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From the Chair

A few words from Chair William Hunt.

Libertarians are often labeled pessimistic and contrarian, but if we were not eternal optimists we would not bother being Libertarians. It is difficult to advocate for a limited government without criticizing the numerous failures of its bureaucracy, so a negative tone is sometimes unavoidable. But, Libertarians are actively trying to change things for the better; instead of trying to gain political power to inflict our will on others, we aim to use that power to deconstruct an overbearing state. If we didn't believe things could change for the better, we would just be checked out like half of the country is—it is very easy to do nothing.

If you look at 2022 and November's election results, it is obvious that we did not meet our stated goals. We did not get 5% of the vote, and we came in last place—losing to the two other independent candidates. While we're unhappy about missing an objective, we need to also think of some of the positive things we achieved this election cycle:

Elijah Gizzarelli was the first Libertarian candidate to run for Governor of Rhode Island since Stewart Engel did in 1976—46 years ago. In a five-way race in 2022, Elijah also got five times more votes than Stewart did in his four-way race in 1976.

We also have a current baseline of Libertarian support in our state. There were alternative independent choices in this race, so there is a probability that the 2,811 people who voted for Elijah have strong Libertarian beliefs.

And, unlike the two other independent candidates we lost to, we have an organization and the infrastructure to continue our fight beyond 2022. That begins with planning for our next chance to obtain official party status in the state of Rhode Island—the 2024 Presidential election. No matter who the Libertarian nominee for president is, we are going to need a local effort to capitalize on this opportunity to get the 5% we need to gain official party status.

What does that mean for 2023? Preparation and organization. One of the biggest challenges of the 2022 gubernatorial race was organizing our volunteers. We started without enough volunteers, then when we got volunteers, we didn't have the organization in place to get them to do anything effective and impactful for the campaign. 2023 provides us with the opportunity to get our volunteers ready for what is to come, and because we did a trial by fire last time, we'll have a better idea of what to plan for in 2024.

In the next few months, we will be hosting a series of volunteer workshops to start planning for the next two-year election cycle. The idea is to get the organization and volunteers in place before we start the 2024 campaign. If you have not already signed up to be a volunteer yet, you still have time. If you signed up and have not heard from us yet, please be patient, we wanted to give our volunteers a little break over the holidays so we could come back energized in 2023.

Even without an election, there is a lot to look forward to this year. We have our annual convention this spring where we will hold elections for chairperson, secretary, and at-large

executive committee members. We are looking to start up our monthly meetups again, in addition to our volunteer training. And, most importantly, we need to start recruiting candidates to run in 2024 and 2026.

Here's to more forward progress in 2023, Happy New Year!

-Billy Hunt, Chairman LPRI

From the Floor

A space for LPRI members to have their voices heard.

From the Libertarian Party Youth Caucus:

We are excited to announce the relaunch of the Libertarian Youth Caucus (LYC), the new youth wing of the Libertarian Party. The LYC is dedicated to getting young Americans involved in the Libertarian Party and investing in the next generation of liberty-minded individuals.

The LYC is organized to start chapters at high schools and colleges across the country to spread the message of liberty to the next generation and provide young people with the tools and resources they need to become active and engaged members of the Libertarian Party. As the only partisanly Libertarian youth organization in the United States, the LYC doesn't just spread awareness, but actively gets students involved with critical efforts like campaigns, legislative initiatives, and ballot access drives. You can learn more about the LYC at www.lycaucus.org!

The LYC will offer a range of opportunities for young people to get involved, including starting an affiliate at their high school or college, volunteering for campaigns in their community, and participating in online discussions and debates. We encourage you to join the LYC and invite any young people you know who are interested in liberty and the Libertarian Party to join as well. Visit www.lycaucus.org/join and fill out the form to have an LYC leader reach out to you!

You can also join the online LYC community at www.lycaucus.org/discord or follow them at twitter.com/lycaucus, facebook.com/lycaucus, and instagram.com/lycaucus.

Additionally, in order to continue their efforts to promote liberty and bring new people into the Libertarian Party, the LYC needs your support. Donations to the LYC (made at www.lycaucus.org/donate) help cover the costs of reaching out to and supporting as many young people interested in liberty as possible, such as funding the website and newsletter. We ask that you consider making a small-dollar monthly donation to the LYC, as recurring donations allow them to budget for the future!

Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you at an LYC event soon!

From LPRI:

We are excited at the prospect of a distinctly youth-focused libertarian group forming in Rhode Island. As libertarians in a state like Rhode Island, we know it often feels

like you're the lone voice of restraint in a statist wilderness. For high school and college age students, just figuring out their political philosophies, exposure to libertarian ideas is crucial. Understanding that real people believe and advocate for those ideas in their daily lives is also crucial. We would love to see a Rhode Island LYC chapter in the state, both as a support measure for young libertarians and because we can see numerous opportunities to partner and organize for the advancement of the libertarian cause in the state.

If you are interested in forming a LYC chapter in Rhode Island, or know someone who may be, we encourage you to reach out to the LYC. Also reach out to us at LPRI. We can also support, provide training for volunteers, and work together to help promote libertarian candidates for office.

Have something to say about recent political events? We want to hear from you! In future editions of the newsletter, From the Floor will feature input from members.

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

Get Involved with LPRI

We're looking to put together a bylaws committee.

LPRI's bylaws are in need of some updates and we're looking for volunteers willing to form a committee and draft new bylaws proposals.

Per our current bylaws, amendments must be submitted at least 21 days prior to our annual convention, to be held in either April or May of this year. To be eligible to sit on a bylaws committee, individuals must be LPRI members with at least 30 days standing. Anyone interested in serving on a bylaws committee should contact communications@lpri.us.

We're looking for people interested in putting together volunteer training modules.

The 2024 election may be over a year away, but we need to work on developing infrastructure to help organize volunteers now. As part of our efforts, we're looking to develop a series of four to five volunteer training modules. Modules would utilize video elements and include a quiz to ensure retention of knowledge. Individuals with expertise in this area should contact communications@lpri.us if interested in helping develop the trainings. Interested in volunteer training? Make sure to [sign up to be a volunteer](#) on our website.



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