Denver to host 2008 Libertarian National Convention

The Libertarian National Committee has announced that Denver, Colorado will be the host city for the 2008 Libertarian National Convention. The LP presidential nominating convention will be held between Friday, May 23 and Monday, May 26 at the Adam’s Mark Hotel. Adam’s Mark Denver is Colorado’s largest hotel, with over 1225 rooms and 133,000 sq. ft. of meeting and exhibit space.

“We are extremely proud to serve as the venue for the 2008 convention,” said Libertarian Party of Colorado Chairman Travis Nicks. “We look forward to showing the nation’s Libertarians what the birthplace of the Libertarian Party has to offer.”

While Libertarians hold a Libertarian National Convention every two years, on presidential election years they select their presidential and vice presidential candidates through the convention process.

“With all of the recent media interest about the libertarian vote in western mountain states, Denver will provide an excellent opportunity for us to show the voters what is meant by smaller government, lower taxes and more freedom,” said LNC Chairman William Redpath. “Additionally, the Libertarian National Convention won’t be a coronation of some pre-determined candidate held at taxpayer expense.”

The Libertarian Party, which recently celebrated its 35th birthday, was founded in Colorado in 1971. Libertarians do not accept public funding for their national convention, while the Republican and Democrat conventions generally cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.

Former Congressman Bob Barr newest LNC member

Can Americans be persuaded to cast votes based on something more than party label and habit,” asked former U.S. Congressman Bob Barr in a recent Atlanta Journal-Constitution article. “Will the next two years witness, at long last, the rise of a truly viable third party — not one molded in the image of a wealthy egotist but one based on meaningful and substantive ideas? Will the 35-year-old Libertarian Party finally prove itself a party truly concerned with winning elections as opposed to defiantly championing issues that will never fit the description ‘mainstream?’ If the new management of the Libertarian Party has anything to say about it, the answer to those questions will be a resounding ‘yes.’”

In mid-December, Bob Barr, a recent Life Member of the Libertarian Party, became a part of the Libertarian management team he had described after he was offered the position of Regional 4 chairman. Barr was recently elected as a Libertarian to the U.S. House of Representatives from Georgia. He has been a fierce advocate of individual liberty and constitutional government. His position on the new management team of the Libertarian Party will be to cast votes to implement those positions.

Indiana Libertarian sworn in by Libertarian judge

It’s been said that “when dog bites man, that’s not news, but when man bites dog, that’s news!” While it doesn’t appear there was any biting going on, there was an unusual occurrence in Hagerstown on January 1st, when Susan Bell, judge of the Hagerstown Town Court, administered the oath of office to Comley Tillson and Steve Coffman.

“What makes this so very special is that this is the first time this has ever happened to my knowledge in the United States. Never before has a judge elected as a Libertarian given the oath of office to any newly elected officials elected as a Libertarian,” said Mark Rutherford, State Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Indiana. “Despite the election law hurdles placed against the Libertarian Party by the Republicans and Democrats, the Libertarian Party has grown in Indiana to the point where an elected Libertarian judge is now giving the oath of office to my knowledge.”

Indianapolis judge sworn in by Libertarian judge
**Indiana Libertarian sworn in by a Libertarian**

Continued from Page 1

expressed appreciation for the confidence voters have placed in them, and vowed to keep a watchful eye on the taxpayers’ money. Township Board members are elected for four-year terms, and have responsibilities in the township similar to those exercised by the County Council, dealing mostly with township budgets. "We hear a lot of comments from people who like what Libertarians stand for, especially at the state and local level, but they fear voting for us amounts to wasting their vote. Putting a few in the ‘win column’ will go a long way in alleviating those fears."

According to Bell, the LP is focusing its attention on the 2007 elections. "Obviously, the town and city elections that will be held this year are more within reach of the LP and its limited resources. We can’t come close to spending as much as the two major parties, but in the smaller races we can do the ground work and meet the voters. That is where we shine. That is what we can build on."

Libertarian Party calls for Homeland Security to drop expansive screening program

The Libertarian Party has called upon the Department of Homeland Security to cease activities which target tens of millions of people as potential threats to the government. The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection recently announced that it is using its Automated Targeting System, a system previously used to track cargo, to create risk assessments on all international travelers as well as a wide variety of U.S. citizens who work in the transportation and travel industries.

While individuals may be assigned risk categories and denied flights, they are not able to obtain a copy of the information Homeland Security has compiled about them or to correct any inaccurate information contained within the database.

Homeland Security announced that it has already been using this system (by some accounts for up to four years) in the Federal Register. Homeland Security admits its intention is to circumvent their intention is to circumvent their obligation under the Privacy Act to ensure accountability," said LP Communications Director Stephen Gordon. "The Libertarian Party has jumped into the fray on this issue because Americans are being denied the most basic of their civil rights guaranteed by our laws and our Constitution.”

In a formal comment submitted in December by the Libertarian Party, opposition to the Homeland Security system was expressed in three general categories of comments:

Conflict with DHS Appropriations Act: The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007 expressly forbids the use of any funds that "may be utilized to develop or test algorithms assessing risks to passengers whose names are not on government watch lists." Homeland Security announced that the system “builds a risk assessment for cargo, conveyances, and travelers based on criteria and rules developed by CBP.” Homeland Security’s actions clearly contradict the very piece of legislation which funds it.

Conflict with the Privacy Act: Homeland Security has claimed exemption from the Privacy Act on law enforcement grounds. While the Privacy Act clearly identifies exceptions as persons who are under criminal investigation, arrested, indicted or convicted, Homeland Security seeks to add tens of millions of additional people to this general law enforcement category. Homeland Security’s other claim for Privacy Act exemption is for people under criminal investigation. The Privacy Act requires that law enforcement comply with requests to furnish copies of collected personal information to persons who have been investigated. Homeland Security refuses to comply with this statute.

Constitutional Arguments: There are a variety of potential Constitutional arguments in opposition to the Homeland Security system. The Libertarian Party is objecting primarily on Fifth Amendment grounds. The Fifth Amendment clearly requires government to use “due process of law” before depriving anyone of “life, liberty or property.” The Libertarian Party contends that the right to travel freely is one of the liberties described in the Fifth Amendment.

