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LP News

The Party of Principle™

February 2014

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Federal LP candidates lining up to end income tax, cut spending to 1998 level

By Carla Howell
LP Political Director

Libertarian candidates running for federal office in 2014 boldly pledge to give Americans what they desperately want and need: a balanced budget, radically lower taxes, and massive reductions in government overspending.

American taxpayers: How would you like to get back every dollar you pay in federal income taxes — every year — for the rest of your life?

In the first week after its launch, 10 Libertarian candidates running for federal office this year have already signed a pledge that states, “If elected, I will sponsor legislation to cut federal spending to the 1998 level, eliminate the federal income tax, and get the IRS off the back of taxpayers.”

Ending the federal income tax gives back an average of \$11,525 — every year — to each of 120 million American households that now pay the income tax, starting the first year. This would create tens of millions of productive private-sector jobs.

Balancing the budget and ending the federal income tax — while raising no other taxes — would reverse dangerously high federal government spending, reducing today’s \$3.78 trillion spending to the level of 1998 (\$1.65 trillion). This would immediately end deficit spending. No more government debt.

Candidates who have signed the pledge so far include Danny Bedwell, U.S. House in Mississippi 1st; Andy Horning, U.S. House in Indiana 8th; Sharon Hansen, U.S. Senate in Illinois; Arvin Vohra, U.S. House in Maryland 4th; John Daniel, Shadow Senator for District of Columbia; Martin Moulton, Shadow Representative for District of Columbia; Scott Somerville, U.S. House in Virginia; Jim McDer-



Danny Bedwell running for Congress in Mississippi speaks to members of the Rotary Club of Cleveland, Miss.

“I will proudly work to end the federal income tax, end reckless overspending in Washington, D.C., stop the devaluation of the dollar, and put money back where it belongs: in the hands of the men and women of this country who earned it.”

— Danny Bedwell, LP Mississippi candidate for U.S. House

“If we were to do no more than cut government spending to 1998 levels, we could eliminate the personal income tax and replace it with ... nothing. I propose we do just that, and ride a wave of liberty and economic rebirth unlike anything seen on this planet for too long.”

— Andy Horning, LP Indiana candidate for U.S. House



Andy Horning

mott, U.S. House for Alaska’s at-large district; Matt Schnackenberg, U.S. House in Florida 11th; and Ray Netherwood, U.S. House in Florida 19th.

Libertarian candidates who have taken the pledge aim to contrast their plans to substantially shrink the size, scope, spending, and taxation of the federal government with their Democratic and Republican opponents’ plans to grow Big Government.

The pledge is based on information gathered by the LP Facebook candidate support team from candidates who have declared their intention to run and who filled out surveys indicating the issues on

which they plan to run. The federal tax and spending pledge is one of several pledges for which the group is gathering support. Others address the topics of foreign intervention, the War on Drugs, the Fourth Amendment, and Obamacare.

Below are some of the candidates who have pledged to end the federal income tax.

Andy Horning, Indiana, U.S. House District 8

Andy Horning is running for the U.S. House on the heels of his 2012 U.S. Senate campaign, in which he won 146,002

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CHAIR'S CORNER

How to save the LP \$10,000 every year

By Geoffrey J. Neale, Chair

Would you like to save the Libertarian Party more than \$10,000 every year? It's simple. Become a delegate, come to our national convention in Columbus, Ohio, for the weekend of June 27 through 29 of this year, and vote to change our bylaws.

Right now, the bylaws do not allow any committee of the LP that has 10 or more members to conduct business other than in person, with the exception that the LNC is permitted to conduct mail ballots, which require a voting window of 10 days. That means that the LNC must meet in person. Most of our meetings are outside of Washington, D.C., because our LNC members come from all across the country, and we usually schedule our meetings in diverse locations. When meetings are not in D.C., a limited number of staff must travel to attend those meetings. That incurs not only travel and lodging expenses, but also shipping of reports and equipment, meeting room rental, and more. Additionally, when staff members travel, they cannot be doing other things for the LP. The estimate of these costs is about \$10,000 or more per year.

Conducting business via videoconference has become commonplace and inexpensive. All we have to do to take advantage of this technology is to change the bylaws to allow it. Of course, we must provide the ability for any member who chooses to view these meetings, just as they can with a physical meeting. They must be open to the public. The bylaws must define those requirements, and also consider how much notice needs to be given, and the method by which the meetings are announced.

Videoconferencing would allow the LNC to conduct more frequent and shorter meetings that provide better responsiveness and agility. The tools provided by such services would create more productive meetings, by making it possible to share single versions of reports, present motions in writing, conduct online voting, and record the entire proceeding.



In December, I was forced to cancel and reschedule an LNC meeting because of bad weather. Many of the LNC members were not just inconvenienced, but incurred additional expenses. Many donors came through with financial assistance, and the LNC members did get most of their expenses covered. If we had been able to conduct this meeting electronically, the weather would not have caused us a problem, and we could have kept to our original planned meeting.

Remember: The LNC members pay most of their own expenses to come to LNC meetings, including travel, lodging, and most of their food.

I average about \$750 per meeting in out-of-pocket expenses for the three or four meetings a year that we hold. That comes out to about \$2,500 per year. Assuming my expenses are representative, and multiplied by 18 LNC members, LNC members are spending about \$45,000 per year to conduct the business of the LP. If we could all do this job from our home, or our phone, or our notebook, even when on vacation, the LNC members would save a huge amount of money — and every one of us would have an enhanced capacity to give that money for other liberty-related purposes.

On top of that, it takes me an average of eight hours each way to get to the LNC meetings. I know I could put those hours to better use than exchanging pleasantries with TSA agents. Again, if those numbers hold to be an average, the LNC members combined are spending about 1,000 hours a year just getting to and from the LNC meetings.

If we can provide the members with the ability to join in each of these electronic meetings, the benefits are obvious. It's time to enter the 21st century. Let's get this done.

