



COLORADO LIBERTY

A PUBLICATION OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF COLORADO

SPRING 2021

VOLUME 50 ISSUE 1

Exciting new developments with YOUR Libertarian Party!

By Joe Johnson

Hello fellow Libertarians, it's been fifty years! Your Party is turning 50 this year! Can you believe it???

50 years ago, a few good men got together and decided that it is time make liberty the focus of American politics, and they did so right here in Colorado!!

How would you like to be a part of a 50th anniversary gift to your state party? Would you like to see the Libertarian party of Colorado have:

- ✓ Physical office space where interested citizens can come to learn more about your party?
- ✓ Paid activists who can work daily delivering your message of liberty to citizens of Colorado?
- ✓ Paid Executive Director to bring to fruition all of your dreams for the LPCO?
- ✓ 100,000+ new registered Libertarians over the next decade?
- ✓ Libertarian Party of Colorado presence at most outreach events around the state?
- ✓ A professional looking presence statewide with literature?
- ✓ A newsletter sent not only to all members, but also EVERY local library, High School, news outlet, etc... etc... in the state?
- ✓ More? Much more?

The above items have been - for far too many years - little more than a pipe dream. You likely hoped that 'someday' we might be able to do these things. Well my libertarian friends, we have a plan! Thanks to the recent hard work of your Party's Board of Directors, the above items and more are not only possible, but actually within reach, and I could not be more excited! Please plan to attend the Gala event at this year's Colorado state Libertarian Convention for more details on these EXCITING plans!!

Liberty Gold Rush is a fitting theme given the influx in registered Libertarian voters going up by 800% since January 2021. This number is only continuing to rise. Don't wait to join the GOLD RUSH as we celebrate the **LPCO's 50th (Golden) Anniversary Convention** on May 21st – 23rd at the Marriott Denver West in Golden CO. See more details inside this issue. We are grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you there.



**Don't miss this year's Gold & Purple Gala
featuring 2020 Vice Presidential Candidate,
Spike Coen**

THANK YOU TO THESE CONVENTION SPONSORS

Victoria Reynolds – for Anaerobic Band Welcome Party

Alan Hayman – for Barbara Kingsley Travel Cost.

Bette Rose Ryan – for Tasha Coen Travel Cost

If you are interested in sponsoring any speakers or events at the 2021 Liberty Gold Rush Convention, visit LPColorado.org, see sponsorships.



NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear fellow libertarians,

As we get closer to the 2021 convention a couple of thoughts come to mind. this year we celebrate 50 years of the libertarian party, and it is reason to celebrate! 50 years ago, a group of individuals decided to come together to protest the status quo by forming a party dedicated to foment liberty! They wanted less, or no state involvement in the affairs of the people. They saw then that we had too much government infringement and intrusion. They opposed the cult of the omnipotent state and in doing so inspired a new era, an era of love for freedom, an era of personal responsibility and holding the government accountable. While there have been few successes, we have managed to influence policy change in civil liberties and human rights. We believe that we are sovereign of our own lives and have managed to have others see that.

We pioneered the way allowing bodily autonomy and legalization of cannabis. We helped decriminalize psilocybin in Denver. We influenced TABOR and were architects of Colorado's minor party bill.

The Libertarian Party has been a leader for 50 years!

This month we also have another anniversary, the anniversary of **Two Weeks to Flatten the Curve**, that created major shutdowns in Colorado. While others stood silent about this major infringement on our lives, liberty and property, it was the Libertarian Party of Colorado that led the way and decided to protest the shutdowns and illegal mandates. In March of 2020, the governor decided to shut everything down, not allowing us even the right to assemble!

Major political parties failed us, they promised us leaders they delivered politicians. Here is the difference between a leader and a politician!

Leaders don't wait for someone to rise up and do the right thing.

Leaders walk forward to find the path that others will need to follow.

Leaders are willing to take risks for their people.

Leaders are willing to stand and fight for their people.

Leaders are willing to pray with their people.

Leaders are willing to mourn with their people.

