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From the Chair

A few words from Chair William Hunt.

Do you hear that? These are the last gasps of a dying parasite looking for a way to survive.

In the beginning, as the new infection raged, the symptoms were acute and very severe. Not much force was required to incapacitate its host because we had never seen anything like it before. As we adapted to this parasite it mutated. People relaxed their guard and—in spite of our best efforts and intentions—it has now become ubiquitous. This parasite has been endemic for a long time, so long that some question if things can ever get back to “normal.” Others wonder if anyone can even remember what “normal” was like.

To be 100% clear, I am not an epidemiologist, but the parasite I am describing above would not be classified as any type of protozoa (a single-celled parasite like a virus) anyway. Rather, what I am describing is the government; which is better classified as an ectoparasite (think of a tick) being run by helminths (parasitic worms.)

Despite the tremendous amount of money and resources our local, state, and federal governments spent on risk planning and mitigation PRIOR to this disaster, they were caught completely flat-footed when the novel coronavirus was first identified as a possible threat. Instead of relying on individual municipalities to execute the customized mitigation and prevention strategies, (created while taking into consideration the unique characteristics of each individual community) we opted for top-down authoritarian rule. The one-size-fits-all approach inevitably proved to be just as ineffective towards mitigating the virus as it was devastating to our small business community.

But is this any real surprise? The government has the “sadiM touch” with everything else; why should the pandemic response be any different? The question for you is: now that it is clearly obvious the government response was ineffective and most likely made things worse, are you going to comply with any additional mandates ordering more of the same response that caused so much destruction and heartache?

Juxtaposed to Governor Dan McKee’s December 15th press conference reinstating executive-mandated indoor masking, was a Bristol/Warren regional school committee meeting held earlier in the week that was adjourned before the start of business because members of the audience refused to wear masks. Video of the meeting shows mass civil disobedience by many members of the audience and a local police officer unable and unwilling to intervene because no actual law had been broken. People are realizing that there is no force of law behind any of these mandates and many are simply refusing to comply. This non-compliance is the true medicine we need and the only way we can finally rid ourselves of this parasitic infection called government.

Although not well reported on by the corporate media, courts at both the state and federal level have struck-down most vaccination mandates to date. There are even cases in RI

where parents are challenging the mask mandates in our schools. While these parents were unsuccessful in obtaining injunctive relief, RI Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Lanphear ruled that the extensive use of masks within schools is causing irreparable harm to our children. The state is appealing this verdict (even though they are the side which won the injunction to stay) trying to overturn the “irreparable harm” ruling and prevent the courts from interfering with the state’s emergency actions going forward. We need more brave people to stand up against this authoritarian injustice.

Even though it may not seem like it on the surface, opinion is shifting in our favor and people are starting to wake-up to the idea that our bloated government *is* the problem. We need to keep the pressure to expel these helminths tyrants now before they have a chance to mutate again to retain control of their host. Do not comply!

-Billy Hunt, Chairman LPRI

From the Floor

A space for LPRI members to have their voices heard.

Have something to say about recent political events? We want to hear from you!

Send us your opinions, comments, and other miscellaneous musings about libertarian topics: communications@lpri.us. Use “From the Floor” in the subject line.

LPRI Joins the Rhode Island Liberty Alliance in Taking Human Action

On November 20, the Rhode Island Liberty Alliance (RILA) held a road cleanup event at East Providence’s East Bay Bike Path. The bike path is adjacent to Veterans Parkway , which RILA recently adopted.

LPRI was an event sponsor and party members joined RILA members in cleaning trash from along the path and putting libertarian principles in action.

The “Muh Roads” event was advertised by RILA as a way to show how volunteerism works in practice.

By cleaning the road and beautifying the community without prompting or government oversight, event participants showed that society will not crumble without civic oversight; motivated individuals who care about their



community can step up and choose to take responsibility for the things they care about in their community.



Because we don't believe that state and federal agencies like the Department of Transportation should have monopoly control over the roads, libertarians are frequently accused of not believing roads should exist or be maintained.

That's obviously not true: libertarians believe private actors, which are more accountable, are better at managing resources. The dollars that pay for Rhode Island's frequently inept and wasteful DOT are also taken from private individuals. So, why not let the people who have the most incentive to

conservatively manage those resources do so?

RILA's event showed East Providence residents that libertarian principles are more than just that. The event was also designed to inspire as many people as possible to take the roads back from the state.



Member Spotlight

Get to know Corey Vecchiarino, LPRI's new Outreach Director.

The LPRI Executive Committee recently voted to make Corey Vecchiarino the party's new Outreach Director. Corey's responsibilities in that role will involve onboarding new members, talking to existing members and helping them find a role in the party, and reaching out to new groups to help expand our reach.

