



APC NEWS

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party Affiliate Parties Committee

Volume 2, Number 3 • March 1991

Committee Reports

National Committee Chairs Seek Input for 1991

Affiliate Campaigns Committee (Campaign '91-'92)

ACC Chair Steve Dasbach is trying to compile an up-to-date listing of all Libertarians currently holding public office. Please help him make this list as accurate as possible by filling in the enclosed form for all officeholders in your state or local area, and returning the form to Steve as soon as possible.

Please list both partisan and nonpartisan

positions currently held by a Libertarian. Don't forget appointed positions, such as members of a township advisory board, neighborhood association, library board, or local planning commission.

Libertarians holding these positions are gaining practical political experience and making community contacts that will make them more credible as candidates for elected office in the future. We want to make sure we identify these

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LP Launches National Project to Oppose Gulf War

The only burning issue in the news today seems to be the war in the Persian Gulf. Libertarians around the country have been involved in rallies, marches, teach-ins, literature tables and other activities opposing U.S. involvement in the Middle East and proposing an alternative, a non-interventionist foreign policy.

The Executive Committee authorized

National Director Nick Dunbar to set up a new "900" number, which will be in service March 1. Concerned citizens who oppose the war can call 1-900-4-LIBERTY, receive a red, white, & blue "Bring U.S. Troops Home" bumper sticker and arrange for a letter to be sent to their congressional representatives. A \$1.95 per minute fee (estimated total per call of \$6) for these ser-

vices will be charged to the caller's phone bill.

Our Campus Outreach Committee has sent informational packets on the war and possible reinstatement of the draft to 222 campus contacts. Libertarian speakers, including anti-draft activist Paul Jacob and Stanford scholar Williamson Evers have addressed student groups from Maine to Wisconsin to California.

Our Task Force on the War in the Gulf, headed by Don Ernsberger, is developing literature, writing articles, and collecting newspaper

and magazine articles to provide Libertarians with background information about U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf.

MKR Associates, under its service contract

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*"Peace, commerce, & honest friendship with all nations—
entangling alliances with none." —Thomas Jefferson*

BRING U.S. TROOPS HOME

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Actual size of bumper sticker is 15" by 3.75"

Committee Reports

NatCom to Accept Bids for 1996 Convention; New Timing May Cause Ballot Access Problems

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activists at the earliest stage of their local involvement in politics.

Ballot Access Committee

Some states may experience new ballot access complications due to a timing change for the 1996 Presidential Nominating Convention. The National Committee recently scheduled the convention for June 1996. In previous years, the LP has scheduled the presidential nominating conventions for the year before presidential elections, to give the LP more time to meet ballot access requirements. However, the National Committee decided that greater media attention and voter interest could be garnered during the major parties' convention season, making the change worthwhile. The National Committee also hopes that many of the ballot access problems created by a June 1996 convention will lead to successful legal challenges to the restrictions.

If your state is one in which this change causes serious problems or raises significant questions about ballot access, please start thinking now about how to get your state ballot access laws changed. Ballot Access Chair Bill Redpath would like to discuss your concerns and talk about how the Ballot Access Committee can assist you.

A more immediate concern is ballot access for 1992. If your state does not yet have 1992 ballot status, please start organizing your volunteer efforts immediately. Touch base with Bill as soon as your plans are laid, so BAC can coordinate sending petitioners in to assist your local efforts or any other assistance that you might need.

Convention Oversight Committee

According to a resolution passed by the National Committee at its December meeting, "the 1996 Presidential Nominating Convention of the Libertarian Party shall be held in the month of June, 1996, and... bids from prospective organizers of that convention shall be reviewed by the National Committee between August, 1991 and December, 1991."

LP groups interested in preparing a bid for this convention should contact Convention Oversight Chair Geoff Neale for more information.

Outreach Committee

Now is the time to start planning if you are going to stage tax protests on April 15, Outreach Chair Toni Black advises. For many groups, this activity is a long-standing tradition. However, those looking for suggestions on how to organize a tax protest should see the insert included with this newsletter.