Most politicians are not been leaders. The true leaders of our communities are the bakers, the restaurant owners, the barbers, the pastors, the homemakers, and everyone else who has refused to wait for government....!!!

Who have they been following? Who is really leading our community?

We are those people, we started ReOpen Colorado. ReOpen Colorado. Not only committed to opening your businesses and your churches but to allow you the right to be with loved ones when they were sick and dying. We stood alone, without political support, but it didn't matter. We got things done.

I believed then, and I believe now...that in Colorado, people have the right to make decisions for themselves and for their family.

No one knows what the future holds. A lot of things have been out of our control. But we have control on what we do of how we vote and how we chose to live our lives.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at this year's convention!

In Liberty,

Victoria Reynolds

Chairman

Libertarian Party of Colorado

720-933-6900

www.lpcolorado.org

FB: [fb.com/lpcolorado](https://www.facebook.com/lpcolorado)

COVID MANDATES AND OUR BYLAWS PREVENTED US FROM EXECUTING A STATE CONVENTION IN 2020, SO WE WILL BE NOMINATING AND ELECTING ALL ELEVEN STATE BOARD POSITIONS AT THE 2021 STATE CONVENTION.

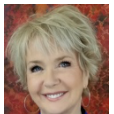
2021 LIBERTY GOLD RUSH SPEAKERS



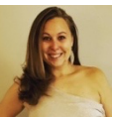
2020 Libertarian Party Vice Presidential candidate, Spike Cohen is the co-owner of Muddled Waters Media, the co-host of The Muddled Waters of Freedom, and the host of My Fellow Americans. Spike is a regular guest of Kennedy on FOX Business and continues to be a guest on nationally syndicated radio programs, talk shows, and podcasts across the world.



Tasha Cohen is the wife of our 2020 VP candidate, Spike Cohen. Her passion is in helping the less fortunate. She often visits a local food kitchen, animal shelter, or meets with homeless people in that community to give back and show them that they matter. Libertarians show that we care by taking human action to help those in need with kindness, care and empathy.



Colleen Cowles is an attorney, an advocate, a long-term Libertarian, a Mom with personal experience, and author of the new book, "War On Us: How the War on Drugs and Myths About Addiction are a War on All of Us". For complimentary chapters of the book, visit waronus.com.



Tara DeSisto has a strong background in fundraising, event coordinating, political and non-profit operations. She holds a BA in Political Science – International Relations from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. She received a certificate from Washington International Studies Program at Oxford University and has a Professional Grant Writing Certificate from the University of Massachusetts.



Laura Ebke is a Senior Fellow with the Platte Institute, with her work emphasizing job licensing reform. Laura served for four years in the Nebraska Legislature. She was selected by her colleagues to serve as Judiciary Committee Chair of the Legislature for two years. Ebke holds a PhD in Political Science. She served on the 2020 LNC Platform Committee and is a current At Large member of the LNC.



Dennis Haugh author of *Political Vertigo* and *Road to Americanism*. He is the host of *The Americanist* podcast and has been interviewed on a number of Colorado radio programs. He is the Vice President of Research and Technology for the American Constitution Foundation. His education includes an M.S. in Computer Science (University of Colorado, Boulder) and a B.S. in mathematics (U.S. Air Force Academy).



Scott Horton is director of the Libertarian Institute, editorial director of *Antiwar.com*, host of *Antiwar Radio* on Pacifica, 90.7 FM KPFK in Los Angeles, California and podcasts the Scott Horton Show from *ScottHorton.org*. He's the author of *Fool's Errand: Time to End the War in Afghanistan*. He's conducted more than 5,000 interviews since 2003.



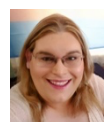
Joe Johnson served as a Trustee Board Member for the Libertarian Party in the Frederick, CO Town Council in 2008. He was the 2018 winner of the Libertarian National SAMUEL ADAMS Activism Award for building party membership, organizing community outreach, or communicating Libertarian principles. Joe was instrumental in helping Colorado "Fill the Slate" in 2000, 2002 and 2012.