“The obvious attempt of DHS is to deprive people of liberty without being restrained by our ‘due process’ tradition and law,” reads the Libertarian Party public comment. “If allowed, DHS will be circumventing the entire judicial system and consequently depriving Americans of one of their most essential rights. Such action is contrary to the intent of the framers of the Constitution and attacks the very foundations of our system of government.”

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union, Electronic Privacy Information Center, Identity Project and a coalition of thirty additional organizations have filed similar formal documents. The Libertarian Party is America’s third largest political party, maintaining a proud 35 year tradition of supporting smaller and less intrusive government.
Three Libertarian events scheduled for Orlando in March

The quarterly meeting of the Libertarian National Committee and the annual meeting of the state leadership of the Libertarian Party will be packaged in a big weekend in sunny Orlando this March. There will be three major events scheduled for the weekend of March 16-18. On Friday, March 16, the Libertarian National Committee will have its first meeting of 2007. This will also be the first meeting attended by new committee member and former Congressman Bob Barr (see page 1). Later in the evening will be an opportunity for networking with members of the LNC and state leaders from around the country.

From Saturday, March 17 until Sunday March 18 the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance will have its annual conference. This is a tremendous opportunity for state leaders to obtain training, network, share ideas, and work on plans that can benefit the growth of their state parties. There will also be a lunch and dinner banquet provided. One of the banquet topics will be a discussion of the future of the Libertarian Party with current and past leaders. The conference will conclude Sunday at noon.

While the conference is informally still called the State Chairs’ Conference, the conference is not restricted to state chairs. Registration is open to any interested party members.

According to LSLA spokesman Patrick Dixon, there will soon be a registration form posted at www.StateChairs.org with additional details. There will also be a business session on Sunday where actions and discussions are restricted to state affiliate leadership.

On Sunday, March 18, the Florida Libertarian Party will hold its convention following the close of the LSLA conference. Additional details aren’t yet available, however, the Florida LP website should provide further details at a point in the not too distant future. The events will be taking place at the Orlando International Airport Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. The hotel is located two miles from the Orlando International Airport (airport code MCO) and offers complimentary airport shuttle, free parking, a pool/spa/fitness center, a business center, an on-site restaurant and a complimentary continental breakfast. It is also close to other restaurants and shopping. Additional hotel information may be found at their website, located at www.bestorlandoairporthotel.com.

Room rates for the event range from $72 to $89 per night. To register, please call the hotel at 407-859-6380, as their website will not take reservations. Please be sure to ask for the “LP Group Rate” to ensure your low price. Group room rates will be honored from three days before to three days after the event.

Bob Barr officially jumps from GOP to the Party of Principle

Continued from Page 1

to be the new executive director of the Libertarian Party affiliate in Barr’s home state of Georgia. Barr’s experience, combined with his hot-button political issues, are important to Chastain.

“Bob Barr is an asset to the LP of Georgia,” Chastain said. “He brings expertise, and a perspective on the federal government that spans several decades, so he knows how the games are played. But most importantly, he loves individual freedom and actively fights for the Bill of Rights.”

In addition to having served eight years in the House of Representatives, Barr serves as a board member of the National Rifle Association and is the Chairman of Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances. He also is a member of The Constitution Project’s Initiative on Liberty and Security at Georgetown University. He advises a variety of policy organizations, including the American Conservative Union and the American Civil Liberties Union. Barr is President and CEO of an Atlanta-based consulting firm with offices in the Washington, DC area. He practices both civil and criminal law.

LNC Chair William Redpath stated, “Bob Barr’s willingness to serve as a leader of the Libertarian Party represents a significant and positive development for our organization.” The Libertarian Party played a pivotal role in key races in 2006 and has emerged as a strong and principled political force.

Redpath continued, “The antiquated two-party system was dealt a blow today as we have welcomed a patriotic statesman into our ranks with the intent of using his vast experience and widespread respect to help recruit and elect Libertarian candidates of his caliber.”

Historically, the relationship between Libertarians and Barr has at times been contentious. Libertarians ran television commercials in 2002 targeting Barr in a Republican primary race against John Linder and took credit for their part in his defeat. Since that time, Barr has been more actively engaged in Second Amendment and civil liberties issues and has spoken at several state and national Libertarian conventions.

Since his congressional loss, Barr appears to be clarifying his stance on issues related to the use of medical marijuana. In recent interviews on Atlanta’s Neil Boortz’s and Phoenix’s Charles Goyette’s radio programs, Barr indicated that he is willing to work with Libertarians on these and related issues.

“There’s a lot of room to work on that issue,” Barr said during the Goyette interview. “For example, on the issue of medical marijuana and the states’ rights issues involving that. I’m very supportive of states’ rights. I am also very supportive of the concept of legitimate testing for the use of medical marijuana, and I’m very disappointed that the government has stood in the way of that. So there’s a lot of room there.

“I’m working through some of those individual liberties issues but also believe very strongly that, just as when I was in the Republican Party, I did not agree with everything the Republican Party stood for, everything in its platform, and certainly there’s a lot of room in the Libertarian Party for people who have differing views on drugs, or differing views on other issues, and that’s the sign of a mature party, that it will accommodate those differences.”

Marijuana Policy Project’s Executive Director Rob Kampia has welcomed Barr into the Libertarian Party.

“I’ve had the opportunity to meet with former Congressman Bob Barr on two occasions this fall,” Kampia wrote. “The conversations were quite interesting (and very civil), given that he was one of the three most problematic members of Congress for my organization since I co-founded MPP twelve years ago.

“But that’s in the past; he has really come around on drug policy issues,” Kampia continued. “He acknowledges that the drug war is a failure and it cannot be won, he has publicly come out in favor of states’ rights for medical marijuana, and he wants to do whatever he can to shrink the size and reach of the federal government, which presumably includes the drug-war bureaucracy...”

“I support the notion of Mr. Barr taking a leadership position with the Libertarian Party; it’s a win/win for him and the Party.”

Barr’s first official action as LNC representative will be to organize a meeting with state party leaders to address party-building and political goals for 2007 (see previous article).

Additionally, he is engaged in policy issues alongside the Libertarian Party, such as the new Homeland Security passenger tracking database system (see Page 2).

