. We intend to target certain demographics, such as unaffiliated voters (registered voters without a party affiliation) and new voters (first time voters).

Our ability to make an impact will be a direct result of how much money we can raise. Please support this effort by visiting our Contribute page*www.lpnevada.org/contribute* <<http://lpnevada.org/contributeand> help us today!

9. *Coalition Building.* LPNevada must work with and leverage all organizations within the Liberty Movement. We have already started building relationships with different coalitions throughout the U.S. and Nevada who share our values. Together we can accomplish more than we can alone!

Throughout Nevada we know many voters are Libertarian, they just don't know it yet! These individuals share our views and agree with our principles, but they probably don't know about the Libertarian Party or that we represent their interests and values. Alternatively, we might have turned off potential members due to lack of professionalism and we need to earn back their trust and confidence.

There is no doubt there are challenges ahead, nonetheless our two-year game plan is achievable but we need our membership involved. To summarize, get the support, get the candidates, win the elections, and watch the party grow. That's the plan.

I see a strong future for the Libertarian Party in Nevada and together we will make history! I look forward to serving as your Chairman and I applaud the efforts of the new Executive Committee for participating in this venture.

Sincerely,
Brett H. Pojunis, Chairman
Libertarian Party of Nevada

In 2002 I was the third candidate for National Chair. I was also Eli Israel's lead opponent inside Massachusetts, given the way he and Carla Howell had in my opinion mismanaged the State Party's resources.

There were people interested in how Israel spent so much money without getting better growth rates. The answer is how Massachusetts money was spent before I got onto our State Committee. As Geoff noted to me at the time, if you worked through the LPMass financial reports, it was hard to avoid the observation that Israel and his cronies had managed to spend over \$40,000 on one state convention. There were large fund raising efforts at the state convention 'to support our candidates'. Thousands and thousands of dollars were raised. Candidates saw at most a pittance of this amount. All the money that had been raised to support candidates went into covering Convention losses--and failing to do so. I am convinced that if State Party money had been spend well, LPMass would have done far better, but that is not what happened.

With respect to Israel's departure from the party, on one hand I gave him and his cronies detailed coverage in the pages of my old newsmagazines Let Freedom Ring!/CMLC Liberator. On the other hand, Israel had a strong disagreement with others in the party about potential American military involvement in the Middle East. The traditional Libertarian position on foreign military involvements did not match his; I am told by mutual friends that he stated to them that he was leaving the party over our position on foreign military alliances.

Finally, Geoff mentions the very influential people who urged him not to run in 2002. Who were Israel's prominent supporters? The most prominent, the man who stood on the podium and begged delegates to vote for Israel, was Harry Browne. Israel's campaign leadership included Michael Cloud. A number of those of us from Massachusetts who watched this menage pass through the 2002 National Convention were firmly convinced that we were watching for 2002-2004 a planned repeat of 1998-2000. In 1998 David Bergland was elected National Chair, with the obvious support of many of Browne's people. Bergland's activities in 1998 -2000, and the activities of the LNC staff he promised in his campaign to install, were viewed in this quarter as having been beneficial to the Browne 2000 nominating campaign, a beneficence that other quarters were denied. You can read the details in my book *Funding Liberty*. Come 2002, and it appeared that the working plan was to install Eli Israel as National Chair, with the presumption that the nomination of Carla Howell as our 2004 Presidential candidate would have been facilitated. But that's not what happened.

LP Florida Differs with Wes Benedict

We cover here a reported exchange between prominent LP Florida members and the National Committee. From Adrian Wyllie:

Friday, January 31, 2014 11:01 PM

To: Geoffrey Neale
Wes Benedict undermining Florida candidates

Geoff,

I can't articulate how furious I am with Wes Benedict's interview today on WTAN in the Tampa Bay market. Here in Florida, we have made incredible strides toward being on equal footing with the two major parties. Wes severely undermined our efforts to win elections and grow the LPF.

Lucas Overby, Libertarian Candidate for the special election for FL CD-13, will be in a nationally-televised debate on Monday, along with the Republican and Democrat candidate. As far as I know, this is the first time IN U.S. HISTORY that a Libertarian Congressional candidate has been included in a nationally televised debate alongside the Republican and Democrat.