Barbara Kingsley has spent her 25-year career helping organizations use plain language to support consumers, increase transparency, and reduce risk. She is the Chair of the Center for Plain Language and a Board Member of the International Plain Language Federation. Barbara believes plain language is the most important tool we have to protect consumer privacy and enhance consumer choice and access.



Eric Mulder has been the LPCO Vice Chairman since April 2019, the Arapahoe County Chair since 2018, and a Colorado delegate to the 2018 National Convention. He was a member of the Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission from 2017-2019. In 2018, Eric Mulder ran for Arapahoe County Sheriff, becoming the first Libertarian candidate for sheriff to get on the ballot in Arapahoe County.



Ashley Shade is a Liberty and GSM (Gender and Sexual Minorities) Activist. She has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She is a Senior Service Support Consultant for Wayfair, and currently works on the North Adams Human Services Commission and the North Adams Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Access (I.D.E.A.) Working Group.

Liberty Gold Rush

The **2021 Libertarian Party of Colorado State Convention** will be held at the **Marriot Denver West Hotel** in Golden, CO. Along with several informative seminars, the delegates will nominate and select all Colorado State Board Members. This year we are offering a Friday Night Roaring Twenties Party, featuring a fun Q&A with past presidents and a live band. There will be 2 breakfasts and a luncheon with renowned speakers such as *Scott Horton*, *Representative Marshall A. Burt*, *Tara DiSisto*, and a fabulous Saturday Night Gold & Purple Gala Dinner, featuring our 2020 Vice Presidential Candidate, Spike Coen.

Registration

GOLD NUGGET

\$299

Unlimited access to all events including the Friday Welcome Party, the Gold & Purple Gala, two breakfasts, lunch, and all seminars.

SILVER STRIKE

\$259

Unlimited access to all Saturday events including the Gold & Purple Gala, breakfast, lunch, and all seminars.

PROSPECTOR

\$149

Access the Friday Welcome Party and all seminars.

GALA ONLY

\$159

Sponsorships

Gala Sponsorship

\$1500 (one available)

- One all access GOLD NUGGET Ticket
- Signage on all Gala tables
- Half-Page Program Ad
- Merchant Booth Space
- Recognition in all Convention Advertising
- Logo/ link on Convention website

Breakfast Sponsorship

\$1000 (two available)

- One all access GOLD NUGGET Ticket
- Signage on all breakfast tables
- Half-Page Program Ad
- Merchant Booth Space
- Recognition in all Convention Advertising
- Logo/ link on Convention website

Luncheon Sponsorship

\$1000 (one available)

- One all access GOLD NUGGET Ticket
- Signage on all luncheon tables
- Half-Page Program Ad
- Merchant Booth Space
- Recognition in all Convention Advertising
- Logo/ link on Convention website

Coffee Break Sponsorship

\$800 (two available)

- Signage on the Coffee service table
- Half-Page Program Ad
- Merchant Booth Space
- Recognition in all Convention Advertising
- Logo/ link on Convention website

Welcome Party Sponsorship

\$700 (two available)

- Signage at the Welcome Party
- Half-Page Program Ad
- Merchant Booth Space
- Recognition in all Convention Advertising
- Logo/ link on Convention website

- ☐ Merchant Table \$75
- ☐ Merchant Table with Electricity \$125
- ☐ Tote Bag Sponsor \$0 (sponsor provides bag)
- ☐ Tote Bag Insert \$25 (You supply the insert)

To register, go to visit <http://convention.lpcolorado.org>

What is the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Up To?

By BetteRose Ryan

Your C & B committee meets every week to decide what changes may be needed for the LPCO Convention and Bylaws. Each document receives a line-by-line review. Many changes have been discussed at length and many ideas have been scrapped altogether. Over the past three months, we have considered non-substantive style changes, provisions that may better serve the membership by placing them in a different document, clearing out of redundant language, and changes that we hope will clarify the intention of the article.