“We’re very excited to welcome such a seasoned and respected man to the party,” said Georgia Libertarian Executive Committeeman Joe Magyer. “Former Congressman Barr has been an outspoken advocate of many of the same issues that the LP membership collectively holds near and dear. His sticking to his ideological guns rather than continuing to toe an ever-shifting Republican party-line is both admirable and reflective of the building internal discontent within the two major parties.”

Since Barr has officially become more engaged in Libertarian Party activities, LP media coverage has increased dramatically. In addition to significant Internet coverage, over 600 newspaper articles have been published about Barr’s political move and the story has been covered on national television networks, such as Fox News and CNN.

After accepting the position, former Congressman Barr stated, “I’m pleased to assist the Party of Principle in this capacity and hope to further our political success as we move closer to the 2008 election cycle. Being a member of this body is a serious and long-term commitment that I gladly accept. As importantly, I’m happy to announce that I am now a proud, card-carrying Libertarian who is committed to helping elect leaders who will strive for smaller government, lower taxes and abundant individual freedom. I encourage other Americans from across the...
Inside this issue

We have tried doing a few things differently with this month’s edition of LP News. Keeping with tradition, we provided news which we hope is of interest to party members in the front section of the paper. However, many of you have requested some changes to our format, so we have started accommodating your requests. It’s your paper, and this month many of you will have input into the content.

On the front page, we have provided the latest information we have about former Congressman (and new LP member) Bob Barr being elected to fill a vacant spot on the Libertarian National Committee. On the topic of being elected, we have the rare opportunity to share the story of two Libertarians being sworn into office – by a Libertarian judge.

Throughout the paper, you will find information about the 2008 Libertarian National Convention, which will be held in Denver, Colorado. In addition to the obvious five W’s, BetteRose Ryan was kind enough to provide a lot of information about the 2008 Libertarian leaders to provide us with some of their goals for 2007. We’ve included these letters and hope you enjoy the wide range of comments and ideas.

Feel free to send us letters on any topic of general interest to LP News readers. Please limit your letter to 100 words, though.

We also asked state Libertarian leaders to provide us with some of their goals for 2007. We’ve printed those and they provide some interesting insight into the direction of some of our state affiliates.

Also included in this month’s LP News is information about two upcoming events. The first (chronologically) is two events rolled up into one. The Libertarian State Leadership Association will hold their annual meeting and the Florida LP will be holding their convention on the weekend of Friday, March 16 to Sunday, March 18. All three events will be in the same hotel in Florida. For more information, see page 3.

With Democrats in control of both chambers of Congress, the nationalized healthcare system is going to be a topic which we can anticipate hearing a lot about over the next two years. As this seems to be an appropriate time to start developing some good Libertarian speaking points on the issue, please feel free to submit your Letter to the Editor on the topic.

Considering the recent anniversary of the founding of our party, we thought it appropriate to provide you with a special treat. Here is a copy of the front page of an early Libertarian Party newsletter (the forerunner of LP News). Enjoy!

LP News is your party and we strongly welcome your suggestions about how to improve the publication. Unfortunately, we can’t comply with every piece of sound advice offered because some conflict with others and we don’t have the financial resources for some of your best ideas. However, we do listen and will try, as we have done this month, to implement some of your better suggestions.

Bush defines new Iraq policy: indefinite escalation

On January 10, President Bush outlined his plan for an intensification of military activities in Iraq. He pledged to send an additional 20,000 American soldiers to Iraq and set the stage for an expansion of hostilities to additional countries in the region.

“Succeeding in Iraq also requires defending its territorial integrity and stabilizing the region in the face of extremist challenges,” Bush said. “This begins with America’s support from Iran and Syria. And we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in the region.”

In contrast to the Bush statement, Libertarians have long advocated that the United States should maintain a policy of non-intervention with all of the countries in the region. Instead of deploying additional troops in Iraq, we should be sending them home.

To justify his deployment of an additional five brigades, Bush noted that “Al Qaeda is still active in Iraq.” He failed to note that the Al-Qaeda presence in Iraq has increased significantly while U.S. forces have been engaged in military operations in Iraq.

“U.S. military actions in Iraq have had the unintended consequence of increasing the size of the Al-Qaeda network in the region, opposed to decreasing them,” said Libertarian Party Communications Director Stephen Gordon. “How many additional terrorists will be created as the result of an increased military presence in the Middle East?”

In addition to public opinion surveys indicating that a majority of Americans disapprove of our offensive military policies in Iraq, an increasing amount of Democratic and Republican politicians and pundits are becoming more vocal in their opposition to the war. Many have criticized Bush for not having a coherent Iraq policy with clear goals and a time frame for withdrawal.

“It appears that Bush has finally come up with a new strategy for Iraq, which is a policy of indefinite escalation,” said Gordon. “Bush’s policies will only increase the level of hostility directed at Americans in Iraq. By increasing the number of our enemies, Bush will continue to increase the amount of U.S. soldiers he sends to Iraq. It’s a vicious cycle.”

Our policy of nation-building hasn’t worked; the Iraqis are now engaged in a civil war. The terrorists were few in number and contained mostly in Afghanistan at one time; we are currently fighting them as far away as Somalia. Bush’s policies have cost thousands of American lives and a significant amount of our tax dollars; his latest proposal will increase both the casualties and the national debt.

“At this time, complaining about the justification for Iraq is useless as Americans and Iraqis are dying each day in futile battles,” said Libertarian Party Executive Director Shane Story in a statement two weeks ago. “Bush and Republicans are looking to save face with talk of ‘surges’ and success, while Democrats willingly allow the violence to continue just to further diminish Republicans. It’s time to stop playing politics with human lives and end this occupation.”
COLORADO: Colorado Libertarians welcome the entire LP

The Libertarian Party announces it is holding its 2008 Presidential Nominating Convention in Colorado, the birthplace of the party. The week-long convention will begin May 20, 2008 with several days of committee meetings, leading up to four days of seminars, elections and nominations and end May 27, 2008 with the kickoff of the Presidential Campaign and seating of the new Libertarian National Committee. The site of the convention will be the Adam’s Mark Hotel of Denver. Delegates will be greeted with a welcome reception on May 22 and will convene for business on the morning of May 23.