Get to know Corey below.

How did you become a libertarian?

I regrettably started as a naive Republican neo-con. I supported George Bush and voted for John McCain in 2008 before I found out about Ron Paul and Libertarianism. Needless to say, I spent the next 3 years educating myself before the 2011 Republican primary voted for Ron Paul. As he didn't get the nomination and I hated Mitt Romney, I voted for Gary Johnson in 2012. After that I stayed a "small l" libertarian, voted for Johnson Weld in 2016 and Jorgenson/Cohen in 2020. But stayed a "small l" libertarian until about February 9 of 2021 when I joined the national party. And then on July 1st I became a dues paying member of the LPRI

What are some of the issues you're most passionate about?

Economics, which touches on taxation and spending, which in turn touches on the warfare-welfare state.

What libertarian thinkers or texts do you find most influential?

First and Foremost, Ron Paul, without whom I wouldn't even know libertarianism exists. Then Tom Woods and about 1,800+ of his podcast episodes. Judge Andrew Napolitano back when he had Freedom Watch. Lately Dave Smith and Michael Malice. Scott Horton, Lew Rockwell, John Stossel, Ben Swann, Gene Epstein in the Soho Forum, Kennedy, Murray Rothbard, Frederic Bastiat's The Law. Ludwig Von Mises, Friedrich Hayek.

How do you think libertarianism will benefit Rhode Island?

We have an extreme spending and tax problem in Rhode Island. I don't think I've ever seen a referendum that spends money fail in this state. We also have myriad regulations, mandates and problems with government monopolies on public services. As one of the worst economically performing states in the union, Rhode Islanders would benefit most from learning about the true nature of government, force and liberty.

What do you want LPRI's members to know about you?

I'm a computer guy, a techie, a drummer, a snowboarder, a CNC (Computer Numeric Control) machinist. I like learning new languages like Filipino Tagalog, and Japanese. I enjoy Sci-fi, Anime, and playing Japanese Riichi Mahjong. But I like liberty and freedom most and I take it to its extremes. If you wanna get off the Liberty train before the end stop that's fine but lets ride it together for as long as possible.

What do you hope to accomplish as Outreach Director?

I will not rest until I've talked to every single living human being in Rhode Island. We desperately need warm bodies to fill all party positions; we need national membership to increase our delegate count. We need quality, principled candidates to run for office statewide. We need dues-paying members to replenish our coffers and fund campaigns and conventions. In the short-term, low hanging fruit is to reach out to current LNC-registered Rhode Islanders and help them to re-up membership locally. Then I want to reach out to LPRI members and get them to re-up nationally. Next, I want to reach out to lapsed members from both camps and get them to re-up completely. Lastly, I want to make myself available at every meeting and event to sign up new folks from the general public who've never joined before, then lastly we start going to people where they are students, and their parents in colleges and highschoools who've never heard of libertarians. Elderly in nursing homes who've been screwed by the two party system their whole lives. Business and employers who would benefit from more liberty, less regulation, less taxes.

What are some of your goals for the party?

We need to shake these blue pills awake. If we're going to grow the party locally and nationally we need to rock these people to their core with red pills they're not getting from the other parties. We won't be effective if we're milquetoast watered down versions of Democans or Republicrats. We will pull independents, and all but the most hardcore from the other two major parties and they will hate us for it and call us every name in the book and that is when we will know when we're winning while they cope and seeth. I want to piss off all the right people and educate / wake up the rest.

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The Year Ahead: 2022 Preview

What's in store for the party in the upcoming year?

2022 is slated to be an exciting year for LPRI. Not only is 2022 an election year, but it's our 45th anniversary as a party.

Our nominating convention will be held on a yet-to-be-determined date in April. Leading up to that, were planning a series of specially-themed meet-ups that will allow

members to get to know and ask questions of the candidates up for the party's endorsement at the April convention.

With a slate of progressive candidates running for the Democratic primary and no declared Republican candidate as yet, it is particularly important that libertarians have a gubernatorial candidate. Not only is this our next, best shot at party status, but we need to be sure there's a liberty-friendly candidate in the race.

To make sure we make the biggest impact on the governor's race as we can, and in honor of our 45th anniversary, we'll be launching a membership drive in 2022.

LPRI became an official party and an affiliate of the Libertarian National Committee on March 12, 1976. We've come a long way since then, but we can still expand our reach in the state. That's why we're working on a campaign to #TurnRIGold, and will be rolling out 2 campaigns in the next year: one aimed at growing our membership and another aimed at getting us party status in the 2022 election.

But there's no need to wait until 2022. Help us get a jump start on our goals for next year:

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