The following individuals became Lifetime Members of the Libertarian Party between Dec. 6, 2013, and Jan. 24, 2014:

Beth Ballentine
Joseph Bast
Mr. John S. Buckley
David R. Cheeseman
Craig Ivey
Mr. Gregory W. Kahn
Wes Kerr
Mr. Nathan D. Larson
Kyle-Pierre Nfr
Mr. Frederick G. Sands
Steven Tucker
Leslie Van Sickle
John Charles Williams
Edward B. Wright

The Libertarian Party grants Lifetime Membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,000 during any 12-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

CORRECTION: The December 2013 issue of LP News printed the wrong dates for the 2014 national convention on page 5, in the second paragraph. The correct dates for the convention are June 26–29, and this has been fixed in the online copy. The error was introduced by staff, and was not the fault of the author of the article. We apologize for the error.

LPNews

The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

The party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for president and vice president of the United States, and supporting party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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Eric D. Dixon

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David F. Nolan Memorial Office Fund donors, Dec. 6–Jan. 24

Hero of Liberty

Joseph Bast
William Redpath

Defender of Liberty

Keith Sutton

Advocate of Liberty

Robert Boothby
Terry Donze

Gordon Feige
Edward Hersey

Thomas C. Rose

Great news! The Libertarian National Committee is ready to buy an office space for the party's new national headquarters in the Washington, D.C., area, which will substantially reduce the party's annual operating costs. This office will be named

the David F. Nolan Memorial Office, in honor of our party's founder.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have your name appear inside this historic office, right alongside David Nolan's.

Contribute today: lp.org/office-fund

Federal LP candidates

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votes, an impressive 6 percent of the vote. It was one of the highest vote percentages for a Libertarian candidate running for U.S. Senate in a three-way race in the party's history.

Horning has written columns for newspapers across Indiana. He is a researcher, product developer, writer, and educator in the field of health care, where he sees the dysfunction that results from Big Government intervention in this heavily regulated field.

He wants to end Big Government interference in all areas where it doesn't belong.

"Obviously the promised benefits of military actions, 'stimulus' programs, Fed policies and income tax, were bunk," Horning said. "Besides the fact that our economy, as well as freedom and security, have been going the wrong way, the cost of our massive political intervention and complex taxation has been tragic. We passed broke, and charged on to massive generational theft. This will end either in slack-jawed collapse or in a rapid, disciplined return to fiscal sanity."

He continued, "If we were to do no more than cut government spending to 1998 levels, we could eliminate the personal income tax and replace it with ... nothing. I propose we do just that, and ride a wave of liberty and economic rebirth unlike anything seen on this planet for too long."

Horning is speaking to groups around the state such as Tea Party chapters and town hall meetings. He's challenging incumbent Larry Buschon, a party-line Republican whose votes and policies are in line with those of Speaker of the House John Boehner. Buschon has voted to raise taxes and fought against attempts within the GOP to force spending cuts.

Horning plans to challenge Buschon to a series of debates. It's not yet clear whether a Democrat will enter the race.

Danny Bedwell, Mississippi, U.S. House District 1

Libertarian House candidate Danny Bedwell of Columbus, Miss., is passionate about restoring the federal government to its original design: a small, unobtrusive government that derives its power from lower levels of government and from the people.

"I support slashing government spending, ending the income tax, and balancing the budget because I want my grandson to have a safe and secure future with unlimited potential, and not be a slave for the government for his entire life."

— Sharon Hansen, LP Illinois candidate for U.S. Senate



Sharon Hansen

Bedwell is chairman for the fast-growing Mississippi LP and ran for the District 1 house seat in 2012. He may face the same two opponents this year, or he may run a two-way race against Republican incumbent Alan Nunnelee. It is not yet known whether Democrat Brad Morris will enter the race.

Bedwell sees the possibility for peeling off voters from Nunnelee's support base who are unhappy about his reluctance to oppose Obamacare. Members of the Lee County Tea Party picketed in front of Nunnelee's office when he refused to defund Obamacare in favor of avoiding a government "shutdown." One of the demonstrators told the *Daily Journal* newspaper that Nunnelee "wants to play 'go ahead and get along' with his leaders instead of standing with his constituents in Mississippi."

"Democratic and Republican politicians have no intention of balancing the federal budget. The \$17 trillion dollar government debt isn't enough for them. They want more. So they plan to add another \$5 trillion dollars in debt over the next eight years," said Bedwell.

"This irresponsible and unethical exploitation of hard-working Americans must end," he continued. "I will proudly work to end the federal income tax, end reckless overspending in Washington, D.C., stop the devaluation of the dollar, and put money back where it belongs: in the hands of the men and women of this country who earned it."

Bedwell works in the timber industry, where he sees

daily how government regulations stifle economic growth.

"I am running for office to cut the federal government back to within the confines of the Constitution," Bedwell said. "If elected, I will work to repeal unconstitutional legislation, halt out-of-control spending, cut taxes, and remove burdensome regulations. Send me to Washington, and I'll regulate Washington, not the people."

Sharon Hansen, Illinois, U.S. Senate

Sharon Hansen is running for U.S. Senate in Illinois, opposing Republican Doug Truax and key Obama ally Richard Durbin, the Democratic assistant majority leader.

Hansen is running to end marijuana prohibition, expand gun ownership rights, and dramatically downsize federal taxes and spending.

"We know what the Democrats and Republicans will do to us — take away more and more of our rights. Tax and spend," she said. "Don't believe there is a difference between Republicans and Democrats. Vote for every Libertarian on your ballot. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

Hansen said she was never interested in politics until 2012 when she became outraged by the Republican Party's treatment of Dr. Ron Paul.

"They changed the rules mid-process to exclude him from the GOP convention," she said. "I was so angry that I then looked at the Libertarian Party. I had the feeling of a huge weight being lifted off of me when I realized I had finally found a home. I knew who to vote for and could feel good about it."

Sharon Hansen was a critical care nurse for 30 years, and now owns and operates an award-winning bed and breakfast. She sees firsthand the burden that taxes place on small businesses.

"I live in a small town in Illinois, and I know what it's like for the people who are struggling to earn a living," she said. "Having to keep track of every penny I take in and spend to file taxes is exhausting. It makes it hard to operate a small business."

Hansen recently became a grandmother.

"I support slashing government spending, ending the income tax, and balancing the budget because I want my grandson to have a safe and secure future with unlimited potential, and not be a slave for the government for his entire life," she said.

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"If elected, I will work tirelessly to pass end-the-income-tax legislation and to support the election of other Libertarians to build a coalition intent on downsizing Big Government."

