



# LPPA Newsletter

The LibPenn Quarterly

**The Official  
Newsletter of  
the  
Libertarian  
Party of  
Pennsylvania**

**March, 2020  
Issue 1 No. 1**

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## **Letter from the Chair**

When it comes to discussing the wonderful happenings in the LPPA, there is no shortage of items to talk about.

When discussing the candidate recruitment efforts by our Elections Committee, it should be mentioned that we have candidates seeking the nomination of the LPPA for statewide offices. However, I would be remiss if I did not suggest that these candidates will need our support, and only the delegates at the LPPA convention will

have the ability to nominate them, so if anyone is interested, please come to the convention and offer voice to thoughts. Kevin Gaughen, our Executive Director, financed and has been sending mailers to Libertarians in districts where a Libertarian has a strong chance to make a difference.

In addition to recruiting, we are also compiling a database of candidates running down ballot. If any county committees nominate candidates, please touch base with our Elections Committee so they are able to direct petitioners in the area to help petition for those nominated candidates.

When discussing membership, I am thrilled to announce that our membership committee is working on several projects designed to help with the membership drive that started back in May and has been on going throughout the year.

The Board Meeting in April was filled with many people from around the state. However, only 4 committees had the possibility of board representation. Currently, we have the possibility of 12, and the number of representatives at board meetings (whether call in or in person), averages at around 15 with a high of 20 at the October In-Person board meeting. In addition to people taking an interest in what we are doing, and we also have new affiliates springing up around the state!

When it comes to the standing and working committees, I am very proud to be able to write about the work our team has been accomplishing. In addition, I am excited by the fact that we have seen the largest and most diverse group of Libertarians all working together! Legislative Action and Media Relations are working together on several initiatives, as I have mentioned before, Membership is working on several projects. Also mentioned, Elections is working on recruiting candidates and is planning the petition drive for 2020, Finance is working on a fundraising drive with the purpose of bringing various (Pennsylvania based) like-minded organizations to our convention, and Legal Action has made its presence known both during our board meetings, and has been working with the Finance committee. In short, The Team is working, many people are noticing and joining the party! I am looking forward to an amazing 2020, see you all at our convention!

**-Steve Schetz, LPPA Chairman. [Chair@lppa.org](mailto:Chair@lppa.org)**

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**Letter From the Executive-Director**

The current Board took office March 17, 2019 and immediately had to deal with some very serious problems. Our website was broken and unable to take donations, we had no newsletter, our financial records were a mess, we didn't have minutes

from the convention, many of our standing and working committees were either unpopulated or non-functioning, and the party was doing zero candidate recruitment. Our membership numbers, which had been in decline for years, had hit their lowest point in a decade or more.

The Board hired me on April 27, 2019. Understanding the gravity of the situation, and wasting no time, I pitched a membership drive plan that the Board voted to enact. Since then, I have been working nonstop to reverse the damage the Party had sustained through years of mismanagement.

A year later, things are looking much brighter. We've marketed the Party with over 30,000 pieces of direct mail, made thousands of phone calls, and have worked diligently to bring new and lapsed members back into the fold. As a result, we have increased dues-paying membership by 130%. Our revenue is up 500% over last year. We have a brand-new website and CRM system. We have organized several training sessions for our activists. The party sent over 10,000 candidate recruitment letters to registered Libertarians and, as a result, won 40 municipal elections in 2019. I personally recruited members to restart the defunct newsletter committee. All of our standing and working committees have been reorganized and are now fully functioning. We have a few brand-new county committees - and several county committees have earned Board votes due to their increased membership numbers! The Party is now firing on all cylinders, and we are ready for this crucial presidential election year.

It is a great honor to be the first-ever executive director of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania. I am grateful that the Party was willing to take the risk of hiring me. I am hopeful that we can continue our success in 2020 and beyond.

**-Kevin Gaughen Executive director, LPPA**

**Welcome to the New LibPenn Newsletter !!**

After a short time away to get our bearings, the LIBPENN Newsletter is back and better than ever. However, we believe there's nowhere to go but up and you can help! Do you have a great idea for a story that could benefit or educate your fellow Libertarians in Pennsylvania? We would love to hear from you!