Here are samples of what the committee is considering: We would like to change the words “At any time that” to the single word, “Whenever.” Or the simple change of “formal language.” to “exact language.” Why use six words when one word will do? We are suggesting the change “be responsible for booking and running outreach booths” to “manage outreach booths.” Changing passive voice to active voice makes reading easier. Example: “Director shall be responsible for monitoring activity” to “Director shall monitor activity.”

This is your Party, and the Committee feels it is important that you, the membership, have a chance to voice your opinion by showing your support or opposition to the various changes before the committee’s final vote and the completion of their report to the convention. The committee has put together a document, complete with suggested changes, and the amount of support each suggestion received from the committee. A copy of that document is available for anyone who requests it. Send such requests to BetteRose@aol.com or by calling BetteRose at 720.341.2193. The document is also online and can be found on LPColorado.org.

Your feedback is extremely important, so time is not wasted at the convention. No suggestion is too small. Let’s make this a fun and exciting convention!

You Can Help the Party Grow

Become a sustaining member of the Libertarian Party and receive all issues of the Colorado Liberty and National newsletters for one year. For only \$100 you can be a sustaining member of your County Affiliate, your State Party, and your National Party. Or consider joining our **1776 Club** by becoming a monthly contributor. For as little as \$17.76 you can be a member of this exclusive club which includes all of the above benefits.

Call for Award Nominees

The Libertarian Party of Colorado is looking for 2021 nominees for the following awards, to be given at the Annual State Convention in Golden, CO, May 21st through the 23rd. There is no limit to the number of nominees for any of the awards. You may also nominate yourself.

The Minute Man - for libertarian activism.

Libertarians who: attend outreach events, write letters to the editor, attend forums, lobby at the capitol, or serve on local boards.

Lexington - Lifetime Achievement

A local Libertarian with more than fifteen years of steady activism.

The Friend of Liberty to Liberty

Activists who are not registered Libertarians but do great things for liberty.

Thomas Paine Award

Libertarian who causes libertarian essays, letters, and or articles to be published. (National has the same award)

The PTAK Award Activist of the Year

In honor of Judd Ptak, the LP member who was most instrumental in writing and getting passed the Minor Political Party bill. This award is for someone who has done one outstanding act to advance freedom.

Douglass Bruce was given this award for his work on the Tax Payer’s Bill of Rights. (TABOR)

If you wish to nominate someone for one of these awards, please list the award and the nominee’s full name with a brief sentence or two stating why you believe this person should be given this award. There is no limit on the number of nominees and you may nominate yourself.

Send replies to Michele Poague at mpoague@mac.com

"The initiative process is complex and lengthy..."

--Opening sentence of Colorado Secretary of State's official 20-page manual, Initiative and Referendum Procedures and Guidelines.

By Margot Herzl

Imagine a political tool for Liberty that is more powerful than TABOR, and more equalizing than term limits. A tool which truly returns control of government to the hands of We, the People.

It is time to restore petition rights. Our right to petition – to propose or overturn the laws by which we live – is enshrined not only in the Constitution of the United States, but in our Colorado Constitution as well. Yet (to no one's surprise) our government finds the idea of citizen participation in lawmaking to be a pestilential irritation. Politicians have sabotaged the petition process with so many barriers that successful petitions have become nearly impossible for grassroots groups like the Libertarian Party.

The Petition Rights Amendment (PRA) reforms and solves all the petition hurdles we now face, opening the door to long-sought political reforms. It confronts the dreaded "Safety Clause," makes petitions immune to repeal by elected officials, extends the time to collect signatures, reduces signature requirements, and permits petitioning of **all** governments in Colorado.

Are you ready to take back our rights?

Join the Petition Rights Amendment team at PetitionRights.com and secure to our posterity the blessings of Liberty! Learn more at the Colorado LP's Annual Convention.

DON'T MISS the LIBERTY GOLD RUSH

Plain Language is Essential for Liberty

By Alan Hayman

The Libertarian Party of Colorado is in a position to set an example on an issue that Libertarians should already be talking about. In the days of TABOR, (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) Colorado actually passed a Plain Language law that requires all bills to be written in Plain Language. The US Congress later passed the Plain Writing Act in 2010, which required all Federal agencies to use

plain language in all of its communications with the public.