— Arvin Vohra, LP Maryland candidate for U.S. House



Arvin Vohra

Federal LP candidates

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Arvin Vohra, Maryland, U.S. House District 4

Arvin Vohra advocates dramatically reducing the size and scope of government, noting that the real danger facing Americans today is Big Government. He has been a driving force in the party for appealing to young libertarians and is an at-large member of the Libertarian National Committee. He recruits, trains and oversees the Libertarian Party's volunteer Facebook team whose efforts are credited for tremendous growth in the number of visitors and fans.

"'Extreme? Dangerous?' It's hard to find words that adequately describe the recklessness that goes on in the halls of Congress today," Vohra said. "What could be more insane than for Democrats and Republicans in Washington, D.C., to spend \$3.8 trillion dollars every year? Or to rack up \$17 trillion dollars in government debt?"

"D.C. big spenders need their allowances taken away — immediately," he continued. "I'm prepared to do that. I will proudly co-sponsor a bill to end the income tax and roll back spending to the level of 1998. If elected, I will work tirelessly to pass end-the-income-tax legislation and to support the election of other Libertarians to build a coalition intent on downsizing Big Government," he said.

Vohra runs a private tutoring business and has authored two books on education: *Lies, Damned Lies, and College Admissions: An Inquiry into Education* and *The Equation for Excellence: How to Make Your Child Excel at Math*.

Scott Somerville, Virginia, U.S. House

Libertarian Scott Somerville is running for Congress in Virginia with plans to end the War on Drugs, end U.S. foreign wars, and slash federal government spending and taxation. An active member of the Stop Watching Us coalition in Washington, D.C., working to restore the protec-

tions provided by the Fourth Amendment, he spoke at a rally last summer aimed at protesting and raising awareness of the federal government's mass surveillance programs.

Somerville currently works for an online marketing firm and previously worked as a tech expert for Apple and Microsoft in their retail stores. Working alongside skilled workers making modest wages, he understands the hardships that working class people face and the roadblocks that government puts in their way.

Scott Somerville strongly supports downsizing the federal government and ending the income tax.

"We need to constantly ask the question: Who do you want spending the money you earn: the federal government or you?" Somerville said. "Most Americans know that government is chock full of waste, redundancy, and failed programs that don't work. We must move that money out of government coffers and return it to its rightful owners — the people who earned it. This will give back thousands of dollars every year to the average American family and create tens of millions of productive private-sector jobs."

Martin Moulton, D.C., Shadow House

Because many residents and public officials in Washington, D.C., want the federal government to recognize the district as a state, they formally elect a congressman and senator who, should the district achieve statehood, would become their representatives in the House and Senate. Candidates who run for these offices



Scott Somerville

"Most Americans know that government is chock full of waste, redundancy, and failed programs that don't work. We must move that money out of government coffers and return it to its rightful owners — the people who earned it."

— Scott Somerville, LP Virginia candidate for U.S. House



Martin Moulton, right, Washington, D.C., Shadow House candidate, volunteers at the Church of the Epiphany serving food to veterans and families with small children.

"When we roll back federal spending to \$1.65 trillion, we'll have enough to easily pay for all the government services we need — and more. And by ending the income tax and balancing the budget, we'll stimulate real economic growth, creating tremendous prosperity and tens of millions of new jobs."

— Martin Moulton, LP D.C. candidate for Shadow House

are referred to as "shadow candidates." If elected, the D.C. government provides them with offices in the city where they can lobby the federal government on behalf of the district.

Libertarian Martin Moulton is running for shadow representative for the district. He supports cutting federal spending enough to both balance the budget and end the federal income tax.

He puts the impact of boldly downsizing the federal government into perspective.

"We can easily roll back spending to the level of 1998, when the federal government was brimming with cash," he said. "At \$1.65 trillion, it was larger than

the economies of most nations on earth. We had a military defense, a justice system, and hundreds of heavily funded federal government programs. We were on the verge of one of the biggest economic booms in the history of the United States.

"When we roll back federal spending to \$1.65 trillion, we'll have enough to easily pay for all the government services we need — and more. And, by ending the income tax and balancing the budget, we'll stimulate real economic growth, creating tremendous prosperity and tens of millions of new jobs."

Moulton participated in a peaceful protest where statehood advocates gathered around the capital building in D.C. to protest lack of representation in the federal government. He was arrested along with other protesters and later released.

"Citizens of the United States capital — unlike those in similar jurisdictions in Baghdad, Iraq, and capitals of all other democratic nations around the world — have zero voting representation at the federal level in Congress, but we

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Marijuana legalization movement goes mainstream, nationwide

By John Payne
Executive Director, Show-Me Cannabis

When I first started working on cannabis legalization efforts professionally in 2011, the most common reaction I heard was that legalization may be a good idea, but it would never happen. I no longer hear that. Ever since residents of Colorado and Washington voted to legalize cannabis in those states in November 2012, the once seemingly impossible goal of ending marijuana prohibition quickly transformed into an inevitability.



John Payne

The question has changed from one of “if” to one of “when,” and, in an increasing number of states, the answer appears to be “soon.” Alaska will likely be the third state to legalize cannabis for all adults over 21 years of age, because reformers have already turned in signa-

tures to qualify a measure for the 2014 ballot and Alaska requires that all initiatives be voted upon at the primary election in August.

Oregon voters are expected to have their say on the matter in November. Voters in Oregon nearly passed a radical legalization measure in 2012, which has terrified the political establishment and persuaded many moderates to back a more temperate measure sponsored by New Approach Oregon.

Full legalization won’t be on the ballot in Florida, but a medical marijuana proposal that is well-funded and polling around 70 percent approval will likely qualify. If it passes, it would make Florida the first southern state to pass a medical marijuana law.

Although no legalization ballot initiatives are expected in New England in 2014, legislatures in the region are hotly debating the topic. On Jan. 15, the New Hampshire House of Representatives voted to approve a legalization bill, making it the first legislative house in America to do so. A local initiative eliminating all penalties on the possession and use (but not sales) of marijuana

in Portland, Maine, passed overwhelmingly in November and will likely give renewed impetus to efforts in the state’s legislature this year.

