

Liberty for America

March 2015

Oregon Issues Rise From Dead

Readers who thought the disputes over Oregon, other than the nearly inevitable decision of the Oregon party this April to disaffiliate from the national party, may be surprised to learn that an effort has been launched to move an aspect of the Oregon matter to the national party Judicial Committee. The group in question, working under the name LP Integrity, has a Facebook page and a petition to the Judicial Committee. The petition text as seen on Facebook reads:

“PETITION TEXT

On June 29, 2014, the Libertarian National Committee met in Columbus, Ohio. A point of order was raised that no action of the LNC may alter or conflict with any decision made by the delegates assembled in convention. The motion conflicting with the decision of the delegates was ruled in order, despite the point of order. The decision was appealed. The LNC voted 7-6 to sustain the ruling.

This decision of the LNC that it has the power to overturn decisions of the delegates assembled in convention must be overturned by the Judicial Committee. It is a dangerous precedent that must not be allowed to stand. The delegates assembled in convention must remain the ultimate authority of the Libertarian Party. We, by having clicked Like on this Facebook page, declare our support for and by this action sign this petition to the Judicial Committee of the Libertarian Party to overturn the decision of the LNC sustaining the ruling upholding this illegal motion.”

The petition organizers say that they are looking for support and propose that clicking the “like” button on the Facebook page will qualify as a signature.

You can go to <https://www.facebook.com/lpintegrity/timeline> to “endorse” it. Sympathies to the JudComm members who must decide if Facebook likes are valid.

The interesting part of the petition is its extreme brevity. There are no detailed references to the Rules Of Order. The actual motion being challenged is not given. You have to go to the minutes and find the fortunately unique motion that passed 7-6. There is no specification as to which of the many actions of the delegates is here being claimed to conflict with the motion, which in any event was defeated. In fact there is no specification of which convention is involved in the issue.

An astute reader might propose that the core issue here is not an action of the 2014 convention but is instead the decision of the 2012 convention to seat the Reeves faction as the legitimate

delegates from Oregon. With this interpretation, the Judicial Committee might rule that the delegates in convention assembled have ruled that the Reeves faction is the legitimate Oregon party, and no contrary action by any part of the National Committee including itself can be valid. Readers who find this extension from a fairly seemingly trivial parliamentary point to a major decision might wish to consider the Dred Scott decision, in which the question of whether or not Dred Scott was or could be an American citizen was used to eliminate the Missouri compromise, thereby substantially ensuring that there would be a War Of The Slaveholders' Rebellion.

Where Your Money Went

LSLA Spends Its Funds

The Libertarian State Leadership Alliance emerged from the 2014 convention with a quite substantial treasury, variously reported as being in the range \$8000-\$14,000. The LSLA treasury is now under \$500. What happened? It seems that the LSLA gave most of its money to Brett Pojunis to do front-end development on the scheduled Libertarian Expo to be held in Nevada in a few months. It appears that the LSLA has no contract with the people running the Expo, has nothing promising that the money will be paid back, but may have opportunities to do fundraising at the Expo. We are led to understand that the motion to hand most of the money in the LSLA treasury over to LPEX was undertaken at their January meeting with supporting votes by LSLA officers Vice Chair Vest, Treasurer Love, and Secretary Weinman.

We understand that Wes Benedict has circulated a letter to State Chairs asking what was going on with LPEX. He reportedly asked such questions as:

“Are you going?

How many from your state do you expect to go?

Do you plan to have your state party email your state database about this?

Do you mind if LPHQ sends emails to promote this?

I don't understand the financing for this project. I'll be asking Brett to explain a bit more about it in writing to the state chairs and the LNC. If turnout is low, is the LSLA at risk financially? If turnout is great, does the LSLA benefit? Who else is at risk? My understanding it that there is and should be no financial risk to the Libertarian National Committee. I'm not certain where I read it or about the amounts, but I think I've read that the LSLA has already contributed around \$7,000 for this event.”