The Libertarian Party should be shouting this fantastic news from the rooftops.

Yet, the executive director of the national party was interviewed on a radio show located right in the middle of FL CD-13 three days before the debate...and he does not even mention our candidate's name.

Not once.

Nor did he mention my campaign for Governor. Nor did he mention Bill Wohlsifer for attorney general. Nor did he mention Randy Taylor for state house. Nor did he mention Tony Caso for state senate. Nor did he mention Jack Harris for county commission.

All of whom are Libertarian candidates who will be on the ballot within the listening area of WTAN. All of those candidates would have benefited from the additional publicity.

Instead, Wes cut all of us off at the knees.

He said, "We win some small local offices, but when we run for Governor or Congress or President, what we are doing is trying to influence public policy." He followed up by saying, "We [the LP] have been stagnant for 10 years...I encourage people to get involved in the Republican and Democrat parties and to try to change them."

This is absolutely intolerable. His remarks are completely contrary to EVERYTHING that the LPF has been fighting so hard to achieve.

In Florida, we run candidates to win elections. In Florida, we tell people to join the LP, not the Republican and Democrat parties.

Prior to you re-hiring Wes as Executive Director, I had contacted you privately to express my concerns with Wes, and voice my strong support for Carla. Carla understands that the purpose of a political party is to win elections. Wes does not.

If this is your idea of help, then we do not need you. Unless the LNC is willing to actually materiel support to grow the party and help our candidates achieve victory, then stay the hell out of Florida.

Sincerely,
Adrian Wyllie

Adrian,

Please do not consider the brevity of this response to be dismissive - it is not. I am taking your email seriously.

Given what you have written, I think that I should listen to the interview in its entirety before I say or do anything further. I checked the WTAN website, but could not find any reference to it. Can you send a wav file or its equivalent to me?

Geoffrey Neale

Starchild, responding to a parallel message from the LP Florida State Treasurer, wrote

Danielle,

Thank you in turn for your thoughtful response. I actually find much in your message that I do agree with. Fighting not only to elect candidates, but on other issues such as opposing surveillance by drones and red light cameras, closing down government boards. Working to change the conversation *and* change the course of government.

Your concern with how national is spending the party's funds, including too much of our resources going to overhead such as the cost of buying a professional type office in the D.C. area is one I share. A bare-bones activist workspace with lots of space for meetings and events and such would serve our needs better and leave more funds to put directly into getting the libertarian message out. But as Geoff Neale likes to point out, I do not speak for the LNC, and am only sharing my own perspective. It is not too late to potentially stop the LP from spending an estimated \$30,000 in additional money on top of the purchase price of the building we're looking at in Alexandria for "improvements" such as building individual offices for senior staff instead of using the existing open floor plan, but if local LP members like yourself don't speak out against it, I'm afraid this will also proceed.

If you or any other LP donors do not feel your dues money is being well spent by national, then by all means keep it at the local level and use it more frugally. The Libertarian Party should not be a "pay to play" party with voting rights in the organization dependent upon sending your checks to Washington. That being said, I do think 50-state ballot access benefits all of us and is a goal it makes sense to coordinate at the national level and to some extent fund via a national effort that devotes more resources to some states than others, since the burdens and obstacles facing the LP in different states are so unevenly distributed. (I say this as an activist in California, another state where we've long had ballot access up until the recent

"Top Two" debacle and have not needed outside help to fund signature-gathering to get the party's presidential ticket on the ballot here.) But individual donors should have the freedom to choose, via crowdfunding, which national Libertarian priorities and efforts they want to support.

We can also agree on the need for better communication. I've been similarly frustrated in the past as a local LP leader when I've learned from other sources about events planned by national in the San Francisco area about which we had not been consulted or informed. Perhaps Wes Benedict did not have much advance notice that he would be doing this interview -- sometimes that is the case -- but whenever possible, I think the LNC and staff should give state and local LP leaders the heads-up as early as possible, and get their input when planning something in their area.