Submission of your story ideas should be sent to **newsletter@lppa.org**. The best types of stories are those that deal with current events, especially when they're Pennsylvania specific. So, let us know what's on your mind and see your story idea come to life in a future edition of the LIBPENN Newsletter.

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**Soaring Theft in Chester County – by the Government**

The Libertarian philosophy is sometimes summed up in two simple rules: 1) Don't Hurt others. 2) Don't take what is rightfully theirs. The second part means, simply, that theft is wrong. But what can we do when the thief is our local government?

For example, residents of Kennett Township in Chester County, Pa. are up in arms over the apparent theft of 3.2 million dollars in taxpayer monies. The township has accused a longtime manager and has spent over \$350,000 trying to track down what happened to their money. The Daily Local reported that the current supervisors do not even know how much money was embezzled, or for how long. The theft took place over two administrations going back at least six and a half years.

So far, the total loss amounts to nearly \$550 for every man, woman, and child in the township of 6200. The residents of Kennett want to know how their administrations could have been so incompetent as to allow this theft to have occurred, and over such a long period. Their new township manager does not know if taxes will need to be raised to cover the loss.

Meanwhile, most Chester County residents are probably unaware that 27 cents out of every tax dollar collected in the county do not go towards road repairs, health care, or public safety. It goes to servicing the huge 50-million-dollar debt accrued by township managers. The county's own controller has questioned this lack of fiscal restraint. The wealthiest county in Pennsylvania should not be using almost 30% of the tax collected to pay off debt instead of being used for the services the voters believe to be worthwhile.

While the embezzler in Kennett has been accused of breaking the law, the other supervisors, along with the managers of Chester County are acting legally, if not in the best interests of their community.

An even clearer example of legal government theft is taking place in Downingtown and Tredyffrin/Easttown. Here, the school boards have decided to seize private property that had already been sold to developers. In the latter case, a 5-million-dollar sale was nullified – the school board is attempting to force the landowner to accept almost 3 million dollars less – a theft of over half of the value of the property.

In Downingtown, TV channel 29 reported that the school district will be seizing homes from residents. A family has stopped accepting foster children because their homes will be taken by the district. At the same time, the Downingtown School district admits that it has no immediate plans for the seized land and may not ever build on it. Instead, they are stealing homes and businesses in the event that they will ever need the land.

Section 10 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states that "...nor shall private property be taken or applied to public use, without the authority of law and without just compensation being first made or secured." In this case, 'just compensation' should mean honoring the value of land that is already established by prior contract. Instead, the government is simply seizing property, homes, and businesses and paying whatever they want, with little or no justification. In other words, legal theft.

Chester County attracts residents for many reasons. Quality of life, great schools, wonderful communities, and a relatively low crime rate. But while Chester County residents may not have much to fear from ordinary forms of theft, they should be increasingly worried about the theft of their tax dollars, land, and homes by government bodies that increasingly demonstrate a lack of competence and an excess of greed.

**-The Libertarian party of Chester county features a new blog post monthly on its website and Facebook page.**

[LPChesco Blog](#)

# **LPPA Annual Convention Schedule**

**March 6, 7, 8, 2020**

**Renaissance Philadelphia Airport Hotel**

## **Friday Evening Agenda:**

**8:00PM** Friday Evening Montgomery County Hospitality Suite

## **Saturday Agenda:**

**7:00 – 8:00AM** Breakfast (Sponsored by Americans for Prosperity)

**8:00 - 9:00AM** Credentialing

**9:00AM** Credentialing Committee Report

**9:10 – 10:00AM** Officer Reports (Reports will be in writing, 7-10 minute summary  
Add for Q&A)

**10:30AM** Officer Elections

**12:00PM** Break for Lunch (Lunch Speaker Author James Bovard)

[www.jimbovard.com](http://www.jimbovard.com)