LSLA minutes for a recent meeting say of LPEX “American Majority are going to be our lead training partner, hosting about 5 workshops. NPRI has signed on for both training and sponsorship. We've signed a number of elected officials. Bob McNulty has signed on.” For those of you curious about the names, American Majority says of itself “American Majority is a nonprofit organization that provides political training to **conservative activists** and candidates in state and local elections.”. The Nevada Policy Research Institute says of itself that it is “a free-market think tank that seeks private solutions to public challenges facing Nevada, the West and the nation. The Institute's primary areas of focus are education and fiscal policy, with the goal of advancing free-market principles in both.” Brett Pojunis has asked in an email for help finding

pro-Liberty Democrats, a positive change from some past libertarian events: “We have quite an impressive roster of speakers/panelists comprised of elected officials from Nevada (updating the website tomorrow with the new additions). The problem with Nevada is other than Harry Reid and DIna Titus, every major politician is Republican! We really need to get more Democrats. Would any of you mind making introductions to Democrat Senators and Congressmen/ Congresswomen you have relationships with. Perhaps the National office could help with their contacts as well? Liberty minded elected officials are preferred, however, if they are good in one particular area we agree with them on I will setup a panel around a few of them.”

Libertarian National Committee

LNC income for January came to \$90,494. Of this, fundraising costs came to \$12,130. However the national party only spent \$51,803 on anything other than fundraising, so they actually ran a surplus of \$26,561. The national committee budget called for raising \$107,608 in January, and spending just under \$76,000 on programs. The LNC is thus running a surplus in January by massively reducing the size of its programs, down to the rate of approximately \$600,000 per year. In contrast the budgeted total for the year for program expenses was \$920,000.

As slightly brighter news, national party sustaining membership increased from January to February, namely from 11,902 to 11,988. The increase was primarily driven by the drop in the number of sustaining members who expired, namely from 863 to 619. The number of new members and renewals each stayed roughly the same, namely from 126 to 111 new members, and from 586 to 594 renewals. Readers should realize that people often do not renew precisely in the month which they expired, and therefore a single-month comparison of expirations and renewals can become confusing.

Where State Money Goes

Wes Benedict has assembled a list of states that are paying staff members. The list includes:

State affiliate Executive Directors:

1. Louisiana - Wendy Adams
2. Minnesota - Andy Burns
3. North Carolina - Brad Hessel

Other paid state-level staff:

1. Indiana - Alyssa Salgado, Business Manager
2. California - Beau Cain, Office Manager

Jake Porter Launches New News Site

Libertarian Jake Porter of Iowa has launched a new Libertarian News site. He writes: We have built a website that I hope will allow Libertarians to form local groups and hold local events without the limitations of Facebook or the cost of Meetup.com. It will also share news and opinions on the Libertarian Party and our candidates. I am in the process of adding old party files onto the website. <http://libertarianrally.com/>

Outright Libertarians Image Creates Controversy

First, the image:



if your screen resolution does not let you read the bottom line, the bottom line links the image to OutrightUSA.org. People who were supporters of Paul the elder and Paul the younger at least in some states complained at some length that the image had been forwarded to one of the Libertarian party Facebook pages. After a considerable amount of complaining, the image was removed from the page because it was creating controversy rather than drawing the attention of the body politic to the misfortunate nature of leading candidates for President of the Democratic and Republican Party. We have seen what we believe to be highly reliable reports that prior to posting the image, the LNC social media team discussed the matter confidentially with the party's Policy Review Committee. As the image went up, it is reasonable to infer that the APRC did not object.

A number of the usual people who complain about the current National Committee administration promptly spoke up against the image. Among others, we may note Scott Lieberman, Dan Wiener, and Alicia Mattson. In addition, it was apparent that the Rand Paul Republican supporters were promptly told to show up on Facebook and complain about the attack on their beloved candidate. State share Doug Craig of Georgia suggested the controversy was not advantageous. Nick Sarwark finally ordered that the poster be removed from the Facebook timeline, which it was.

Your editor's position was: "Rand Paul gave us our name only if the name is that we are anti abortion, anti gay rights, anti global warming, anti evolution, anti science, oh yes, and in favor of

States Rights: States' Rights is the right of states to say gays can't marry, women can't have abortions, African Americans may not vote or attend white schools, wives may not vote, attend university, or own real property, and people may not smoke pot or own guns. Yep, That's the States' Rights of Rand.

We need a good Presidential candidate who will make clear we are pro science, pro reality, and in favor of the right of every individual to marry, have abortions, vote, attend school, attend university, own real property, smoke pot AND own guns. Yes, That's the Individual Rights Real Libertarian Support.”