From time to time, an event of national significance in terms of LP outreach may occur in your area. Toni cites the NRA National Convention, which will be held in April in San Antonio, and the World Science Fiction Convention to be held in Chicago in late August/early September, overlapping our national Presidential Nominating Convention. Toni urges state and local LP activists to watch for similar opportunities in their areas. If you hear of a national or regional event coming up in your area through which Libertarians might reach out to and network with other like-minded groups, please let Toni know. Even if many local LPers plan to attend, the National Outreach Committee may be able to

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Interstate Networking

A New Gimmick for Building Membership... Pennsylvania LP activist Don Ernsberger reports a new approach that increased Pennsylvania's national membership by 42 members in one month. At a recent planning meeting of the LP of Pennsylvania's executive board, Ernsberger tossed out a challenge. He pointed out the drop in Pennsylvania's national membership since 1989, and challenged each of the ten activists in the room to put up a "bond". This bond would be a commitment that he or she would recruit five new or renewed members before the end of January or would contribute an equivalent amount of money (\$7.50 per member) to the LP of Pennsylvania treasury.

Don says, "I just came up with this idea, not expecting it to fly. But everyone in the room committed to the bond. And we sent 42 additional memberships to National on January 31 because of this effort. That means that not everyone in the room recruited five members, but those that didn't will help augment our state treasury."

Libertarian TV Series... A number of Libertarians have begun taking advantage of Public Access television, with some degree of enthusiasm. One such Libertarian is Jim Davies of the Connecticut LP. Davies recently began producing a local public-access television series dedicated to hard-core libertarian ideas, and he is very excited about the possibilities public access TV makes available. Those who would like more information on how to get started or would like to see a sample tape of Davies' show should contact him: 204 Spring Valley Rd., Ridgefield, CT 06877, (203) 438-5224.

Liberty Triumphant Needs You... State chairs were recently sent letters by Sue Walton, Executive Director of Libertarian Education

Institute, the committee hosting this year's LP Presidential Nominating Convention in Chicago. In the letter, she requested information on when and where your state conventions will be held, state contacts for state convention information, and names/addresses/phone numbers of your state's delegates once elected. Please get this information to Sue as soon as possible to facilitate her planning. Also, any information regarding the likely number of delegates and alternates who are expected to actually attend the national convention would be helpful to Sue.

A Hearty Welcome... to long-time SIL activist Jarret Wollstein, who is our new Bill of Rights Task Force coordinator. The Bill of Rights celebrates its 200th anniversary this year.

Do LP Organizations Have To File Income Tax Returns?... Several state chairs have asked recently about IRS form 1120POL, which is a U.S. income tax return for use by certain political organizations. Virginia LP Chair Bill Redpath has reviewed the instructions for the form and reports that a political organization that has taxable income, which includes such things as dividends, interest, rents, royalties, and capital gains, of over \$100 dollars per year may have to file this form. (Normal political fundraising receipts are apparently not considered taxable income for a political organization.)

Bill suggests that most state and local organizations probably do not have to file this form. However, if you think your state or local party may have received taxable income in 1990, please make sure you read the 1120POL instructions to determine whether or not you are required to file. To get a copy of the 1990 1120POL, along with the three pages of instructions, contact your local IRS office or call Nick Dunbar at the LP National Office.

Veteran LP Leaders Offer Adv

In late December, Affiliate Parties Committee Chair Mary Gingell sent a letter to current and former state and national LP Chairs, asking them to give us one important piece of advice to pass onto new state chairs. Later this year, when most of the responses have come in, we will prepare a new insert for use in our information packet sent to new state chairs, containing these valuable suggestions, as well as other helpful advice offered.

The following bits of advice are excerpts from some early responses to our survey. Many thanks to those of you who responded so promptly and thoughtfully. We hope the following provides some valuable insights to newcomers and veterans, alike:

Karen Allard, Chair, Libertarian Party of Washington State, 1987-89: Attempt to involve past chairs in the workings of the state party for advice and to assist in a smooth transition from one administration to another.

Eve Berry, Chair, Oregon Libertarian Party:
—Be familiar with Robert's Rules of Order—
Know how to delegate tasks—Know who the active people in the Party are

Toni L. Black, Former Chair, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania: Surround yourself with good people. Make the party a team activity. Most crucial: a good treasurer and a great newsletter editor. They are priceless.

Marla Bottemiller, Chair, Libertarian Party of Washington State, 1989-90: Set aside one hour every weekday morning, when you are refreshed and it is quiet, to read your LP mail, to do paperwork, to read the paper thoroughly, to free-read, to study.

Tomas R. Estrada-Palma, Chair, Maryland Libertarian Party, 1988-90: Be an information center. Have all local and national telephone

numbers of LP activists.