In Missouri, where I work as executive director of Show-Me Cannabis, we have become something of an underdog favorite for legalization in 2014. Although Missouri is typically thought of as a conservative state, we conducted polling of likely 2014 voters in September 2012 and found that 50 percent supported a legalization measure we had attempted to place on the ballot that year.

Since then, support for legalization has increased tremendously nationwide — by 10 percentage points, according to the Gallup poll — and Show-Me Cannabis has played a major role in transforming the conversation surrounding the issue in Missouri. We have sponsored conferences in both Saint Louis and Kansas City, and held 16 townhall meetings in the smaller cities and towns across the state, which have almost universally attracted large crowds and local media attention.

We also recently began pressuring Missouri Gov.

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Federal LP candidates

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are subject to the tyrannical whims and ideological experiments of congressmen from other states,” he said. “This nation was founded on the principle of no taxation without representation. If they want to experiment with the District of Columbia, they should experiment with not requiring us to pay federal taxes until we have voting. This will make the district more affordable for working individuals and families struggling to live, work, worship, and educate our children in Washington, D.C.”

Moulton works in the medical/tech industry, is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and was a 2012 Ron Paul alternate delegate, now a Libertarian.

John Daniel, D.C., Shadow Senate

John Daniel, a tech entrepreneur who owns and operates several private companies, is running for shadow senator. He aims to win statehood for the district, end the federal income tax, and advance civil liberties.

“I’m running against incumbents Michael D. Brown and Paul Strauss, who are too comfortable in their seats by not doing enough to push for D.C. statehood,” he said. “We need new blood to energize the debate nationally. By accomplishing D.C. statehood, the Libertarian Party will make history! We’ll make this seat non-

Benefits of cutting federal spending, ending income tax

- Gives back, on average, \$11,525 to each American family — every year — that they can invest, save, spend, or give away as they see fit.
- Eliminates wasteful bookkeeping needed to comply with IRS tax filings and audits, saving Americans 6 billion hours of their precious time and up to \$378 billion in accounting costs — every year.
- Pours \$1.4 trillion into the productive private-sector economy, stimulating massive investment in small businesses and creating tens of millions of new private-sector jobs.
- Stops the devaluation of the dollar and stabilizes prices, saving more American wealth.
- Aborts the Democrats’ and Republicans’ plan to add another \$5 trillion over the next eight years to the already perilously high \$17 trillion federal government debt, sparing future generations from footing a bill they played no part in creating.
- Creates a boom in charitable giving. Trillions of dollars back in the hands of American taxpayers enables them to take care of others in need through their churches and private charities, and by giving directly to help friends, family, and community members in need.
- Frees up billions of dollars for Americans to spend on music, entertainment, crafts, and the arts, enabling individuals with creative talents who now are unemployed or working in jobs they don’t like to do what they love for a living.
- Forces the elimination of bureaucratic waste.
- Forces the elimination of destructive federal programs, regulations, and bureaucracies that do more harm than good. Examples include: stifling business regulations, the War on Marijuana, unnecessary foreign wars, and thousands of frivolous projects best left to the private sector (e.g., promoting the Hawaiian Chocolate Festival).
- Stops the growth in the interest due on the federal debt, now at \$237 billion per year and rising, and paves the way for paying off government debt.
- Restores America’s reputation as the envy of the world, demonstrating that the American experiment of free, unfettered trade creates prosperity and alleviates poverty. This sets an example for poor countries, helping them rise from hardship to abundance.

“Taxes should be collected primarily by local governments – not the federal government. This will empower Americans to be more in control of their communities. It will create a thriving economic engine. I fully support ending the federal income tax and balancing the budget.”

— John Daniel, LP D.C. candidate for Shadow Senate



John Daniel

paid, part-time, and with term limits. It will be the model for all Congress and the Senate.”

Among Daniel’s specific goals are ending the War on Drugs, which embold-

ens cartels and puts nonviolent citizens in prison; reducing foreign involvement and pulling back troops from bases that are on allies’ land; consolidating intelligence and security agencies into one; and doing ma-

jor surgery on the “disastrous” tax code.

“Taxes should be collected primarily by local governments — not the federal government,” he said. “This will empower Americans to be more in control of their communities. It will create a thriving economic engine. I fully support ending the federal income tax and balancing the budget.”

Daniel emphasized the importance of Libertarian Party candidates and activists in making this kind of radical change possible.

“Every time a reform passes, people are hopeful that it will help, but it never does,” he said. “The new generation, the young voters across the country, are tired of reforms. We want a revolution!”

"All Kansans are entitled to 100 percent of the fruits of their labor. As governor I will work to end the income tax for all workers — a flat tax of 0 percent, making all workers equal under the law."

— Keen Umbehr, LP Kansas gubernatorial primary candidate

"My biggest priority is ending the drug war in Kansas. It would release wage earners from prison and allow them to work to support themselves and their families, ending the \$34,000 bill per inmate, per year, Kansans now pay to house those convicted of drug crimes."

— Tresa McAlhaney, LP Kansas gubernatorial primary candidate

Libertarians Umbehr, McAlhaney face off for governor nomination in Kansas

By Carla Howell

Libertarians attending the Kansas Libertarian Party convention in Wichita on April 26 will get to choose between Tresa McAlhaney and Keen Umbehr to be their nominee for governor in the November general election.

"It will be a lot of fun for participants to nominate one of our two highly qualified candidates for governor," said Al Terwelp, LP Kansas state chair. "We're expecting our biggest convention turnout ever."

The *Topeka-Capital Journal* predicted that the LP convention will be "the first significant event in a year that will determine if Republican Gov. Sam Brownback secures a second term." The Libertarian nominee will likely face Brownback, a former U.S. senator who was elected governor in 2010, and Democratic House Minority Leader Paul Davis in November.

"Our goal all along has been to have a contested governor race," said Terwelp. "It's playing out really well for the LP, drawing media attention to the candidates and to the state party."

Terwelp describes both McAlhaney and Umbehr as serious candidates who have been campaigning around the state since summer 2013. According to Terwelp, both candidates have been covered in some of the state's largest city newspapers.

"Either candidate can help us achieve major party status," Terwelp said, noting that if they succeed, future Libertarian candidates will be on a more equal footing with Democrats and Republicans. The Kansas LP will have the option of nominating future Libertarian candidates through open or closed primaries.

