

The Colorado Liberty Newsletter is the official publication of the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

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Colorado Liberty

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Action Items:

- [Submit Your Activist Form](#)
- [Submit Your Contribution Form](#)
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<http://www.LPColorado.org>
<http://meetup.LPColorado.org>

From The Chair Travis Nicks, State Chair

I hope everyone had a nice Holiday break.

We are gearing up for an exciting year when more of the populous will be paying attention to politics and our platform will be resonating with the voters of Colorado. We have seen some changes in the State Government that should provide us several upcoming opportunities. Keep an eye out locally as well for Libertarians focusing on local government.

Speaking of local...Ever wanted to run for City Council? Or maybe even Mayor? Well give us a call, send us an e-mail, or just stop by one of the meet-ups.

As is the case after a new year we are in need of new donations and new donors. Become a member of the 1776 club and donate a little every month. Your generous donations are what keep us fighting for liberty every day. For more donation information you can stop by our website.

Make your voice heard; contact your representatives, write letters to editors, testify before the General Assembly. For more information on legislative issues, please subscribe to low volume, but time sensitive Liberty Alerts.

Keep talking about liberty with everyone you know and we will continue to make the historic kinds of gains we made this past year.

Yours in Liberty,
Travis Nicks
Chairman



Letters To The Editor:

Scandals and Scams: By Debbie Schum:



Q: What's the difference between the Madoff Ponzi scheme where new investors pay off old investors, and the Social Security Ponzi scheme where new investors pay off old investors?

A: The Madoff scam was voluntary.

It seems there is no end to the scams and scandals. In fact, there are so many of them that most of us aren't even surprised anymore. We know another one is just around the corner, and then another one. And so on.

One of the current outrages today is the credit card rip off. It's nothing new, of course, but is finally being discussed on the news. Not the bail out scam—the other one, where your credit card company suddenly boosts your interest rate as high as 30%. Sometimes it's because of a late payment, or you didn't meet the minimum payment. But sometimes it's for no reason at all, such as happened to my husband recently. A card he's had for years, never late, always paid more than the minimum due, all of a sudden a 27% interest rate, with a multiple choice list of excuses about why from the credit card company.

But here's another credit card company scam many of you may not know about: Merchant Services. I own a small wholesale business, I do international business, and I accept credit cards. When my customers call me with their credit card number (which they could be paying any monthly random interest rate on), I also have to pay. Enter Merchant Card Processing Services. When I signed up for this service, I was told that I would be paying 2.5% plus 20 cents on each transaction, a "small fee" for international transactions, and a penalty if I did not do \$25 per month in transactions. Fine, I don't expect this service to be free. But I do expect to not be defrauded. Those fees are now 3.5% plus 25 cents. When I get my monthly Merchant Services Statement (the statement itself costs me \$7.50 per month), there are 9 different categories of fees, and each of those categories has a host of incomprehensible fees in it. Here are examples from the 8th category, simply entitled "Fees": Annual Compliance Support Fee (\$40. This is supposedly to update my card swiper terminal so it doesn't show credit card numbers, except I don't have a card swiper terminal); US Cross Border Fee; VRU Auth Fee; EDC Capture Fee; International Service Fee; Foreign Handling Fee; Monthly Service Charge; Monthly Statement Fee. That's just some, and only from one category. But the category that is especially scandalous is called "Interchange Charges". Go to your computer and search "credit card interchange fees", and you'll see what I mean. Visa and Mastercard have many lawsuits against them over this. These are fees that are charged to merchants based on the **card holders** credit rating, how long they've had the card, where the card was issued, what kind of card (business cards cost me even more) and the card "rewards system". That's right...store merchants and wholesalers like myself are paying for your frequent flyer miles, hotel discounts, and cash back points. But what is really the zinger in this scam is the fee schedule for these "Interchange Charges". When I called Merchant Services to ask them what percentage rate they were charging me for these fees, I was told by the service agent that she "couldn't tell me". Why--is it a secret (like the charges themselves)? No, it's just that it varies. It could be anywhere from 1 to 4%. What are the variances? Well, the things I listed above, and apparently some other secret things. She told me that if I were to give her a card number and transaction amount, she still couldn't tell me. Which makes it sound like the fee is determined by where a dart hits a dartboard. Now add to this all the taxes, licenses, permits, fines, and fees the government demands on business.

