Monthly Pledge surpasses $32,000!

By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee

Thanks largely to another major donor, our monthly pledge total reached $32,655 for January. That's a level not seen for many years.

We are especially proud of this achievement—it's something we focused heavily on for the past eighteen months.

But even though our monthly pledge total is up, I'd be misleading you if I told you I thought everything was going well.

I remain pleased with our 2010 candidate recruitment and election results. As we continue to analyze the results, we see that more voters chose Libertarian candidates in 2010 than in recent election cycles. That's great, and our candidates are important.

However, our biggest weakness remains our dues-paying membership levels.

We seem to have stagnated around the 15,000 level for the past few years.

Obviously, that's not your fault because as a monthly pledger, your membership does not expire.

In fact, your monthly pledge helps us afford to do things that should help drive up our membership.

Dues-paying members are important for many reasons. Not only do they help fund our efforts, but members are most likely to be volunteers, candidates, and serve as officers in our party.

To grow our party, elect more Libertarians, and have more of an influence on public policy, we have to get our membership up.

I hope it doesn't sound like I'm complaining—on the contrary, it's my job to get membership up.

We've worked hard to grow our membership. We've improved our database, reached out to lapsed members, and more.

Our candidates have gotten lots of press to help publicize the party. Some of our state and national party leaders routinely appear on television, radio, and in print.

I don't have a magic bullet solution to growing our membership.

I'm just letting you know it's on my mind and the minds of others in leadership.

We will continue trying various approaches, including mail, advertising, providing better tools to our volunteers, and more.

We recently hired a videographer to help publicize our activities online and to help generate interest with younger voters.

We'll continue working hard for you, and I welcome your suggestions and comments as well. I'm often easy to reach by phone in the office, and I welcome the calls of loyal supporters like you anytime at 202-333-0008 extension 222.

Your monthly pledge remains a vital source of funds and I can't thank you enough for your support.
Libertarian Party in the News

Libertarians, Privacy Advocates Unite To Fight Body Scanners

*National Journal, January 6, 2010*

A wide swath of civil rights activists, consumer advocates, Libertarians and security analysts blasted the now-infamous airport body scanners at a conference organized by the Electronic Privacy Information Center Thursday....

Well-known consumer advocate and former presidential candidate Ralph Nader called the Transportation Security Administration's decision to use the body scanners a "fundamentally irrational strategy" based on reactionary tendencies and fueled by corporate and political pressures....

Other panelists agreed, calling on Congress to cut funding for the scanners that "see" through passengers' clothing and produce images of their bodies.

"When Libertarians and Ralph Nader agree that a program is bad, it's time for the government to listen up," said Wes Benedict, executive director of the Libertarian Party's National Committee. "Government is supposed to protect our rights, not take them away. When is enough enough?"

Libertarian Governor Candidate Announces for Topeka Council

*WIBW (Kansas), January 7, 2010*

Andrew Gray, a former candidate for Kansas Governor, announced his candidacy for Topeka City Council Friday, in a bid to represent the 8th District including southwest Topeka. Gray is a lifelong Topekian, works for AT&T, and has two children.

Gray stated that he was recruited to run for Topeka City Council by voters who identified with his passionate commitment to fiscal responsibility and personal liberty during the recent campaign.

"I'm running for Topeka City Council because Topeka is my home," Gray said. "Topeka was my parent's home and, God willing, it will someday be my grandchildren’s home. I owe it to my parents, my children, and my grandchildren to do the hard work necessary to assure that Topeka remains a great place to raise children, watch them succeed in life and grow old."

Gray is running on a platform of Regaining Fiscal Responsibility, Creating a Business Friendly Community, and Maintaining Property Rights.

Columbus council hopefuls face petition hurdle

*Columbus Dispatch (Ohio), January 24, 2011*

...On Saturday morning, Mark Noble, who is leading a slate of three Libertarian Party candidates [for Columbus City Council] that includes Bob Bridges and Andrew Ullman, set out in 15-degree weather to seek signatures door to door in Clintonville.

His team was already close.

"I'm two signatures away from collecting 900 signatures just by myself," Noble said Wednesday. "I've been working on it since November."

Noble is a software engineer for the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, an online charter school. His office is on the South Side, so he knocks on doors there after work. He lives in Clintonville, so like Garcia, he likes to collect signatures outside the Whetstone library.

The city's 1,000-signature requirement is a high hurdle designed to hinder independents and third-party candidates, Noble said.

He needed just 25 signatures to run for state representative a few years ago: "I got the signatures in one afternoon."
Liberty Pledge Newsletter - February 2011

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Libertarians Unveil Legislative Agenda for 2011

from the Texas LP, January 10, 2011

AUSTIN—The Libertarian Party of Texas has released its Legislative Agenda for the 2011 session. Libertarians have been effective in introducing and blocking legislation even without elected legislators from their party through their lobbying efforts and grassroots organization.

Taxes and spending, election reform, immigration, state sovereignty, and the protection of personal freedoms top the Libertarian agenda.