**1:30PM** Re-convene continue officer elections (if needed)

**2:30PM** Nomination of Candidates

**3:00-5:30PM** Breakout: POTUS Candidate Forum in other room

**3:30PM** Select Delegation to Austin and select electors  
(List will be circulated throughout the day.)

**4:00PM** All selected electors should go out to where the notary is for paper-work

**5:30PM** Cocktails outside of the Banquet Room

**6:00 - 7:45PM** Banquet and Fundraiser

**8:00 - 10:00PM** Debate

**10:00PM** Hospitality Suite

**10:30PM** Monty Awards Presentation

## **Sunday Agenda:**

**8:30 – 10:00AM** Breakfast

**9:15-10:00 AM** Breakfast speaker Dan McMonigle of Firearms Owners Against Crime  
[Foacpac.org](http://Foacpac.org)

**10:00AM** Judicial Committee Elections

**10:30AM** Bylaws

**The presidential forum will feature all declared candidates and a panel of experts. Moderator is TBD.**

**The Debate will feature the top 5 Candidates from the forum and will be moderated by Mr. Larry Sharpe!**



## **Eastern Vice Chair Report**

This past January, 21 newly elected Libertarians in eastern counties were sworn into office.

Wayne County held its inaugural meeting in January and was recognized by the LPPA as a new affiliate at the January in person meeting in Mechanicsburg.

Lehigh county is currently working to reorganize and expect to meet in the near future. They also have a potential Congressional candidate who is seeking nomination.

Libertarians in Luzerne County have begun holding social events, which will hopefully eventually lead to a new affiliate.

We already have 2020 candidates being nominated, including Steve Scheetz for Congressional District 1 and John Waldenberger for State Rep District 53.

In Chester County, Dan Truitt, previous State Rep who has now registered Libertarian spoke at their February 13th meeting. You can also check out his radio show at WCHE 1520 AM on Monday mornings at 8:15 am where he will mention his meeting with the local Libertarians.

In Northampton County, Jake Towne has been criminally charged over errors on 2018 nomination papers. He has turned down plea deal and will take his case to jury because he has not committed any crime. Donations to his legal fund are much appreciated and can be made to: <https://jaketowne.com/gifts/>

Personally, I have been working on learning our new database so that I can pull reports for the counties as needed. I have also been actively involved in restructuring our membership committee. Our hope is that we can be more responsive in pointing new state and national members toward their respective county committees or supporting them in organizing new counties. I have also been working on convention planning and bylaws.

We are looking forward to a productive 2020. We have begun circulating nomination papers as of February 19th.

It's almost convention time! I will see some of you at the Montco Hospitality Suite on Friday night, and many more on Saturday Morning!

Please feel free to reach out to me at [EVChair@lppa.org](mailto:EVChair@lppa.org) if you would like to discuss anything listed here in further detail. I would be happy to point you toward your local Libertarians and their events.

**Jenn Moore**

**Eastern Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania**



## **Central Vice Chair Report**

The Central region is gearing up for the 2020 LPPA state convention and signature-gathering activities. We have active or incipient chapters in Adams, Capital Area (Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry), Centre, Franklin, Mifflin, Susquehanna Valley (Northumberland and Snyder), Tioga (road trip coming!) and York Counties. For more information, contact:

**Bill Sloane at [EVChair@lppa.org](mailto:EVChair@lppa.org).**



## **Western Vice Chair Report**

The Western Pennsylvania region continues to spread the message of Liberty with county parties in Washington, Allegheny, Crawford and Erie. Westmoreland county looks to re-organize around the candidacy of Ken Bach who has gotten himself on the ballot for a special election in the 58th PA House district. The west hopes to be well represented at the state convention and the vice-chair especially hopes to bring the convention back to western PA in the near future!

**David Veseley [WVChair@lppa.org](mailto:WVChair@lppa.org)**

**Get Involved! Visit [lppa.org](http://lppa.org)**

## The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Membership Form

### Membership Options

- Full Membership/Renewal \$20.00
- LPPA Student Membership \$10.00 (Full-Time Students)
- LPPA Lifetime Membership \$500.00

\*Note: Full membership includes LIBPENN Newsletter and voting privileges at the state convention

The Libertarian Party is the party of principal. To publicly affirm what we believe – and to ensure that our party never strays from our principal – we ask our members to proudly sign this statement.

“I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.”