Enjoy the concept of your hotel discount. You'll be making up for it on goods you purchase, because merchants really can't afford the \$100 billion annually in interchange charges (alone) that pay for that "discount".

- - - Call of the LPAC Annual Meeting - Click Here To RSVP YES Using Email! - - -

CALL OF THE LPAC ANNUAL MEETING

The Libertarian Party of Arapahoe County Is Having Its Annual Meeting On:

February 15th, 2009 at 5:00 pm.

The Annual Meeting Will Be Held At:

Libertarian Party of Colorado Headquarters
6989 S Jordan Rd
Suite 5U
Englewood, CO 80112

Please RSVP For This Event Using The Colorado Libertarians Meetup!

- - - Call of the LPAC Annual Meeting - Click Here To RSVP YES Using Email! - - -

Campaigns Report

By Norm Olsen, Campaigns Director

The Colorado Secretary of State's Office has a "How To Run For Office" document posted on their [website](#).

The Campaign strategy for 2010 has been adjusted to be inline with recent developments. I'm increasing the objective for 2010 to be not less than four Libertarians on every ballot in Colorado.

Definitive plans for a Campaigns Committee are being made. At present, the plan calls for five members who will be called team leader in expectation of there being more than one person involved in each of the five activity areas:

1. Candidate Vetting.
 - This team will be responsible for making recommendations to the Campaigns Director concerning which members are suitable for recruiting for high visibility offices, and specific offices which offices we will decline to recruit candidates for.
 - [Click Here To Join The Candidate Vetting Team](#)
2. Candidate Recruiting.
 - This team will be responsible for recruiting as many candidates as is deemed appropriate by the Campaign Director, which shall be based on the information provided by the Candidate Vetting team and subject to Board approval.
 - [Click Here To Join The Candidate Recruiting Team](#)
3. Event Coordinator.
 - This team will be responsible for organizing candidate training events and, in the event of any primary races, primary candidate forums.
 - [Click Here To Join The Event Coordinator Team](#)
4. Issues Team.
 - This team shall be responsible for providing talking points for all candidates, which will also be the main thrust of all candidate training.
 - [Click Here To Join The Issues Team](#)
5. Candidate Training.

- This team will be responsible for actually performing the candidate training sessions and, hopefully, consist of three or more members with extensive candidate experience.
- [Click Here To Join The Candidate Training Team](#)

~ ~ ~ [Affiliate Representative Committee - Click Here To Send County AR Information!](#) ~ ~ ~

ATTENTION COUNTY AFFILIATES!

At the Board meeting following the December 6th strategy session, a resolution was adopted that creates a new standing committee called the Affiliate Representative Committee (to be fondly known as "ARC"). The ARC's membership comprises, amazingly enough, all of the Affiliate Representatives ("AR's"), and it is supposed to meet at least once per quarter for the purposes of:

"keeping the affiliates informed of each others' local issues, events, opportunities and achievements; sharing ideas and resources; starting and supporting new affiliates; and other activities as specified by the state board."

In order to get the ball rolling, we would like to make sure that we have the name, phone, and email of each county's current AR. Please send that information to TechMan@LPColorado.org no later than the end of February so that the first ARC meeting can be scheduled for sometime in March.

~ ~ ~ [Affiliate Representative Committee - Click Here To Send County AR Information!](#) ~ ~ ~

F.R. Outreach Report

By Jeff Orrok, Front Range Outreach Director

Announcing the Dec 30, 2008 registered Libertarian voter numbers:
8,121 active plus 3,071 inactive for a total of 11,192!!

I have faxed in our annual "Voter Registration Drive Statement of Intent" and am waiting to hear back from the Secretary of State regarding the date for the next VRD training session and certification of our annual VRD number. The LPCO cannot register new voters at events until this is completed.