Primary participation will also result in candidates being listed on the Kansas secretary of state's website prior to the August primary.

To win major party status, LP Kansas needs 5 percent of the governor vote.

"We're optimistic that we'll get 5 percent," said Terwelp. "A poll in October showed that 12 percent of Kansans plan to vote for a third party. Because the LP is the only third party in the state with ballot access, everyone knows 'third party' means 'Libertarian.'"

"We're putting everything we have into this race," he said.

Keen Umbehr

Libertarian Keen Umbehr of Alma is an attorney and businessman who wants to end the state income tax for all Kansans. His high-profile legal victories earned



Keen Umbehr



Tresa McAlhaney

him a reputation as a whistleblower who brings government wrongdoings to justice.

Umbehr aims to distinguish himself from the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor with his plan to end the state income tax for all taxpayers.

Gov. Brownback ended the income tax for self-employed workers, but left it in place for W-2 wage earners. This, the governor promised, would stimulate the economy and create jobs. But because he raised total government spending, the state continues to suffer from high unemployment. As a result, he's come under heavy criticism, leaving what Umbehr sees as an opening for his populist message.

"All Kansans are entitled to 100 percent of the fruits of their labor," Umbehr said. "As governor, I will work to end the income tax for all workers — a flat tax of 0 percent, making all workers equal under the law."

In 1996, Umbehr won a lawsuit decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 7-2 decision (518 U.S. 668), which established that private contractors have the same First Amendment rights as government employees. The court found that county commissioners were retaliating against Umbehr when they cancelled his contract for his trash collection business after he criticized them in a weekly newspaper column.

Umbehr's five-year battle through the judicial system earned him the Free Spirit Award from The Freedom Forum in 1998. He was also named a Distinguished Kansan by the *Topeka Capital-Journal* for 1996.

Umbehr showed his willingness to take on the government again in 2009 when he exposed allegations of sexual abuse against female prisoners at the Topeka Correctional Facility. He fired yet another shot when he leveled charges that the facility forced inmates to remove asbestos without any protective gear or training. Both led to corrective actions against the facility.

During the ordeal, he again faced retaliation. The

Kansas Department of Corrections filed an ethics complaint against Umbehr, which he fought during a two-year investigation, winning in the end when the complaint was dismissed.

As governor, Umbehr aims to expose the state government's finances and eliminate wasteful spending, making every citizen a potential watchdog. He pledges to create a safe environment for whistleblowers to expose government waste and report misconduct without fear of retaliation.

Umbehr is a passionate defender of the Constitution and sees it as a mandate for reining in Big Government.

"The Constitution does not protect us from each other — it protects us from the government," he said.

Umbehr's campaign has already been covered by the *Kansas City Star*, the *Topeka-Capital Journal*, the *Wichita Eagle*, the *Lawrence Journal-World*, and the Associated Press.

After selling his trash business in 1999 at age 40, Umbehr earned undergraduate and law degrees and opened a private law practice. Recently, he helped launch a new LP affiliate in Manhattan, Kansas.

"As a former trashman and small business owner, I am in a unique position to understand how hard Kansans work for their money and the importance of controlling government spending. It's time to return government to the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker."

Umbehr's campaign website is: keenforkansas.com

Tresa McAlhaney

Tresa McAlhaney of Bonner Springs is an advocate of legalizing medical cannabis and hemp production.

"My biggest priority is ending the drug war in Kansas. It would release wage earners from prison and allow them to work to support themselves and their families, ending the \$34,000 bill per inmate, per year, Kansans now pay to house those convicted of drug crimes," she said.

McAlhaney maintains that ending hemp prohibition will free farmers from their dependence on subsidies and insurance payments when the water-hungry corn and soy they grow fail in the state's dry climate.

"The hemp our farmers grow will spur economic growth. We can retool the factories that sit vacant throughout the state to make fabric, paper, concrete, plastic, and other things made from hemp."

McAlhaney also wants to reduce the regulatory burdens on small businesses.

continued on page 8...

Libertarian Party 2014 National Convention

Attend the National Convention in Columbus, OH — June 26–29, 2014

By Nancy Neale
Chair, Convention
Management Committee

I hope you have marked your calendars to be in Columbus, Ohio, at the end of June. I am getting excited and believe that this convention will be educational and informative, but also inspirational and fun!

As mentioned in the last *LP News*, our keynote speaker will be the distinguished champion of liberty **Lawrence W. Reed**, president of FEE, the Foundation for Economic Education. FEE was founded in 1946 by Leonard E. Read, the author of the classic free-market essay “I, Pencil.” The convention theme is “Character Matters.” And, as Larry Reed says, “Without character, a free society is not just unlikely ... it’s impossible.”

There are many speakers “in the works” that we are negotiating with. But here are just some of the confirmed speakers you can expect to see and hear there.

Alexander McCobin, co-founder and executive director of Students for Liberty, has agreed to again be a part of our convention. The success of SFL, in this country and internationally, has been quite impressive. Alexander will have a more prominent place, as well as SFL — very



Lawrence W. Reed



Alexander McCobin



Jeffrey A. Tucker



Rob Kampa



Gov. Gary Johnson



Judge Jim Gray

fitting with Columbus being such a big college town.

Jeffrey A. Tucker is the publisher and executive editor of *Laissez Faire Books*. He is the author of *Bourbon for Breakfast*, *It's a Jetsons World*, and *A Beautiful Anarchy*. He is a lover of technology and an advocate of Bitcoin, and he recently launched Liberty.me, a social media and publishing platform for liberty-minded individuals. Jeffrey is a bon vivant and all-around fabulous and brilliant person in the liberty movement.

Rob Kampa is executive director of MPP, the Marijuana Policy Project, which he co-founded in January 1995. Rob has co-authored most of the medical marijuana laws currently on the books, having testified before U.S. House subcommittees as well as many state legislative committees on the issue of marijuana policy reform. He has appeared dozens of times on na-

tional major network television, and was featured on the History Channel special “Marijuana: A Chronic History.”