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Please consider an additional donation to help us grow

General Fund:  \$1000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Ballot Access:  \$1000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed (Please make checks payable to “Libertarian Party of PA”)

### Member Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: **The LPPA, 3915 Union Deposit Road #223 Harrisburg, PA 17109**

Visit **www.lppa.org** to join, renew, or donate online

**Looking for the next local meeting in your county?**

**[lppa.org/get-involved/events/](http://lppa.org/get-involved/events/)**

## **Addiction is not a crime**

The night air was typical for January in Pennsylvania and I was chilled to the bone stepping out on the balcony of my second floor apartment in New Cumberland. An ambulance siren bounced off the row homes in the area, making it impossible to figure out where it was headed, until I heard it pull up and cut the sirens, less than a block from my house. As I watched the lights bounce off the surrounding properties, I didn't realize that my boyfriend had been found unconscious and not breathing in a nondescript alley, less than a football field away from where I was standing.

When he left the house that evening he was – unbeknownst to me – four bags deep into his second bundle of heroin for the day. He was spotted by a driver that almost hit him, ironically, in the alley behind a local funeral home. It took three doses of the opioid antagonist, Naloxone (Narcan), to revive him. His internal temperature was hovering just below hypothermia range at 94.9 degrees when he was found.

The opioid crisis was raging through the local streets of Cumberland County that year and I'd been following the news reports of overdoses, but I didn't know it had taken over my home. Contrary to what the news was saying, there were no symptoms of his usage outside of his normal behavior. I had my suspicions that he was using something more than his typical marijuana but had seen no evidence to back these suspicions.

It wasn't until he was released from the hospital, after ruling out hypothermia and in the full rigors of opiate withdrawal, that I realized how tragic the situation really was. I also was unaware of how little help he could receive in the state I'd called home for my entire life. Pennsylvania clearly was set up to rally the war cries about the war on opiates, but not to actually treat the addict.

Pennsylvania does offer some low cost or no cost treatment facilities, but the red tape and waiting lists almost guarantee time to relapse again before the addict gets treatment. In the year 2017, there were over 5,000 deaths at the hand of opiates in this state, and that number doesn't include the amount of people who were treated with Narcan.

Inpatient rehabilitation facilities can cost an addict, in excess, of \$10,000 for a 30-day program and the relapse rates following treatment are still staggering. There are facilities getting rich on the backs of addicts and very few are actually helping them. While, certainly, some of the onus is to be placed on the addict and whether or not they actually want to get clean, these programs aren't fully regulated to provide proven medical and scientific treatment.

In order to determine the proper course of action for treating this epidemic, we have to examine the difference between an addict and a criminal. These two worlds collide quite often, without a doubt, but not every addict is a criminal and vice versa. It is widely believed that addiction is caused by genetics or the addict's personal circumstances, however the lawmakers and upholders of said laws, still view them with disdain and derision. Too often, the addict and the criminal are seen in the same light.

The addition of "black market" Fentanyl to street heroin has been, at least partly, to blame for over 60% of heroin-related deaths in the past several years. It would seem that drug dealers are cutting their heroin with this powerful opioid, commonly used in surgical anesthesia and treatment of post-operative pain, and it's killing a lot of people.

So how do we fix it? How do we stop a drug epidemic that has transcended the socio-economic divide that has existed with other addictive substances? From a rational prospective, decriminalization seems the most effective approach.

The legalization of medical marijuana in Pennsylvania, has seen regulations put into effect to monitor the growing process to ensure patients are getting strains of the plant that aren't being laced with other street drugs. This process has maximized safer consumption and allows for users to get the full benefit of the healing properties of the cannabis plant.

**(cont)**



**Addiction is not a Crime (cont.)**

Intravenous users of this narcotic are subject to HIV, Hepatitis, and other blood-borne illnesses. Clean needle programs or needle exchange programs could dramatically reduce the transmission of these diseases amongst users. Safer usage facilities offer the addict supervised usage, thus shrinking the number of overdose related deaths.

The anti-decriminalization argument asks who pays for such programs. Across the board government trust allows the naivete to ask this question. The sheer amount of taxpayer dollars spent on baseless task forces, prosecution of addicts for possession charges, and prison stays, thereafter, could easily be reallocated to assist in treating both the addict and the addiction crisis.

Not every drug addict exists amongst the “dregs of society”, heroin users especially. Due to the over-prescribing of opioid-based drugs, heroin has its grips in the suburbs, within the confines of the ultra-rich, and at street level. Until we're able to treat the real problems - over-prescribing, for-profit treatment facilities, and over-zealous laws intended to stop the usage of drugs- let's at least try to stop some people from dying.