I am in the process of contacting Libertarians in El Paso County to see if they are ready to form an affiliate (which would be nice to have since we're planning on holding the state convention down there). Please join the discussion at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ElPasoCO_Libertarians/

The annual state convention will be May 15th, 16th, & 17th at an undetermined location. If you have ideas for a location, contact The LPCO Board, or please call Marc Goddard at 540-905-5286.

Application deadlines for booths at Cinco de Mayo, People's Fair, and Pridefest are already upon us.

We are in urgent need of funds now so that we can take advantage of the lowest rates!

Cinco de Mayo: \$350 (early bird, single)

People's Fair: \$225 for a double-wide + \$100 if we want to sell things

Pridefest: \$225 (single non-profit) or \$400 (double non-profit); if the non-profits sell out, a single commercial is \$350.

Monthly Pledge Program

Monthly donations are the best way to help make a political difference. Although contributions are not tax-deductible, we have fixed expenses. Campaigns and events cost money. Choose an amount per month below, and PayPal will automatically send us your donation each month. Don't have a PayPal account? Click any button below and use your credit card or bank account instead. We've made it so easy, there really is no excuse for not contributing right now.

Join the "Nickel Club!"

Donate \$5.00 each month easily using PayPal.



Join the "Copper Club!"

Donate \$10.00 each month easily using PayPal.



Join the "1776 Club!"

Donate \$17.76 each month easily using PayPal.



Join the "Silver Club!"

Donate \$25.00 each month easily using PayPal.



Legislative Report

By David K. Williams, Jr., Legislative Director

I've been downtown this week at the Senate Education Committee watching the Democrats do their best to gut SB057 while not appearing overtly hostile to transparency.

There are numerous bills before the current General Assembly. Here is a comprehensive list of all the bills that have been introduced so far: <http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2009a/csl.nsf/StatusAll?OpenFrameset>

Please Subscribe to Liberty Alerts.

~ ~ ~ "Viva Libertad" - Click Here To Sign Up For Spanish Classes Using Email! ~ ~ ~

SPANISH CLASSES

Are you interested in learning how to express the principles of liberty in Spanish? The LPCO is exploring the possibility of sponsoring a Spanish class or a series of

Spanish classes. Based on the response from members, we will determine if this is feasible.

If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please contact Jaime Brown or Richard Randall.

We are very excited about the prospect but participation is crucial.

~ ~ ~ "Viva Libertad" - Click Here To Sign Up For Spanish Classes Using Email! ~ ~ ~

Media Report

By Richard Randall, Media Director

The Colorado legislature is now in session - and LPCO PodCasts are now being produced with David Williams Jr. (LPCO Legislative Director) taking an active role as host supported by Wes Long as Technical Director. David will be interviewing Colorado state legislators and activists throughout the coming legislative session. Be sure to check out our PodCasts regularly!

We rarely take the time to recognize Libertarians in the mainstream media. So with upcoming editions I will pay tribute to some Libertarians you should know about.

This month, I'd like to start by recognizing the host of "After Midnight", Rick Barber, on KOA 850 AM. Rick is a registered Libertarian who regularly discusses politics on his show. For all of you night owls, you can listen to Rick Sunday through Thursday night from 1:00 am til 5:00 am. Visit his MySpace page at: <http://www.myspace.com/rickbarberkoa>

Membership Report

By Clint Jones, Membership Director

The Membership Contact Committee is revising the Contribution Form and trying out 2 contact databases. Both the form and database are scheduled to be ready by mid-February when LPCO gets the cleaned-up SOS voter registration list. At that time, the Committee (Jaime Brown, Jack Woehr, Mike Spalding, Clint Jones) will begin contacting registered Libertarians in Colorado. We are also working on a script to use and a few FAQs in case the registered Libertarian we are calling has questions.

If you know of anyone who wants to take from 200 - 1000 names to contact (expect to spend 3 minutes per call, thus every 100 calls will take 5 hours) during the first half of 2009, give that name and contact info to one of the 4 committee members.