My perception both as a local activist and now as a member of the LNC has been that our national headquarters has often had inadequate communication with Libertarians fighting in the trenches. This is not a new problem or one for which much blame can be fairly laid on Wes Benedict, imho, but an ongoing issue that requires structural reform to make the party's leadership more transparent and our national operations more participatory. Think tanks can often do effective work as top-down enterprises, but political parties and movements must be bottom-up and engage their ordinary participants in more than just passively writing checks or serving as foot soldiers in campaigns planned by others.

Nothing I say should be interpreted as favoring anything less than a full victory for freedom. Those of us with reservations about placing too much emphasis on the need to "win" in conventional terms at the expense of other considerations are not against winning. We simply don't want to be too consumed by a need to win small battles on dubious terms and consequently lose the war.

Love & Liberty, starchild)))

At-Large Representative, Libertarian National Committee

[The original message that Starchild answered had reportedly read](#)

On Sat, Feb 1, 2014 at 1:39 AM, LP of Florida Treasurer Danielle Alexandre reportedly wrote the LNC, as reposted on the LNC Discuss list

LNC Executive Committee,

Today, I was tuning into a local radio show, I was very interested that Wes Benedict was going to be his call in guest. This of course being the same market that is heard in the district of our congressional candidate Lucas Overby, who is running in the special election on March 11th. The same seat currently held for 43 years by Republican Bill Young. The same campaign that against all odds, raised over \$10,000 in 72 hours to be on the ballot. The same campaign that has been featured nationally on Ben Swann and received a amount of local media attention. The same campaign that has been invited to be an equal in the debate with his Republican and Democrat challengers on MONDAY in the nationally televised debate (a first

for a Libertarian congressional candidate it would seem, as I research it).

Instead of praising the efforts in Florida, our party and our candidates, Wes Benedict went on to say that Libertarians are only there to "change the conversation" when they run in bigger state races and congressional candidates. Is this really the attitude that our political party has towards our candidates?

Libertarian candidates give up their entire life for 1 ... sometimes 2 years, spending every free moment reaching out to voters. They work tirelessly to bring people the Libertarian message, grow our party and win elections to bring about the change so desperately needed in our government and country. And here our own executive director is in the district of one of our candidates telling voters essentially "don't vote for him, he is not a serious candidates."

This behavior is disgusting. That a candidate's own party would say such a thing on the radio in the district that they are running for. I have spoken to Wes and voiced my concerns but he seemed not only uninterested but combative. He seemed to think it was more important to point out that I did not donate to the national party or imply that I somehow do not do enough to help our candidates then address the actual issue. Why would I donate to the national party? What benefit would that be? To send money to another state to get ballot access while my own candidates are treated with disdain? My money is much better spent here in Florida and for our candidates and campaigns.

This may be par for the course with the national party but I can assure you that in Florida we are working to win. We are not "changing the conversation." We are working to change the course of our state. Legislatively we have written and gotten passed key pieces of legislation to protect our rights and bring about a freer society. We run excellent candidates who can win. Lucas is one of them.

While the national LP should be excitedly telling people around the country about Lucas and his continued media coverage, invitation to the debate and strategic ground campaign and phone banking, the executive director was speaking in his district undermining all of the work his campaign team has been doing. Wes has made an incredible sound byte for his opponents to replay over and over in commercials and radio spots within the district. The message of "This is what his own party thinks of him. Why vote for him?" has been set up perfectly by Wes Benedict.

Florida does not ask for anything from National. We do not need you for ballot access. We don't ask for any resources. Frankly, we don't need you but I'll be damned if any person on the LNC thinks they will come into our state and start damaging our efforts or worse...our candidates. It is reprehensible.

I had a lot of hope for the national LP when I met Carla Howell and saw the vast improvement she brought to the party. It is shameful that all of her hard work and progress is being de-meant by bringing Wes back for this position.

If the national LP is not interested in winning elections, they should join the Mises Institute or some other think tank. We are a political party and it is about time you start acting like it. Or at least stay out of Florida. You have proved to not only be useless but downright destructive.

Your Friend in Liberty,
Danielle Alexandre
Treasurer