These are wins for Liberty because plain language in government increases transparency and accountability, but there is still so

much to do. Every time a contract is written in words that few unskilled legal experts can decipher, the individual is at risk of abuse. When the government is passing laws or regulation that cannot be understood, this problem is magnified. As Judge Learned Gray put it, "The language of the law should not be foreign to the ears of those meant to obey it."

Writing in plain language is not just a good idea—it is a human rights issue. It is often assumed that complicated legal jargon is necessary for legal documents, but a growing number of legal scholars say otherwise. Perhaps the best known is Bryan Garner, who has been the Editor-in-Chief of Black's Law Dictionary since the nineties, but there are many others.

One way LPCO can set itself apart is to lead by example. Our Bylaws, for example, are a source of constant confusion and dysfunction. Much of this stems from its lack of clarity, and the fact that it is written at an eighteenth grade reading level according to readability engines. This year, the Bylaws Committee has evaluated our Bylaws in the context of plain language and will be proposing many improvements at our upcoming convention. A platform plank speaking to the issue of Plain Language would also set us apart in a big way from the old parties, whose lack of principles will never lead them to take up this issue. Plain language is an issue that needs to be part of our culture.

The War on Terror: The Healing Starts When the War Stops

By LPCO Vice Chair- Eric Mulder

Representative Jason Crow of Colorado's 6th Congressional District has enthusiastically gotten behind efforts to establish a memorial to the War on Terrorism in Washington DC alongside other war memorials. Jason proudly proclaims this memorial is to a conflict that has defined 3 generations of Americans and will serve as a place to heal.

With the war approaching nearly 20 years of ongoing operations, in which American uniformed personnel and innocent civilians are still dying, to build a memorial dedicated to a war that hasn't even finished and that Congress has made absolutely no hints at ending anytime soon, is disrespectful to the lives that are still being lost as we speak.

Speaking as a veteran of that war, such a memorial cannot serve as a place of healing if that war is still ongoing. The healing starts when the war stops!

The Oath of Office

By John Pickerill

"The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution." – Article VI of the U.S. Constitution

Every elected official at the federal, state, and local level and the military take an oath "to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic...." Shockingly, most who take this oath never bother to ask themselves what "supporting the Constitution" actually means or have read through it enough to understanding what they are vowing to support.

When asking what the Constitution means it's always best to refer to those who wrote it. Alexander Hamilton explains in Federalist Paper #28 that the sanctity of the oath binds these officials to the laws of the federal government, at least those laws that fall within its legitimate enumerated jurisdiction. So what are these "enumerated powers"? In light of today's bloated government, most people today are surprised to learn how few legitimate federal powers there are. Congress' powers are only those listed in Article I Section 8 of the Constitution. The President's powers are only those listed in Article II Section 2 and 3, in addition to his veto power in Article I Section 7. And the federal judicial powers are only those listed in Article III Section 2.

The chief architect of the Constitution, James Madison, puts it this way in Federalist #45, "The [federal powers] will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce." Nothing authorizes laws or regulations creating most of today's federal programs and departments. This includes the Departments of Energy, Education, Transportation, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Interior. It is not authorized to create a central bank (today's Federal Reserve Bank) that legalizes massive money printing; corporate welfare programs or bailouts to farmers and industry; social welfare programs such as Medicaid, Obamacare, SNAP, TANF, Unemployment Insurance, HUD subsidized housing, or stimulus checks; Social Security or Medicare retirement programs; federal funding to public schools or transportation. This isn't to say many of these functions couldn't exist at the state level. They just can't at the federal level. Madison stated it this way in Federalist #45: "The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite."