~ ~ ~ Please Get Involved - Click Here! ~ ~ ~

MEMBERSHIP CONTACT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER

The Membership Contact Committee will be making phone calls to all members to inform them of the upcoming annual meeting and to ask for participation in our 2009 membership survey. We will also remind members that newsletters are delivered via email and archived online. If you are interested in helping with phone calls to members, please contact:

Clint Jones (membershipdirector@lpcolorado.org).

Clint Jones
Libertarian Party of Colorado
6989 S. Jordan Road
Second Floor, Suite 5U
Centennial, Colorado 80112
(303) 936-3874

~ ~ ~ Please Get Involved - Click Here! ~ ~ ~

Publications Report

By Jaime Brown, Publications Director

As our featured video below illustrates; our government is so inefficient and absent minded that it taxes the citizen while it considers stimulus for the economy. It is currently considered outlandish that real stimulus is to let us keep our money so they don't have to send it back to us. With that basic economic obliviousness, the government has suffocated the economy and now we are forced to accept that only their stimulus can resuscitate it.

The left has always opposed the Big 3 US automakers because of their antiquated inefficiency protected policies, but suddenly we should bail them out rather than let better, more innovative and efficient automakers employ Americans so we can experience real change and real progress.

Wall Street greed is blamed for the housing bubble even when it was government policy that blew it up. The economy can only survive so much government pressure between taxation, inflation, and invasion. Too big to fail means we, the people, are too small to compete and too small to create change.

Liberty is justice and the bailouts are neither. The two-party election and public policy monopoly needs to experience justice so we can experience liberty.

For more on this topic visit: <http://www.house.gov/paul/index.shtml>

Records Report

By Steven Gallant, Records Director

I compiled and filed the minutes and reports for the previous Board meeting.

Jim Frye is looking into GoogleDocs as a possible interim or long-term framework for the database.

LPCO 2009 State Convention Timeline

Event	Stipulation	Governing Text	Deadline	Scheduled
C&B and Platform Solicitation	at least six months before the convention	BYL Art VI Sec 2	11/17/08	04/14/08
C&B and Platform Final Solicitation	at least one month	BYL Art VI Sec 2	12/13/08	12/06/08

	before final appointments			
C&B and Platform Final Appointments	at least four months before the convention	BYL Art VI Sec 2	01/16/09	01/12/09
Delegates must have been registered to vote as Libertarian on or before this date	at least ninety days before the convention	CON Art VII Sec 4	02/15/09	02/15/09
Application to run for US Senate, US House, or Governor	no later than sixty days before the convention (on applicable years)	CON Art VIII Sec 5	n/a	
End of Fiscal Year	the last day of March	BYL Art IV Sec 1	03/31/09	03/31/09
Call of the Convention Members must be notified of the time and place of the convention and the names of Congressional and Gubernatorial candidates on or before this date	at least forty-five days before the convention	CON Art VII Sec 2	04/01/09	TBA
C&B and Platform Final Reports Due	at least six weeks before the convention	BYL Art VI Sec 5	04/04/09	TBA
Legal Notice Time and Place of Convention must appear in a newspaper of general circulation on or before this date	at least fifteen days before the convention	CON Art VII Sec 2	05/01/09	TBA
LPCO 2009 State Convention Business Meeting	at least sixty-five days before the primary election	CON Art VII Sec 1		05/16/09
National Delegate List Submission	within seven days after adjournment on applicable years	BYL Art VII Sec 6	n/a	
Constitution and Bylaws Filing (with Secretary of State)	within fifteen days of adoption	BYL Art II Sec 1	05/31/09	TBA

We are officially FEC compliant and I'm working on maintaining compliance.

Wanted; 1776 Club members to keep our recurring expenses paid.

New Rescue Plan For The Economy: Cancel 2008 Income Tax

The Colorado Liberty Newsletter was sent by:

• The Libertarian Party of Colorado • • 6989 S. Jordan Road, Suite 5U • • Centennial, CO 80112 •

Phone: 303.837.9393

Contact the LPCO **Online**

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