"We have demonstrated our ability in the past to influence legislation and promote smaller government with fiscal responsibility and social tolerance. We hope to find common ground on these principles with legislators this session," said LPT Chair Patrick Dixon.

Constitutional expert Jon Roland and Libertarian political consultant Robert Butler have been appointed Legislative Advisors to the LPT. John Jay Myers, a recent Congressional candidate and party leader, has posted a video discussing the party's legislative activity.

"Many voters believe that Libertarian activism ends after the election season, but we're really just getting started," said Butler. "We have been very effective at changing the legislative debate by introducing, supporting, and opposing legislation. We shine a light on the process from our unique perspective."

Alex Massa to Run for State Representative

from the Massachusetts LP, January 23, 2011

Libertarian Party member Alexander Massa has announced his plans to run for State Representative in Springfield.

He writes of himself:

I am a seventeen year old senior at South Hadley High School, in So. Hadley, MA. I plan on attending Western New England College this fall to study law. I have been, since my early childhood, a fan of politics, and have always had an undeniable libertarian viewpoint, and I decided to get involved in the political process as early as possible.

Last year, I was able to assist several Libertarian candidates for office, including Massachusetts' own Jon Loya, as well as Alexander Snitker in Florida and Rob McNealy in Colorado, writing press releases, fundraising letters, and helping campaign online.

Now, as I transition into adulthood, I have decided to take it upon myself to be as active a citizen as possible in this great Republic of ours, which is why I have proudly started filing the appropriate paperwork in order to run for State Representative next year.

If I am not mistaken, I am the youngest resident of the Commonwealth currently running for State Representative, and I say that with pride.

Nebraska after November 2nd

from Randy Eshelman, Nebraska LP Communications Director, November 12, 2010

November 2nd came and went with exciting news from all over the country. The electorate rejected overt, big government, nanny-state policies. Nebraska Libertarians are not however, going to hold our breath in the hope that the GOP will magically adhere to minimum government, maximum freedom principles. They certainly didn't do that under the Bush administration and have shown themselves to be just as susceptible to the “Washington bennies” as their Democratic cronies.
In Nebraska, our candidate for Auditor, Ms. Michele Sallach-Grace, did not win. That's the bad news. The good news is, she quadrupled the vote totals needed to keep Libertarians recognized as a political party here.

The great news? Michele won 31 districts (unofficially) across the state. Very positive results indeed, considering the LPNE's late entry into the process. We've come a long way as a Party and couldn't have done it without the great support from believers in principled and representative government.

And now, since we don't have to expend the time, money, and energy petitioning over the next election cycle, we can concentrate on party building and candidate support for a change! Our intent is to aggressively pursue all three congressional seats, the senate seat, and numerous local offices in 2012. (And by the way, if you're considering running for office in Nebraska, don't hesitate to contact us at www.lpne.org!)

I would like to thank Nebraskans (and others) for their continued support to the ideals of “Smaller Government, Lower Taxes, and More Freedom.” There IS another choice. A principled choice. A choice for Liberty!

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Adam Almog                              Stephen House
George H. Amberg                       Kevin Hutchinson
Nicola Aversa                          Leonard Karpinski
Dwight E. Baker                        Grant Kerkseck
Dennis E. Bamford                      Andrea R. Liemandt
Craig R. Beachler                      Walter M. Littleton
Cory Benton                           Warren L. Loschky
John M. Bills Jr.                      Joseph J. Maschak
Andrew Bolin                          J. Thomas May
Allan K. Briney                        George A. Meyers
Pete Carpenter                         Chuck Morton
Richard J. Chapel                      Winford Nettles
Andrew Cohen                          Kevin Chad Norris
Cyril Crume                           Carole V. Oglesbee
Michael De Mello                      Peter J. Orvetti
Jonathan Demontegre                   Pamela P. Potter
David Eckhardt                        Charles H. Reed
Ashley Edwards                        John R. Reid
Glenn F. Ellis                         David Roberts
John Emerich                          James B. Roberts
Michael Fein                          David K. Schrader
John Findlay                          Carina Sewell
Ronald M. Fisher                      John R. Thompson
Melanie Fresch                        Steven Turley
Michael L. Frichol                    Steven G. Wainio
John Friedel                          Brian K. Waters
Evan T. Garrison                      Brad Watson
Christopher Guimond                   Bill Wayne
DeWayne Guimond                       Thomas E. Wendell
Michael L. Guin                       Beverly J. Wilcox
Karen Hofferber                       Matthew M. Willis
John W. Holcombe                      Jamie L. Wilson
Sam E. Holoman                        Alexander Yuill-Thornton
Duane F. Horton

I would like to make a one-time donation to the LP: I would like to increase my monthly pledge to this level:

□ $5,000          □ $2,500
□ $1,000          □ $1,000
□ $500            □ $500
□ $250            □ $250
□ _____ Other     □ _____ Other

(Please make checks payable to Libertarian Party.)

Name: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

City, State, Zip: __________________

Occupation*: ______________________

Employer*: ________________________

Home Phone: _______________________

Work: _____________________________ Cell: ______________

Signature: _________________________ E-mail: __________________

* Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed $200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.