Some claim the "General Welfare," "Necessary and Proper," "Supremacy," and "Interstate Commerce" clauses allow for going beyond the list of enumerated powers. But the authors of the Constitution specifically say otherwise. In Federalist #41, Madison stressed it would be absurd to assume Section 8's phrase, "provide for the common defense and general welfare," somehow means the federal government has unlimited power to do so, especially when the specific list of powers follows right after that phrase. Hamilton dedicates the whole text of Federalist #33 to state in no uncertain terms that the Necessary and Proper clause and Supremacy clause cannot be used by Congress to make laws that go beyond Section 8's enumerated powers. He actually states that doing so "are merely acts of usurpation and will deserve to be treated as such." And lastly, Madison explains in Federalist #42 that the purpose of, "Congress shall have the power to ... regulate Commerce ... among the several States" is merely to prevent states from imposing duties and customs on each other making trade very inefficient.

Over the last hundred years our lawmakers and justices have gone drastically off course. So what's today's elected official or justice to do with this mess that he or she has inherited? Obey your oath. Dismantle those violations one at a time. It will take time. But in time it will restore the purpose of American government, which is to "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

AFFILIATE UPDATES AND EVENTS

Please check the website regularly as event locations and times are subject to change.

Adams County Development: group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 8 pm.: Virtual . See LPColorado.org events for Link. For more information, contact Chad at: lexsemperaccusat@protonmail.com.

Arapahappy: the following **Arapahoe County LP Meeting**. Held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at: 21097 East Mineral Dr. Aurora, CO. From 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm.

Boulder County Libertarian Lunch is held every Thursday at Carelli's Restaurant in Boulder, 30th & Baseline at 12:15

Chaffee County Meeting is held 03/25/2021 5:30-6:30 Virtual Meeting (200 E Colfax, Denver, CO, 80203, US) . See LPColorado.org events for Link. Contact C. J. Coop

Delta County LP Meeting is held on the first Saturday of every month at Needle Rock Brewing, 820 Highway 92 in Delta at 6:00 pm.

Denver Libertarian Meet Up will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month on Zoom and hopefully also at a physical location TBD at 6:30pm. See LPColorado.org events for Link.

Douglas County Meet-up is on the first Thursday of every month at On The Rox in Meridian at 6pm.

El Paso County LP Meeting is sponsored an outreach table at the R. K. Shows gun & knife show at the Colorado Springs Event Center, held 03/13/2021 and 03/14/2021.

JEFFCO, The Jefferson County Meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month, 7PM at Holiday Bowling and Billiards Lakewood (10350 W. Colfax Ave, Lakewood, CO, 80215, US)

Liberty Toastmasters is held on the first Saturday of every month, 10:00 am, at the Independence Institute. Please use the North Entrance.

LP CO State Board Meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of every month, 7:00 pm, at the Independence Institute. Please use the North Entrance.

Mesa County Affiliate is usually held on the 2nd and the 4th Wednesdays, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Old Chicago Pizza and Tap Room.

Pueblo & Otero County Meet up is held on the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm at The Senate Bar & Grill. 219 S. Grand Ave, Pueblo 81003

State mandates COVID and our Bylaws prevented us from executing a legitimate State Convention in 2020, so we will be nominating and electing all eleven State Board positions at the 2021 State Convention.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY of COLORADO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

State Chair: Victoria Reynolds

statechair@lpcolorado.org

Term expires: Party Assembly of 2021

Vice Chair: Eric Mulder

vicechair@lpcolorado.org

Term expires: Party Assembly of 2021

Affiliate Development: Steve Gallant

regionsdirector@lpcolorado.org

Term expires: Party Assembly of 2021

Campaigns: Bruce Griffith

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Term expires: Party Assembly of 2021

Membership: John Pickerill

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Term expires: Party Assembly of 2021

Communications: Josh Lallement

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Term expires: Party Assembly of 2021

Secretary: Mike Spalding

recordsdirector@lpcolorado.org

Term expires: Party Assembly of 2022

Legislative: Blake Huber

legislatedirector@lpcolorado.org

Term expires: Party Assembly of 2022

Treasurer: John Hjersman

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Term expires: Party Assembly of 2022

Outreach: Mark Cavin

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Term expires: Party Assembly of 2022

Fundraising: BetteRose Ryan

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Term expires: Party Assembly of 2022

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