The Libertarian Presidential Nominating Convention will be held at no cost to the people of Colorado, unlike many of the Democrat National Convention, whose committee asked for a commitment of millions of dollars from the people of Colorado, the cost of the Libertarian Party Convention will be borne entirely by the attendees themselves.

For more information on the convention contact BetteRose Ryan at (720) 341-2193 or the National Libertarian Committee office at (202) 333-0008.

Colorado is considered an ideal place for the convention. Denver has pleasant, mild weather and numerous attractions for the families of the delegates. Those attractions include: the 16th Street Mall (right outside the door of the convention hotel), the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Fire Museum, the LoDo District, the State Capitol, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and the MS Mint within two to six blocks of the hotel; and Coors Field, the Pepsi Center, and Six Flags Elitches within 2 miles of the hotel. Other attractions that are easily reached by public or private transportation and are less than 10 miles from the hotel include the Children’s Museum, the Denver Aquarium, the Denver Botanic Gardens, and the Cherry Creek Mall. Also in this range and one short bus ride from the hotel is the Denver Zoo, which is next to the Museum of Nature and Science, the home of the IMAX and Planetarium.

The 16th Street Mall boasts of entertainment including a multiplex theater, one of the nation’s top comedy clubs and food ranging from Subway to Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse. Shopping is available throughout the mall and in LoDo. A free shuttle runs the length of the mall every few minutes during the day and every 15 to 30 minutes late in the evening.

Transportation from the Denver Airport (DIA) to the hotel is available by Super Shuttle for a cost of $19 per trip ($34 round trip) or by public transportation for $8 each way by bus (advance round trip $14). The Super Shuttle drops you at the door of the convention hotel. The bus, an interstate motor coach style bus, drops you at the downtown station where you pick up the free shuttle that drops you at the corner of the hotel. Convention planners are investigating other transportation options.

INDIANA: IWU student brings Libertarian ideas to campus stage

Indiana Wesleyan University is well known for its outstanding education and deep Christian tradition. However, the dedication of a few strongly libertarian student leaders may soon give the school a fund reputation for its Libertarian student body.

On Monday night, IWU College Libertarian President Brian Bither took center stage in front of a packed house of 300 students, faculty, and community members to debate a fellow student opposed to the College Libertarians’ right to exist on campus. Bither has been a leading activist for Libertarian ideas at IWU for well over a year. It was called the “8 Trillion Dollar Debt Day Party” on campus last year to highlight the deficiencies in current fiscal policy.

A National Champion Bible Quizzer and Biblical Literature Major, Bither took issue with misleading notions of Libertarian ideas at IWU. “I am absolutely confident that the Bible does not permit Christians to physically impose their beliefs on other groups,” noted Bither. His comments come in response to a number of articles authored by a fellow student questioning the College Libertarians right to exist on IWU’s campus. Bither’s opponent argued that the College Libertarians should be banned because Libertarians are opposed to the infringements on liberty that occur when certain moral values of a few are forcibly imposed upon others.

The campus debate, coined the “Bither vs. Patrick Grindlay Debate,” had been the buzz on campus in the week leading up to the showdown of student philosopher, student views toward Libertarianism,” said Bither of the atmosphere on campus after the debate. The IWU College Libertarians are just one of a number of active Libertarian organizations on Indiana college and university campuses today.

MARYLAND: Petition signatures submitted

The Maryland Libertarian Party has finished its petition drive to be back on the ballot, and submitted the petition,” reported Richard Winger at ballot-access.org. “This is the fifth petition that has been submitted around the USA in the last three months, to gain or regain party status. The others have been the Constitution Party in North Dakota, the Green Party in Maryland, the Libertarian Party in North Dakota, and the Independent Party in Oregon. It is the seventh meeting to submit such petitions for an election so far in the future (i.e., 2008), but it shows that people are already energized for that election.”

NEVADA: State convention to be held in Vegas

The Nevada Libertarian State Convention will be held on February 10th, 2007 at the Italian American Club in Las Vegas. One may visit www.LPNevada.org for tickets and directions.

A business session and a banquet will be planned. Between these activities, Nevada Libertarians will be hosting a Presidential Debate. All announced candidates have been invited. Those currently committed to participation (in alphabetical order) Gene Chapman, Dave Hollis, Steve Kubby, Robert Milnes and George Philby. The format for the debate will be a modified town hall style, so audience members will be able to directly ask the candidates the questions of their choice.

NEW JERSEY: Separate but equal is not good enough

New Jersey Libertarians are urging their legislators to pass a marriage bill which will offer all married couples the same rights.

“Some religious denominations will never sanction the marriage of same sex couples, and that is their right,” reads their press release. “The state, however, must treat its citizens equally. The Libertarian Party strongly supports marriage equality. While we half-heartedly support Governor Corzine and the leadership of the Assembly and Senate for “separating but equal” civil unions we urge them to immediately pass a law providing true equality, leaving no doubt that any couple is free to marry in New Jersey.”

OKLAHOMA: Ballot access case moves closer to resolution

The Libertarian Party Organization v. Cl nondan, the ballot access case filed by the Oklahom Libertarian Party in 2004, has moved a baby step closer to resolution,” reported Richard Winger at ballot-access.org. “It is pending in the State Court of Appeals. That Court has just assigned the case to the Tulsa Division. A hearing date and the identity of exactly which 3 judges will hear the case will be announced later.”

Oklahoma’s ballot access laws are so notorious even the Libertarian Party was unable to field a presidential candidate there in 2004.

OREGON: State convention to be held at Sunriver Resort

The Libertarian Party of Oregon will hold its 2007 business convention at the Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, Oregon on March 9-11. Heavily discounted lodging and economical convention packages are available on line at www.IORogan.org. The convention will feature three candidates for U.S. presidential: Mike Jingozian, Steve Kubby and Christine Smith, as well as former LNC Chair and current board member Jim Lark. See the Oregon LP website for more information.