And our 2014 convention would not be complete if we did not feature our 2012 presidential ticket, **Gov. Gary Johnson** and **Judge James P. Gray** (ret.). During his time as New Mexico governor (1994–2003), Johnson held the record for most vetoes (over 750 bills — more than all other governors combined). Judge Gray served on California’s Orange County Superior Court from 1989 to 2010, witnessing firsthand the harms caused by the nation’s drug policy. He wrote the book *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It* (2001, second edition in 2012). They are both working with OAI (Our America Initiative), whose stated purpose is “to restore liberty, personal responsibility and economic freedom ... without the burdens of unneeded government restrictions.”

As I wrote last time, our national conventions are not just for credentialed delegates.* Anyone can register to purchase attendance to any number of meal events (breakfasts, lunches, and banquet, with headline speakers). Of course, the all-inclusive Gold package is always a good way to go. Lesser packages will be available, as well as a speaker-only package.

I look forward to meeting you in Columbus! Questions/comments: nancy@lp.org

* If you plan to be a credentialed delegate, be sure that you follow the procedures of your state and county LPs.

Nancy Neale helped organize the 2012 Las Vegas LP convention, and was the primary organizer of the highly-touted 2004 Atlanta convention. She has also organized several state LP conventions, in Texas and her native California.

Call for nominations: Libertarian Party Awards for the 2014 National LP Convention

To be presented during the 2014 National LP Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

THOMAS JEFFERSON Leadership Award — will be presented to the LP member whose achievements merit our recognition of **outstanding leadership**, high character, and dedication to the principles and goals of the party.

Note: Thomas Jefferson was our third president, governor of Virginia, and secretary of state. The most influential founder, he was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence. He favored a limited national government. He negotiated the Louisiana Purchase, directed the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and led the development of the University of Virginia.

PATRICK HENRY Candidate Award — will be presented to the LP member who has been a **very effective candidate** for public office at the state or federal level, while communicating Libertarian ideas, principles, and values. *Nominees can be candidates in 2012 and thereafter.*

Note: Patrick Henry was an orator and politician

who led the movement for independence. He led the opposition to the Stamp Act and is famous for his “Give me Liberty or Give me Death” speech. He was elected to multiple terms as governor of Virginia.

THOMAS PAINE Communication Award — will be presented to the LP member who has been an **outstanding communicator** of Libertarian ideas, principles, and values through written, published, or spoken communications.

Note: Thomas Paine, who came to the colonies from England as an adult, was the author (anonymously) of the powerful and rational pamphlet *Common Sense*, which advocated independence. It was hugely popular; some 120,000 copies circulated in the colonies. He is remembered for his words about the Revolution: “These are the times that try men’s souls.”

SAMUEL ADAMS Activism Award — will be presented to the LP member who has been a very effective activist by building Party membership, organizing community outreach, or communicating Libertarian principles.

Note: Samuel Adams was a very influential colonist who voiced effective and continuous opposition to the Crown. He urged colonists to defend their rights and freedom. He led town meetings to protest colonial taxes. He won election as lieutenant governor of Massachusetts and later succeeded John Hancock as governor.

Request for Award nominations

Nominees must be members of the Libertarian Party (i.e., they must have signed the certification).

LP members are welcome to send nominations for these awards to the members of the Awards Committee by 5:00 p.m. EDT on May 1. Send to: Awards@lp.org

Your nominations should include (please be brief and concise!):

- Nominated for the _____ Award
- Full name of the nominee; address, email, and phone contact information; and years as an LP member. A photo would also be helpful, if possible.
- General paragraph describing the nominee and the nomi-

continued on page 8...

Pat Dixon, accomplished Texas LP chair, to step down

By Arthur DiBianca

In June 2012, Pat Dixon was elected to his fifth term as state chair of the Libertarian Party of Texas, and he announced it would be his last. His term will end at the state convention this coming April.

Dixon said, "From 2004 to present we have shown outstanding growth and I am proud of our accomplishments. But I am also grateful to those in leadership before this period. They kept the party alive and gave us the opportunities we've had to reach our goals and advance liberty."

Dixon has several significant accomplishments to be proud of: helping the Texas LP set fundraising and candidate recruitment records, and getting elected twice to a city council in central Texas.

In 2006, there were 168 Libertarian candidates on the Texas ballot, which was 30 percent of the nationwide total. In 2010, the Texas LP raised over \$240,000, a remarkable achievement for a state party organization.

Texas had more than 100 Libertarian candidates on the ballot in the 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012 election cycles. At least 180 Libertarians have filed applications for the 2014 elections.

Dixon was elected chair of the Travis County Libertarian



Pat Dixon

Party in 2002. In 2004, he led the Ballot Access Committee for the Texas LP, which collected over 45,540 valid signatures to get back on the ballot. After that successful petition drive, he ran for state chair and won.

In 2005, Dixon also won a seat on the city council of Lago Vista. He lost his 2007 reelection bid, but he dusted himself off and ran again in 2008, winning another two-year term.

Dixon chaired the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance from 2005 to 2008, and again from 2009 to 2011. He served on the Libertarian National Committee from 2006 to 2010.

Wes Benedict, the current executive director for the Libertarian National Committee, served as the Texas party's executive director from 2004 to 2008, during which time he reported to Dixon. Benedict commented, "I want to thank Pat for helping steer the Texas LP over the last decade, and also for the other ways he has worked to help the Libertarian Party. I wish him well."

Texas is one of just a few state parties that uses paid staff, instead of relying completely on volunteers. During the past 10 years, several staff members have come and gone (including this writer), but one constant over the past decade of remarkable activity in Texas has been Pat Dixon's chairmanship.

Dixon added, "I intend to still be involved in the Libertarian Party in some capacity, but I will be taking a sabbatical from leadership roles. My focus will be on my engineering business. I believe we have new leaders ready to step in, and perhaps sometime in the future I might answer the call if the opportunity presents itself."

Call for nominations

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nee's positions in the party, how you came to know his or her achievements, etc.

- Specific and detailed accomplishments that warrant the award.
- Feel free to give us a link to a video if you want.
- Include the name(s) of people that support this nomination.
- Also, include anyone that should be considered to assist in the award presentation.
- Are you attending the national convention? Please advise us. Thank you.