The creator of the poster eventually appeared on the outright Libertarians page to say <http://www.outrightusa.org/joomla25/blog/339-a-history-lesson-for-conservatives-what-these-people-have-in-common> that the core issue was that the Bushes, Clintons, and Pauls each represent an attempt to create a dynasty, an aristocracy in the making, and nothing could be less American than an aristocracy. We quote the key line of the statement: “I believe it is very clear, Rand has not earned by merit the loyalty he claims through his father, and a dialogue about that is useful not only against Rand, but against the Clintons and Bushes as well.”

Libertarian Party of New Hampshire Convention

The LPNH gave its members three hours' notice of the location of the state convention. It is difficult to see how New Hampshire Libertarians are going to take this state convention seriously, especially considering that by report the convention had a grand total of nine people attending. Indeed it appears that at the start of the convention the state Judicial Committee ruled that the convention had not been properly called. Readers will not be surprised to learn that the State Chair was reelected. There is however at this point in New Hampshire a competing Libertarian party, the New Hampshire Liberty Party. As was previously seen with Liberty for Massachusetts, there are indications that the New Hampshire Liberty Party will by-and-by take over the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire and end this peculiar behavior. The Minutes of the New Hampshire Libertarian Party state convention have been sent to Independent Political Report.

2015 NH Liberty Party Annual Convention recap

As widely reported by Darryl Perry. Note that the NHLP State Convention had the alrger attendance. March 6, 2015 – The NH Liberty Party, formed in September 2012, held its third annual convention during the New Hampshire Liberty Forum in Manchester, NH. The 2015 Annual Convention was well attended, with a total of 15 attendees, 8 of whom were party members.

Party members voted to officially make a single change to the party bylaws, which allows the co-chairs of the party to make grammatical changes to the bylaws without need for adoption of amendment. The intent of the bylaw modification was to correct a single spelling error within the bylaws. The bylaws change was adopted unanimously.

Party members also elected a new State Committee. Four candidates were nominated for the three co-chair seats. Co-founders Ian Freeman and Darryl W. Perry were re-elected with 8 votes, Conan Salada was elected to a seat he once held with 7 votes, and Howard Wilson received 2 votes. The new State Committee would like to thank Jason Denonville for his year of service on the State Committee.

Libertarian Party of Kentucky State Convention

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky has elected a new slate of officers. Longtime state chair Ken Moehlman chose not to run for reelection. The new slate is:

Our leadership team for LPKY:

State Chair: Dave Capano - dave.capano@LPKY.org
State Vice-Chair: Bryan Shumate Short - bryan.short@LPKY.org
State Secretary: Cyrus Eckenberg - cyrus.eckenberg@LPKY.org
State Treasurer: James Bozman - james.bozman@LPKY.org
At-Large 1: Mark Gailey - mark.gailey@LPKY.org
At-Large 2: John Will Allender - john.allender@LPKY.org
At-Large 3: Dan Hull - dan.hull@LPKY.org
At-Large 4: Frank Harris - frank.harris@LPKY.org
1st District Chair: David Watson - david.watson@LPKY.org
2nd District Chair: Joe Redmon - joseph.redmon@LPKY.org
3rd District Chair: Chris Roberts - chris.roberts@LPKY.org
4th District Chair: Bill Mitchell - bill.mitchell@LPKY.org
5th District Coordinator: Krystal Freeman - krystal.freeman@LPKY.org
6th District Chair: Micki Bowling - micki.bowling@LPKY.org

The initial Judicial Committee is:

JC 1. Ken Moellman - ken.moellman@LPKY.org
JC 2. Chris Robinson - chris.robinson@LPKY.org
JC 3. James Fahringer - james.fahringer@LPKY.org
JC 4. Joseph Szeremet ** - joe.szeremet@LPKY.org
JC 5. David Patterson - david.patterson@LPKY.org

Congratulations to these fine Libertarians for standing up and working to support our party.

Libertarian Party of Georgia

Paulie Cannoli did a live blog of their 2015 State Convention. You can find it on IndependentPoliticalReport.com.

American Third Party Report Changes Hands

Political news site American Third Party Report has changed hands. It is now owned by Paul Frankel, William Saturn, and Jed Ziggler, who plan to support both it and Independent Political Report.