WASHINGTON: Instant runoff voting passes in Pierce County

In November, the voters of Pierce County, Washington passed Charter Amendment 3, which will replace the existing election system with Instant Runoff Voting.
Special Section: Libertarian goals for 2007

**IOWA:**
Organizing Des Moines

**Michigan:**
Lofty goals

**Indiana:**
Running in smaller districts, candidate train-
ing and recruitments

**Missouri:**
Top seven for ‘07

Missouri Libertarians have announced their “Top Seven for ‘07”:
1) Recruit candidates for local offices, partisan and non-
partisan elections in ‘07 and ‘08, as well as credible candi-
dates for statewide and federal offices for ‘08 elections.
2) Continue gaining me-
dia attention with candidates, as well as activists fighting the
issues at hand.
3) Massive fundraising ef-
torts to ensure our ability to buy media coverage in ‘08.
4) Open a Missouri Liber-
tarian Party headquarters.
5) Hire full-time and part-
time staff members for head-
quarters
6) Create a legislative committee to work with county
and state officials
7) Double our member-
ship and activists by December 2007.

**Montana:**
Organization, education, communication and candidates

“**Montana**’s goals in 2007 include more organization, education, communication, chapters, getting more people involved and more candidates for office,” according to state party Chairman Mike Fellows.

**Nevada:**
Calling for volunteers to expand 2006 accomplishments

“The Nevada Libertarian Party achieved many of its goals for the 2006 election cycle. Their state legislature candidates doubled their vote totals, averaging more than nine percent across the board. They also maintained ballot access and the LP’s 2008 presidential nominee will be on the ballot in Nevada. ‘Now is not the time to rest on our past accomplishments,’ said state party Chairman Jim Duensing. ‘We all worked hard through September and October. **Continued on next page**
Continued from previous page

for our results in November. But remember, while elections are fought in September and October, they are won in December. We are already preparing for the next go-round (that’s National Finals Rodeo speak for next election). We could use your help in many areas. There is enough work to do that whatever your skills and time constraints; there is some little thing you can do that will help the cause immensely.”

NORTH DAKOTA:
Ballot access is the priority

T he main goal of the Libertarian Party of North Dakota is to successfully obtain ballot access for the Libertarian Party for the 2008 election, said Libertarian Party of North Dakota Chairman Richard Ames. “The petitions are at the Secretary of State office awaiting signature validation. Next we need to find good candidates to run for office.”

OHIO: School board races highlighted

“I n Ohio, school boards are multi-seat, non-partisan elections,” according to Libertarian Party of Ohio Secretary Robert Butler. “Candidates can win with 20 to 30 percent of the vote, spending less than $1,000. In 2007, we will have a program to encourage and assist school board candidates. Our goal is to have 100 candidates and win 20 seats.”

OREGON: Constitutional amendment and election campaigns

I n the coming legislative cycle, the LPO will be working to advance a bill which would propose an amendment to the Oregon constitution in the 2008 election. The amendment would make privacy an explicitly stated right. Libertarians are also preparing for Oregon’s 2007 local elections with at least two candidates running for re-election. A group of Libertarian investors is also investigating the purchase of the building in which the LPO office is situated. If the purchase goes through, the LPO will receive rent relief and help to bring more financial stability to the organization.

PENNSYLVANIA: Party building in 2007

T he Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania is looking forward to 2007 as a year of grassroots party building. As it is a municipal election year, they do not face the burdensome signature drives to get statewide candidates on the ballot. This gives Pennsylvania Libertarians the opportunity to focus on outreach and build support in local communities.

They plan to expand their candidate recruitment program to get more Libertarians involved in their municipalities. Pennsylvania Libertarians are also in the process of adding to our network of county organizations. Their efforts over the past year have indicated growing support for the LP in the general electorate, but have also highlighted some issues they need to address.

They will continue their efforts to reform ballot access and election laws in Pennsylvania. All of our citizens should be able to freely choose their elected representatives in government, not have their choices limited by two political parties. The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania plans to promote the vision presented by our nation’s founders that government exists to secure the rights of the individual, and this year they intend to do this neighborhood by neighborhood.

TEXAS: Formal political, organizational and financial goals

I n Texas, Libertarians established a formal set of goals. They were adopted by their state committee in June 2006 to be achieved by June 2007.

Texas Libertarians adopted three political goals for the next twelve months. They planned to deploy 5,000 signs and 100,000 door hangers for November elections, to recruit five serious candidates for non-partisan offices in May 2007 and to present a bill that gets to the state house for a floor vote.

Their financial goals are to establish a financial reserve plan, establish a financial reserve, increase the recurring gift amount to $5,000 per month, increase the number of pledge participants to 150, and to increase their donor base by 50 percent.

For organizational goals, they intend to clean up their database, establish one or more counties with Bylaws and a standing Executive Committee in each state senatorial district, develop a county organizational guide and form a Publications Committee and create a newsletter or other form of communication.

WASHINGTON: School board races highlighted

A fter the professional Galactic Guthrie for Senate campaign, the LPWA is busy planning for the 2008 campaign season by recruiting and training candidates, campaign managers and treasurers. They are reformating their database to be more useful for fundraising and soliciting volunteers.

Their greatest opportunity will be in Pierce County (Tacoma) where, due to the efforts of long-time LP member Kelly Haughton, all future county elections will be by IRV (Instant Runoff Voting). The LPWA is also contemplating a statewide IRV initiative in 2008.

They have also recently moved into new and much more useful office space which is much more conducive for work parties and candidate support.

Achieving reserve compliance by Patrick Dixon

I want to take a moment to explain what I believe to be the most important goal of this LNC term: compliance with the national committee’s reserve policy.

Our survival is not guaranteed. There are many that want us to disappear. We do not want to make the mistake of taking all our forces out to light battles without defending our fort. If we spend all the money that our supporters provide in order to grow, but are not able to meet current expenses, debt can pile up and the party can disappear by default.

We have had difficult financial challenges through our history and have managed to persevere. It is not healthy to endure those times as it frightens away vendors and supporters, as well as taking extraordinary effort to get back on solid ground. It is far better to be proactive and manage the finances to avoid these episodes than to have to react to them.

That is why the LNC has a reserve policy. Many organizations that I am involved with also have reserve policies as a means to properly manage the finances. By establishing a cash reserve level, the organization has a buffer for those tough times so that action can be taken before the money runs out. Unfortunately, the LNC never has been in compliance with this policy and has not maintained adequate cash reserves.