Always build coalitions by searching for common ground and diffuse differences of opinion before personal attacks begin. If the majority wishes to move in a different direction than you, go along gracefully even though you feel it's not the best plan. Act on your own if you feel a plan of action merits a try.

A newsletter (professionally typeset) or some other regular mechanism to communicate with the other Central Committee members is vital if you wish to attract new activists and retain old ones.

Mary Gingell, Chair, Libertarian Party of California, 1982-84: Work within your organization's bylaws, rules, and standing resolutions. Do not ignore party structure just because you have a great project in mind that must be done NOW. Figure out how to accomplish your goals through the existing structure, or decide how you would like to change the structure to work better.

If organizational changes are necessary, work through the system (i.e., bylaws committee at your annual convention, change to executive committee resolutions by mail ballot, etc.). Don't hesitate to try and persuade other committee members to support your changes, but do this persuading on your own time and at your own expense. Line up support for your changes ahead of time.

Once you have called a meeting to order, concentrate on chairing the meeting fairly and smoothly. Give everyone a chance to speak their mind. Don't get involved in debate from the chair; if you feel you must speak out on a particular item, turn the gavel over to your vice chair for that entire discussion. And do this only rarely. One of the key aspects to a successful, productive meeting is an impartial, organized chair.

Advice to State Chair Newcomers

Shirley Jones, Chair, Libertarian Party of New Mexico, 1987-89:

1. Be aware of organization, roles/duties of officers
2. Plan, plan, plan - Plan meetings with specifics Plan events and do them but allow for time for preparation for event. Don't do things at last minute with little planning
3. Be sure to recognize successes - don't just hit weaknesses

Dan Karlan, Chair, Libertarian Party of New Jersey: 1) Don't make yourself indispensable 2) Avoid the inclination to micro-manage—cultivate activists by delegating authority. 3) Prepare a budget, and adjust it yearly—fine-tuning, adding categories, etc. If necessary, enlist the services of a CPA. The budget should be non-binding—a target, to allow evaluation of performance, at convention time, for example.

Douglas N. Merritt, Chair, Kansas Libertarian Party, 1986-88: Communicate, communicate, communicate! Nothing is so damaging to membership as when the member hears only an annual gimmie-gimmie. The Chair must continually tell the folks what is happening, what is going to happen and what is needed. Computer generated personalized letters to the membership cost about 40 cents each. Four a year cost \$1.60. That is only 10% of the \$15.00 income from the cost of membership. There is positively no better way to invest that amount of money.

Richard Shepard, Chair, Libertarian Party of Washington State: Develop tolerance and encouragement of your members. These are, in a sense, flip-sides of the same coin. On the one hand you will have people who want to do or see certain things, but who will, inadvertently or intentionally, cause more problems than progress. On the other hand you will have plenty of people with great project ideas for someone else to carry out.

You must tolerate and encourage both groups to contribute whatever and wherever they can. Above all, you must love them for their efforts.

Harry Jacob Thode, Chair, Libertarian Party of Nebraska, 1989-91: Communicate frequently with other LPers and get their input; they may have some good ideas that you have never thought of.

Don't allow yourself to be trapped into doing it all. Delegate jobs. If the others don't perform find someone who will.

Keep your budget realistic. Nothing will burn a person out faster than feeling that he is spending more than his/her share. Watts lines, among other things, are expensive and may not be productive.

Dave Walter, Chair, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, 1980-82: —Don't take the job unless you intend to do a complete job. Nothing burns out other activists like disappointment over a "do-nothing" chair.

—Don't assume people (volunteers) will do something they say without your having to follow up several times.

—The most effective way to recruit and keep new members is to use the telephone.

Sue Walton, Chair, Libertarian Party of Illinois: Do not get angry/discouraged! The job is, at times, a rough rollercoaster! Have a sense of humor!

Plan to stay in the job two years—one year isn't enough. Be dedicated and businesslike!

Advice to old retiring chairs (given to me by my predecessor and which I will follow): Let go! Fade away. Don't criticize your successor. Same goes for the new chair: don't openly criticize; change things to suit your own style.

Dick Whitelock, Chair, Libertarian Party of Michigan, 1988-90: Establish public relations with print and electronic news media. Contact news-

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Committee Reports

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help augment your literature supplies and spread the word so that interested activists from around the country may be able to attend as well.