**-Lauren Galli is a professional writer and freelancer who resides in Cumberland County, PA**

**The PLCB is an ages old hangover**

Until recently I'd only known of Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot because of the beautiful state park named after him, which is located in York County. It is a beautiful lake where I camped as a child. His legacy as a conservationist appeals to the outdoorsman in me. He was a forester, an adventurer. He cared deeply for the environment. Pinchot, a Republican, had many grand ideas that many deemed 'Socialist,' such as allocating coal energy, similar to that used by fellow conservationist FDR in his Tennessee Valley Authority.

Pinchot served as governor for two terms, separated by four years, as consecutive terms were illegal in 1927 when he originally resigned from office. Pinchot's road to a second term was not easy, and there was one major cause to his struggle. Gifford was a temperate teetotaler, a staunch prohibitionist. Many of his adversaries sought to repeal the eighteenth amendment as the experiment of prohibition was a complete failure. It had only led to the glamorization of alcohol, a cultural shift in authoritarian disrespect and a massive increase in bootleg booze and organized crime. The Lost Generation were still drinking, more so than the Greater's before them, in fact, but their consumption had become a cultural phenomenon of flappers, speakeasies and gangsters that got their berries despite any federal prohibition of their freedom.

December 5th, 1933 was a glorious day. FDR (who had aligned with Pinchot during his second run, despite their partisan differences, and together created the Civilian Conservation Corps) toasted the repeal of prohibition and a whole nation of criminals celebrated freely. Gifford, his conservationist ally, was raising no glasses. He quickly assembled a team known as the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board whose main purpose was to “Discourage the purchase of alcoholic beverages by making it as inconvenient and expensive as possible.”

**PLCB (cont.)**

Governor Pinchot succeeded both in allowing us the beauty of his parks as well as the horror of his temperate vision. He demanded that we may only purchase 192 ounces of beer (which is 16 twelve ounce bottles) with a restaurant liquor license. This is why you must run in and out of grocery stores to supply enough beer for your gathering. You must go to a separate store to buy your spirits, known as Wine and Spirits, which is controlled by the PLCB, who routinely demonize the product they are selling. In order to sell alcohol at a café there must be thirty seats available. This is why some gas stations, finally permitted to serve alcohol have jammed a bunch of chairs somewhere in the corner. It looks ridiculous. It gives people a cheap place to drink so it defeats any temperate purpose to begin with. The same cash register may not ring up alcohol that is used for gasoline. It is anti-Capitalist, is regressive, it is irrational.

So why have we allowed them to continue for 85 years? Because the state has inflated this organization to the point where neither the market nor capital gain mean anything. PA state troopers enforce the PLCB. They routinely run sting operations in order to collect fines from licensees. If a license holder is RAMP (Responsible Alcohol Management Program) certified, however, the fine is greatly minimized, should they get busted. This is an effort to force licensees to pay into their online training course. Having taken this course, be assured that it will make even the most optimistic employee baffled by the stupidity of these laws. There is an entire section based on the 'Pizza Hut Clause.' I'll spare you the details but it is just as ridiculous as it sounds. Also, the PLCB claims they are losing money.

Who else but the state could lose money on the recession proof sale of booze? It is not quite so unbelievable considering this is the same state that enacted the Johnstown Flood Tax, which taxed every bottle of alcohol until the town was repaired, which happened in 1942. Of course, that tax did not go away with the flood damage. One may worry about the state store cashiers, whose jobs would be in jeopardy should the industry be privatized. Their starting wage is well above minimum because the state trusts their discretion in selling the product it demonizes. Surely, considering this skillset they could easily find jobs in the private sector. The market depends on people spending money and I cannot imagine anything as regressive as Pinchot's vision to make that as difficult as possible for consumers. We need to privatize the liquor industry and abolish the PLCB. Pinchot State Park can stay, though, it's a good place for a swim.

**-Douglas Graham is employed in the beer and wine industry and resides in Washington County, PA**

Every Quarterly issue of the LibPenn features original content from libertarians throughout Pennsylvania. Do you have something to say? A local issue you have written about? Please contact:

**newsletter@lppa.org**