Financial goals are good to have. It brings focus to our efforts and lets our supporters know what we are trying to accomplish. However, if these goals are strictly for the revenue side, there is no inherent fiscal discipline. While we should raise more money and invest it wisely to sustain and grow, we also need to end this 2-year LNC term with a sound financial basis for sustaining operations. We do not want to fall behind on accounts payables and fines vendors and staff that we can’t pay them yet.

If we were to ignore sound financial management and run up debt, how are we better than the people we ridicule in Congress?

We must survive first, then grow, and then win. Achieving reserve compliance is a clear signal to outsiders that we are viable and worthy of their investment. It is a signal to staff and potential new hires that we can meet payroll. It mitigates the risk of losing the services of vendors that decline to serve us for lack of payment. The reserve is the key financial health metric the LNC needs to monitor over time to determine what it can afford to spend. Additionally, we do not send a compelling message that we can make government’s finances healthier if our own financial condition is sick.

My role as champion is to have this goal formally adopted by the LNC and to remind the LNC of its pertinence while discussing budgets and expenses during our term. I have accomplished the first part and will continue do keep our eye on the ball as we go forward. With sound management, we can defend the fort and survive. With your continued support, we can grow. With the efforts of candidates and activists, we can fight strategic battles and win.

Patrick Dixon is the Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Texas. He also serves as an At-Large Representative on the Libertarian National Committee. Dixon also serves on the city council in his hometown of Lago Vista, Texas.
Letters To the Editor

Electoral results and strategy

Here, in my opinion, are the main hurdles that our party has failed to overcome in the past three decades:

1) Exposure. We can’t win if no one has ever heard of our candidates. With the myriad opportunities provided by the internet (party and candidate websites, blogs, YouTube, etc.), we can no longer make the excuse that our opponents get all of the press coverage. We need to generate our own press.

2) Education. Of those Americans who are familiar with the term “libertarian”, many - if not most - believe us to be “pot smoking Republicans” or worse, outright anarchists. It is imperia- tive that we educate our fellow citizens to the merits of limited government and personal freedoms.

3) Debate. Politics makes for passionate arguments. Unfortunately, even in the friendly confines of the lp.org blog Libertarians regularly insult and attack one another - AND WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE! Each one of us must remember the issues and principles which brought US to the LP, and find effective ways to prove to others that our party represents what is best for America and its citizens.

In summary, if we can increase our party’s and candidates’ internet exposure (which will ultimately lead to mainstream coverage); educate the public about what we truly stand for (and what we do not); and hone the debating skills of those of us who are taking the time to front the lines (meaning friendly conversations with friends, family, coworkers, bar patrons, et al.), the rest should take care of itself.

2008 is our best opportunity ever. Let’s take advantage.

Bryan Scofield
Tampa, Florida

Winning more races

How can the LP win more races?

Grassroots Political Organizations: Two things that the LP is really lacking in is money/volunteers and these are the two main reasons LP candidates usually lose every election. Grassroots campaigns do not need a lot of money but they do need a lot of dedicated full/part-time volunteers. But how do you get those numbers of volunteers to see the next paragraph.

Education/PR/Internet: Americans either don't understand libertarian philosophy or have gotten incorrect info on the LP, so they do not take Libertarian candidates very seriously and since the mainstream media is controlled by Democrats or Republicans the LP rarely gets any good press, which again means that the general public doesn’t hear the LP stance on the issues. The only way the LP can get the word out to the masses (without spending a lot of money) is through the Internet. More importantly, it will also reach young people who are generally more accepting of different ideas like the ones of the LP; they are more willing to volunteer, and would become the backbone of the LP. Understand and find a Libertarian gem, Perot, I wouldn’t waste my money on a LP Presidential candidate because few people ever hear about an LP Presidential candidate anyway. Right now and for the foreseeable future, an LP Presidential candidate will do little to help. Getting the masses educated on the LP is much more important because it will mean many more victories for all LP candidates in the future because they will be more well educated Libertarian voters. Relatively unorganized/no money LP campaigns of the last twenty years will not only not get any future LP candidates elected, they will turn voters off to the LP and make it look like some kind of joke.

Andrew Davies
Northern New Jersey

The lifeblood of politics

In this holiday season we can celebrate some election successes. From ballot access in some states to record vote totals, there were some real victories. Yet I must ask as a party, don’t we want more? I believe there are many of us who see an America with Libertarians in office, an America where Libertarians lower taxes and restore freedoms. Yet, how do we bridge the gap from promising election progress to true change? The answer is money and how we as Libertarians support our party in this fight.

If the card in your wallet that says Libertarian means anything to you, this is your call to arms to give more money today. Set up a monthly withdrawal today. If you already give monthly, this is your call to give more today. Not tomorrow, not next week, but today.

Changing the course of this nation and this party will require more money today! If you are wondering what I give, I admit that I will just now be setting up my monthly withdrawal today.

Why? Because I am tired of sending money every time the party needs money. I want headquarters to perform the party’s business, not beg me for a check.

I close this call to arms (dollars) with one more request. Give something monthly that hurts a bit fiscally. Give something that makes you give something up monthly. Give enough that it reminds you what we are fighting for, but give it today!

Matthew Sabath
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Credible candidates

The success of the Libertarian Reform Caucus at this past summer’s convention has led me back to the party. As we start to discuss meaningful political ideas like strategy and abandon abstract debates over irrelevant philosophy, I have an idea for libertarian electoral success that I’d like to throw into the mix.

Right now the average libertarian candidate for higher office is someone who is fluent in political philosophy but lacking in political experience. While this is a great recipe for members of think tanks, it’s not the correct recipe for a political candidate. Credible candidates are born through gigs of personal wealth, appointments at the state or federal level, independent pop-ularity gained in another arena (such as entertainment), or experience in politics at the municipal or county level. For those libertarians looking to run for office, the fourth option on my list seems the most viable way in the door, and it is that option on which libertarian candidates should focus.