Please email nominations, with supporting documents. Members of the LP Awards Committee can be reached via Awards@lp.org:

- Michael Cloud (2000 Thomas Paine Award)
- Kevin Knedler (2010 Samuel Adams Award)
- James Lark (2004 Samuel Adams, 2008 Thomas Jefferson, 2012 Thomas Paine Awards)
- William Redpath (2010 Thomas Jefferson Award)
- Mary Ruwart (2004 Thomas Paine Award)

Kansas face-off

...continued from page 6

"Small businesses face their customers every day and have a built-in reason to practice safety and ensure customer satisfaction. Otherwise, they can't make it. There is a way to keep everybody safe while allowing businesses to establish and grow under a simple and equally enforced code."

She says education should be left to the care of local governments.

"The needs of students in the western, rural part of the state are different from those who live in the eastern, metropolitan areas," she said. "Local control would allow communities to address their unique needs more effectively and efficiently."

When asked if she would cut taxes, Tresa McAlhaney said she would keep property taxes but that the "sales tax

Stop Feeding the Beast

"We should begin by reducing the budget of every state agency by 3% per year for the next 4 years. I'm not asking the government to do more with less; I'm asking the government to do less with less. Smaller government and smaller missions will result in fewer taxes and less government intrusion into our lives. Simply put, we've got to stop feeding the beast."

Keen Umbehr
Libertarian Candidate
Governor of Kansas
KeenForKansas.Com

or income tax needs to go," noting that ending the state income tax would save workers tens to thousands of dollars per paycheck.

She wants to eliminate all intergovernmental spending and combining of bills to get things passed, noting this would remove incentives for legislators to "tack on prize money for their district in exchange

"Our schools are overloaded with needless bureaucracy that detracts from their mission, limits progress and stunts innovation. We need to pay teachers, not paper pushers, with our tax dollars."

Tresa McAlhaney
Candidate for Governor of Kansas
FB.com/Vote4Kansas

for their support."

McAlhaney is the mother of four young children while also being politically active. She formed the LP affiliate for Wyandotte County, where she serves as chair. She has actively supported relegalizing cannabis and second amendment rights and served as Vice President of a homeowners association board in

Linwood, Kan., where she led a project to rebuild the Sarcosie Lake dam.

McAlhaney's campaign website is: vote4kansas.com

Candidates show leadership through cooperation

The Kansas LP praised Umbehr and McAlhaney in a press release for their "spirited and passionate campaigns," and for appearing together when speaking to county political groups, civic clubs, student organizations, and on radio and TV shows instead of "slinging mud from a safe distance."

LPKS Policy Researcher Stacey Davis said, "Soon Kansas will have a third major political party. When that happens, because of the election standards set by these candidates, the people of Kansas will have not only a clear choice of stronger principle and policy, but a clear choice for better politics."

Louisiana LP on the rise with new leaders, activists, candidates

By Wes Benedict
LP Executive Director

My, how things have changed in Louisiana! “I’d rather be at a contentious and divided convention where the votes are 69 to 60, like in Texas, than a convention like I just attended in Louisiana, where most of the votes were unanimous, but only seven to zero.” That’s basically what I told delegates to the Texas LP at their 2012 state convention banquet. My point was, there was not much interest in the LP Louisiana (LPL) state convention that year.

In 2011, revenue for the LPL was \$0. At the April 2012 convention, Reed Ebarb of Shreveport was elected Secretary. Going beyond his duties as secretary, Ebarb started sending fundraising letters and emails. Revenue grew to \$5,538 in 2012.

Ebarb wasn’t content just to serve as secretary and fundraiser. He also personally recruited most of the candidates in 2012 by calling people in the database, asking them to run, and in some cases helping them raise the \$600 filing fee. Five candidates ran for Congress in Louisiana in 2012, with most setting various records. For example, Randall Lord received 61,586 votes, which was the highest vote count for any Libertarian ever in Louisiana, and he got 24.7 percent of the vote (also a record for any partisan race in Louisiana). Rufus Holt Craig, Jr., running for Congress in District 6, was one of only two LP candidates nationwide to finish second in a three-way



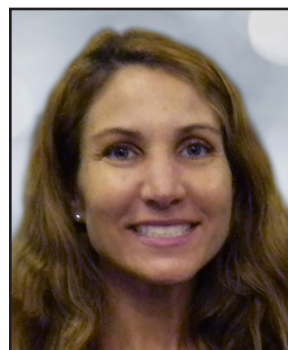
Scott Lewis

race for Congress that year.

Ebarb graduated from high school and started college in 2012, as well!

So, just to recap: In 2011, one high school graduate in one of the poorest states in the nation launched his state party from zero dollars and one candidate to levels that outperformed many other state affiliates the following year. And the instructions on how to do that are above in this article: contact people, ask them to be candidates, and ask them for donations. No, Ebarb didn’t do it all alone. Others helped in various ways and deserve some credit. But, as a close observer in Louisiana at that time, I can attest that Ebarb did most of the productive work.

In late 2012, the LPL hired an executive director, Wendy Adams of New Orleans. Adams had been a top organizer in the Ron Paul for President campaign in 2012, but she switched to the Libertarian Party.



Wendy Adams

Adams focused on building local organizations, the Parish Executive Committees (PECs). She got the list of registered Libertarians in Louisiana and spent dozens of hours on the phone inviting people to the organizing meetings. Between 2012 and 2013, the number of PECs grew from three to 15. Adams posted follow-up reports on the LPL Facebook page with messages like, “I just wanted to let you know that the St. Tammany Parish Kickoff meeting last night went well. We had 15 people attend.”

Elections Officer Boyd W. Smith wrote about Adams, “She is key to most of what we have accomplished.” Preliminary estimates show that revenue grew in 2013 to a remarkable \$24,550.

At one point in 2013, the state chair resigned, and vice chair Scott A. Lewis III ascended to the chairmanship to fill the vacancy. Executive Director Wendy Adams recently announced, “Hello everyone. Our LPL Chairman Scott Lewis has been advised by the NAACP that he will be receiving recognition for being the first African American Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Louisiana. Scott has been with the LPL since 2008 and he ran for governor in 2011. He has spoken of retirement soon, and the award will be a nice way to show appreciation for all he has done for the Party.”

Since the beginning of 2012, the LP Louisiana has also reported the first three Libertarians elected to office in Louisiana. All three were elected to nonpartisan offices, and they won by default because they were the only candidates to file.