San Antonio LPers will be spearheading a Libertarian presence at the NRA convention, and National Committee member Ron Crickenberger is setting up a shuttling plan to insure a Libertarian presence at the Sci-Fi convention. Toni herself attended the national Fully-Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) convention, held in St. Louis last November.

Program Committee

Program Committee Chair Steve Givot is interested in input and advice from state chairs regarding our national Program.

According to our national bylaws, the Program is created by a two-thirds vote of the National Committee and shall be "a) a maximum of ten issues; b) issues which are currently receiving widespread, national public attention;

Gulf War Project

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with the Affiliate Parties Committee, is assembling a list of effective LP anti-war activities taking place across the country and collecting sample literature being used at these activities. MKR will be sending this material out to State and Local LP Chairs who express an interest in receiving it.

Attention State and Local Chairs: If you are interested in being added to MKR's mailing list in order to receive up-to-date information about what your local group can do in this effort, or if you are interested in networking with other LP activists working on this important project, please contact Kathleen Richman or Me-Me King of MKR Associates.

c) issues which are readily identifiable by most individuals as matters which affect them personally and directly; and d) interim or transitional proposals which move toward a libertarian society, which are clearly identified as interim or transitional proposals... No proposal shall conflict with the LP Platform."

The current content of the Program is determined by a two-third vote of the National Committee, acting on recommendations made by the Program Committee (Steve Givot, Steve Dasbach, and Tonie Nathan).

Steve Givot would like your input regarding the top ten issues so he can begin developing proposed program planks and making recommendations to the National Committee at its April meeting in Atlanta.

Current program planks are entitled:

- Defending Americans in America
- Solving the Drug Problem
- Federal Spending Must Be Cut
- Choice in Education
- Free Trade and Neutrality
- The Savings and Loan Fiasco
- Taxes: The Cruellest Burden
- The Environment
- Immigration
- Health Care and Health Costs

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the program, printed in mid-1990. Since the printing the National Committee removed the planks entitled "Pollution is Trespassing" and "AIDS" and added "The Environment" and "The Savings and Loan Fiasco." The Program Committee is now in the process of drafting several new proposed planks as well as considering revisions to several existing planks.

Please send Steve your recommendations about the Program, as well as how you would like to see it published so that local groups could make effective use of it in their outreach and educational activities.

National Dues-Sharing Program Helps Set New LP Membership Record

The preliminary paid national membership figure as of January 31, 1991, the cut-off date for national convention delegate allocation, hit a record high of 9,745, according to National Secretary Joe Dehn. This figure translates into a maximum of 536 delegates, plus ex-officio delegates, such as National Committee members.

Since the deadline is based on the post-mark date for memberships sent to the national office, this figure is still subject to change. State chairs should send their delegate lists to Joe as soon as they are available to help make processing and pre-convention communication go smoothly.

National Membership Chair Karen Allard congratulates all those state parties that helped us reach this impressive figure. State parties were able to keep a percentage of the national

dues paid through the sale of national or joint memberships within their states.

The following states took advantage of the national LP's dues-sharing program in recent months: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

If your state party is not yet selling national memberships, now may be the time to consider adding this program to your fundraising repertoire. Contact Karen to get all the details about our current program. Contact neighboring states to find out how they put this system to work effectively to increase their coffers and provide additional services to their state members.

State Chair Advice

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paper reporters, particularly political reporters, at your state's largest newspapers and arrange a luncheon meeting or any other occasion where you can present a concise understanding of Libertarianism. Most reporters write about Libertarians and Libertarian philosophy with only a clouded view and have no real understanding of the connections of voluntary action, individual liberty, and economic freedom that are necessary in a free society.

Also attend public hearings of the state legislature to present testimony on subjects that are of importance to the preservation of Libertarian principles.

Nick Youngers, Chair, Libertarian Party of

Maine: Make outreach and membership growth priority #1.

Spend at least 25% of your annual budget on advertising.

Build county groups as fast as possible:—a strong state LP requires strong county LP groups (just as national LP depends on strong state LP groups)—county LP groups give activists a chance to develop skills—county groups are the best place for outreach activities—it's easier to get together locally than statewide

Keep your party bureaucracy as small as possible. Don't spend more time talking about it than you do doing it.

Read all your activist mail, APC News, LP News, other state news. Listen to ideas.

You can't do it all. File most of the "good ideas" away for later use or reference.

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