If you want to run for office, get involved in your local or regional government. Attend meetings for at least a year to get familiar with the issues. Get involved in charities and fraternal organizations to gain credibility. Try to get appointed to one of the many boards or commissions that often have vacancies. All of these actions prepare you for the initial goal or running for local or county office. Once you’ve made your media contacts, established local credibility and devised a set of realistic and publicly acceptable ideas capable of addressing local issues, your odds of getting elected increase by orders of magnitude.

And once you hold office at the local or county level, you gain the credibility to run for the statewide or federal positions that libertarians claim to be so important to our party.

Justin Somma

Election reform

I feel the first and foremost goal of the Libertarian Party should be to promote election reform. Approval or Condorcet voting would put an end to the vote-splitting nonsense that takes place in every race we enter.

This would increase our electability far more than any amount of money or media exposure.

Curtis Barrett
Chicago, Illinois

Expanding our base

The problem is that LP candidates inherently cannot win elections to higher office solely on the libertarian vote. We simply do not have the numbers. The purpose of campaigning is not outreach. The purpose of campaigning is to win election to the office for which you are campaigning. And to do this, candidates need to win the vote of citizens who call them- selves Independents, Republicans and Democrats.

The problem is our presentation. Do not campaign as a Libertarian. Do not philosophize. Campaign as a concerned citizen. Select no more than three issues, issues which are of immediate interest or concern to the voters in your district. Develop a libertarian position on these, but do not present them as such. Do not philosophize. Take a pragmatic approach. Explain how these issues will have a direct impact on the daily lives of those you wish to represent by being elected. Do not philosophize. For example: The reason you want to be elected is to support the Fair Tax Initiative and to introduce Fair Tax Legislation...

Do not avoid other issues, but minimize your response. A standard response for sideline issues might be to explain that you will support any legislation which decreases government and oppose any legislation which increases government. Do not philosophize. Always return to the em- phasis of why you want the voter to vote for you. Remind the voter that if they are unhappy with the current condition of the country, they can replace you in two years. But keep returning to the pragmatism of your selected issue and why you want to be elected. Campaign as a Concerned Citizen - not as a Libertarian.

George Harper
Brazoria County, Texas

Ranked choice voting

One thing that got scant press coverage but can only benefit the Libertarian Party in places it has been enacted down the line is that on November 7th 3 cities and 1 county enacted Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Now, Minne- apolis, Minnesota; Davis and Oakland, California and Pierce County, Washington will hold their elections using preferential voting rather than the winner-take-all method.

Rather than debate the finer points of libertarian philosophy or the LP platform, if there was one thing Libertarians should exclusively pursue getting enacted is Ranked Choice Voting at the city, state and county level. This way it makes it easier to elect Libertarian candidates to office and eliminates the ‘spoiler effect’ Libertarians, unfortunately, have not attached to us at present.

I am told LP Chairman Bill Boulware is a member of the Center for Voting and Democracy, which supports enacting RCV. I would urge Mr. Redpath and the LNC to hold off on pursuing RCV adoption at the state level until such time that RCV is en-acted on a wider scale.

Doing so, in my view, would be a better use of the Libertarian Party’s time and resources.

Mike Renzulli

Blue about our coverage

I’m glad to see that you’re accepting LTEs again, as long as they don’t show the LP in a bad light. However, I think you may be guilty of that same offense.

On page 1 of the [Nov.-Dec. ’06 issue] you present a map of the US with Montana and Miss- ouri in blue. The caption in red says, “Libertarian Victories Turn Senate Blue.” I’m always eager to hear about Libertarian victories, so I couldn’t wait to read all about it.

Unfortunately, the “victories” See LETTERS Page 10
The Libertarian National Committee welcomes our newest members*

**Life Members:**
David Tucker

**Sponsoring Members:**
Matthew McNally

**Supporting Members:**
John Ashley
Chris Aubuchon
Debra Audrey
James Ayton
Biem Bakker
Kevin Balser
Jason Bandura
Blake Bielfeldt
David Blakesley
James Boesen
Christopher Bondy
Valerie Booth
William Bordelon
John Bosdell
Thomas Bradford
Eric Brown
Jeffrey Brusie
Kevin Burke
Patrick Bushman
Alex Byron
Jeffrey Canton
Joseph Carter
M. Chapman
Lee Chard
Brian Cheek
Cory Chenard
Frank Clark
Franklin Clark
John Clark
Michael Clark
Brian Collins
Joel Cox
Edward Crawford
Jamie Dam
Anne Davis
William Dennis
Tom Dewitt
Gregory Dickson
Andrew Dietler
Donald Elliott
JD Evans
Bert Fall
Carl Folden
Will Ford
Jay French
Paul Gaffney
Richard Giles
Jason Griffin
Andrew Groth
Craig Hall
Sue Hall
Stephen Hammit
Jacob Hedge
Christen Hedge
Theodore Hercules
Leigh Hershey
Ryan Hershey
Patrick Heyman
Matthew Hutchens
Jonathan Huth
Ken Ikeda
Angela Izzo-Pepe
Effin Jablonski
Alexander Jakosa
Neal Jakub
Larry Jones
Michael Jones
Jeff Kazbek
Logan Kennedy
Ken Kitchen
Thomas Knapp
Igor Kravchenko
Catherine Kuck
Robert Landis
James Landrith
Kenneth Lane
Jon Latorella
Richard Lazear
Lewis Lehe
Robert Lewis
Nicole Lewk
Gregory Limper
Justin Logan
Samuel Lorusso
Rebecca Madden
William Madden
Jim Majorowicz
Brent Mandujano
Dustin Marema
Steven Marrell
Kevin Marsh
Michael McConachie
Jim Mcgee
Everett Mcint
Jim McWilliams
Tammy Michaelle
Curt Milam
Ray Mileur
Clark Moeller
Anthony Monteleone
Matthew Moreland
Dennis Morris
Timothy Mullen
Jeffrey Munn
Wilson Myers
Cody Myrkel
Jay Nielsen
Darren Nolan
Kyle Olmstead
Maureen O'Malley
Andrew Pace
William Palmer
Gaylon Patterson
John Perna
Lance Pfeifer
Ted Roehrs
Ryan Rogers
Greg Rothernber
Adam Ruth
Robert Ryan
Willard Salemink
Matthew Sanders
Nathan Schatt
Brett Schechter
Michael Schmi
Erik Schneider
Nick Schol
Reid Scott
William Sherb
Bob Siegel
Mark Slivkoff
Attilie Smith
Steven Smyth
Phyllis Spital
Brian Stref
Peter Stenbakken
Greg Surbey
Anthony Surman
M. Tabun
Christopher Thomas
Robert Thuerc
Richard Tippens
Amy Trippett
Peter Tschirhart
Michael Velev
John Ventura
Michael Wanchick
Hussain Waseem
George Washington
Scott Webb
Troy Weems
Tom Wiley
Scott Williams
Jerry Winemiller
Edward Wright
Kenneth Young
Jeffery Yun

*new memberships from November 22, 2006 to January 3, 2007
The beginning of the New Year is a good time to reflect on goals for personal improvement. It is likewise a good time to establish new goals which will help our communities, our states and our country to become truly freer places.

All of us could do more to help advance the libertarian movement, and I’ll try to break it down into three general categories. Some of us simply need to do more. Others do plenty for the freedom movement, but are in sore need of adding additional organization or efficiency to our efforts. And some of us spend more of our time and energy attacking our allies than in fighting the true enemies of liberty.

I can’t count the times I have sat in front of my television and yelled at some politician or another. Guess what? Such screaming didn’t accomplish anything. It took getting up out of my easy chair and getting involved.

For those of us who fall into the first category, the easiest thing to do is to simply become more involved in some Libertarian organization. To simply attend the next county or local Libertarian meeting or event is a great starting point. If you don’t have time to attend, there are probably many other ways to become involved at the local level. Simply contact your local or state party. For those of us who already attend local meetings, perhaps it is time to take on a more responsible role. While everybody doesn’t have the time to run for some party office, there are always projects or tasks which need to be accomplished at the local level. There are always tasks which need to be accomplished, ranging from data entry to stuffing envelopes.

If party functions aren’t your cup of tea, there are plenty of other things you can do. Some people don’t like being involved in the administrative duties of party management and prefer action. There are plenty of action-oriented Libertarian groups out there. In Georgia, for example, both the Libertarian Action Network and ThinkLibertarian are supportive of the Libertarian Party but are generally more oriented towards grassroots political activism. There are also national issue-specific groups, Outright Libertarians serving as one example. If you can’t find a Libertarian Party group for your issue or concern, simply start one. It’s easy.

For those of us who aren’t interested in working with groups or organizations, there is another simple idea which is easy to implement into our daily lives. One positive thing all of us can do is to make some simple pro-liberty statements each day. Comments about the size or intrusiveness of government are easy to make while standing in a grocery store line, an elevator, or hair salon. Better yet, provide a Libertarian solution to the problem.

The Internet also provides an easy way for us to make pro-liberty statements. Blogs and other electronic forums provide easy ways for us to leave a fast comment promoting the Libertarian Party or our favorite Libertarian candidate. It only takes a couple of minutes and it makes a difference.

For people like me, efficiency is an important issue. While it may not sound like the most important political objective, simple things like updating my address book and cell phone contacts will save me significant time in contacting the various Libertarian activists and officers I call upon. Towards this end, one of my New Year’s projects was to upgrade my cell phone to a PDA and train myself to be more organized.

From an organizational perspective, organization is important, too. Maybe it’s time to take a look at some of our local party contact information, update party websites, and ensure that our mailing and media lists are kept up to date. Also, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the national Libertarian Party and the LNC for their tireless efforts. It is great when we notice good work, but it is even better when the mainstream media notices. Good job.

Betsy Young

For those of us who already fight for freedom, and becoming more active in various Libertarian affiliates and organizations.

For those of us who aren’t in -

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Betsy Young

Pierce County IRV

Continued from Page 5

ing for county level offices. Since Instant Runoff Voting allows voters to reveal their first choice, second choice and third choice, voters in Pierce County will be able to vote Libertarian or Green without wasting their vote.

The elimination of the wasted vote syndrome in partisan elections will change the dynamics of these elections. Libertarian vote totals are almost certain to increase, but we don’t know if that will be enough for a Libertarian to win a seat.

The Tacoma News Tribune endorsed Amendment 3 and will likely be covering the different strategies of the political parties in this new system in 2008. Libertarians in the state are already focused on running as many candidates in Pierce County in 2008 as possible to see what the impact of the new voting system is on Libertarian vote totals and media coverage of the candidates. Affected races in 2008 include County Executive, Assessor-Treasurer, Sheriff, and several County Council positions. Running in these races is very different from running in standard partisan races, so Libertarians in Pierce County will be learning how to campaign in a world where they do not have to deal with the wasted vote argument.
Planning early for the 2008 convention

Are you coming to the 2008 Libertarian National Convention? Are you bringing your spouse, children, or friends that are not all that interested in being a part of this exciting convention? Do they want to do something besides platform review and bylaw changes? Maybe you plan to arrive a day early or leave a day late and are looking for something close to do. Here are a few choice suggestions of things to do in or near downtown Denver.

Within walking distance of the hotel are a number of attractions as well as shopping.

The US Mint is two blocks from the hotel and does free tours but reservations are required. These can be made up to two months in advance.

The Denver Performing Arts has three theaters with various performances. It is one long block and six short blocks away. You may also take the free shuttle and walk two blocks to the complex. There you may be able to see a Broadway show or hear the Denver Symphony as well as off Broadway shows.

Looking for a museum? The Denver Art Museum and the Colorado History Museum are actually just across the Civic Center park which is one block from the hotel. The Denver Fire Museum is also just a few blocks from the hotel. Don’t forget the Children’s Museum, a museum designed for young children and is located about two miles from the hotel.

Within three miles of the Adani’s Mark Hotel there is Coor’s Field, which has tours provided there is no baseball game scheduled and Six Flags Elitches, a great theme park.

Taking a short bus ride or car trip, you can visit the Botanic Gardens (about 4 miles) and the Denver Zoo and Museum of Nature and Science (about 5 miles) which includes an IMAX and Planetarium.

If you just want to relax with a movie, there is a multiplex about three blocks from the hotel or catch the free shuttle and go door to door.

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