LP response to President Barack Obama’s announced plan for minor reforms of NSA mass surveillance



LP-issued news release:

Statement from Geoffrey J. Neale, chair, Libertarian National Committee, in response to President Barack Obama’s announced plan for minor reforms of NSA mass surveillance:

“Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of the rights of its citizens, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it. And, make no mistake, our governments — federal, state, and local — have all become injurious to the rights of citizens.

“Barack Obama today delivered a speech that promised next to nothing. He promised that ‘greater safeguards for civil liberties’ will be enacted, and that steps will be taken to rein in the worst of the NSA surveillance abuses.

“But government cannot be reined in. Once it has power, it seeks more. Once it has information, it keeps it — and often tells us that it didn’t keep it (such as the records of gun purchases run through the NICS system) even though it really did — and then it wants more. It is the nature of the beast; everything it thinks it can use, it stuffs into its gaping, insatiable maw.



“There is already a list of ‘safeguards,’ and they are mentioned specifically in the Constitution. If the supreme law of the land is ‘just a piece of paper,’ what other ‘safeguards’ will keep millions of bureaucrats from breaking the law further?

“The only way to limit government intrusion into our lives is to eliminate the functions that have little to do with defending individual rights within our borders. If government were restricted only to acting on its one legitimate function — protecting individual rights — 95 percent of government operations would cease to exist. And Edward Snowden would have had little incentive to

“A non-interventionist nation at peace with the world doesn’t need a worldwide security apparatus. A nation that doesn’t meddle in conflicts around the world doesn’t need a two-ocean Navy, or thousands of nuclear weapons, or gargantuan stockpiles of chemical and biological agents.”

break the news on the government’s rampant criminality.

“Edward Snowden should be granted a full pardon and complete immunity from prosecution. The government’s ire should instead be turned toward prosecuting the millions of bureaucrats who have violated both their oaths of office, statute law, and even the Constitution itself.

“A non-interventionist nation at peace with the world doesn’t need a worldwide security apparatus. A nation that doesn’t meddle in conflicts around the world doesn’t need a two-ocean Navy, or thousands of nuclear weapons, or gargantuan stockpiles of chemical and biological agents. A nation that stays out of foreign conflicts is less likely to be a target of terrorists. And a nation like that doesn’t need to spy constantly on its own citizens.”

AFFILIATE News And Events

Affiliate news and events are provided to LP News by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

California

The Golden State on the move!

The Libertarian Party of California has been running on a flat sprint. We have enjoyed an influx of new members, registered voters, and leadership opportunities on an unprecedented scale.

The Libertarian Party of California welcomes the Hon. Jeff Hewitt, mayor pro tem of the city of Calimesa in Riverside County, to its ranks of elected officials. Born and raised in California, Hewitt has served on the city council of Calimesa since 2011, spending several years on the planning commission, and rising to become chairman before his election to the council. Hewitt expressed his intentions for joining the party by stating, “I have been a supporter of the Libertarian Party for quite some time, having voted for Harry Browne. I believe in its principles of limited government.”

LPC’s Southern Vice Chairman Glynda Perrotte states, “I would like to welcome Mayor Pro-Tem Hewitt to the Libertarian Party of California. He joins our growing ranks of elected officials, who are committed to preserving the choices for Californians that make this state a prized place to live.”

Hewitt is a small business owner, is married and the proud father of six children, and has several grandchildren. He lives with his wife, Wendy, and family.

The San Bernardino County Libertarian Party hosted the 5th Annual Southern California Libertarian Party Regional Conference on Jan. 18, 2013. The event brought in Libertarians from all over California, in record numbers. Two elected Libertarian officials, Susan Marie Weber and Jeffrey Hewitt attended. The guest speakers included Dr. Adrian Moore, vice president of policy at Reason; international author and art dealer Leon Weinstein; and special musical guest liberty musician Jordan Page. Following the event was an amazing music-filled afterparty that drew scores of young people, who had an incredible introduction to libertarianism.

The LPC was instrumental in help-

ing the passage of AB351, the California Liberty Preservation Act, in conjunction with the Tenth Amendment Center and Assemblyman Tim Donnelley (R-Twin Peaks) and numerous Democrats. The bill was introduced as having tripartisan support and passed through each committee unanimously and easily through the Assembly floor itself.

LPC proudly announces its next annual convention of delegates, Friday through Sunday, March 28–30, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Visalia, 9000 W. Airport Ave., Visalia 93227. Please bookmark our Convention 2014 page and visit it frequently to plan your participation and to take advantage of early admission discounts! All known deadlines are listed on the convention’s deadlines page. If you don’t find answers to your questions on the convention website pages, please contact the state party’s office at (916) 446-1776, or office@ca.lp.org. The Holiday Inn Visalia hosted LPC’s annual convention in 2009, and so impressed delegates with its service, food, and elegant surroundings that many wished to return for our 2010 annual convention. The city of Visalia is the center of lively and friendly nightlife between Fresno and Bakersfield, as well as being a major gateway into the gorgeous Kings Canyon National Park and Sequoia National Park.

On September 14, 2013, the LPC Executive Committee affiliated two new organizations: the Libertarian Party of Yolo County and the California College Libertarians. The new affiliate has been in development separately from the LPC for several months, and has organized itself well enough to win the state party’s Executive Committee approval as an official affiliate. The new affiliate’s Facebook page shows the group’s recent origins, and also its commitment to restoring liberty in California. It has already drawn “likes” from The Cato Institute, Judge Jim Gray, Gary Johnson, the Ludwig von Mises Institute, Ron Paul, Young Americans for Liberty, and Students for Liberty.

LPC member and California College Libertarians booster Dana McLorn explains his enthusiasm for the new group: “Engaging California’s youth is vital to the future of our Party and to liberty. I am very excited about the new California College

Libertarians and the team they are putting together.” If you know college-age liberty-lovers who wish to share their interest with other college-age liberty-lovers, you can point them to California College Libertarians’ Facebook page.

Yolo County’s local party has demonstrated exemplary activity to win state party approval, as evidenced by the flood of activity and discussion on Yolo County LP’s Facebook page. Northern Vice Chairman Gale Morgan presented his proposal to affiliate the energetic local party at the meeting, where it was approved unanimously. According to Morgan, “If every county party put in the effort, time, and money that the Yolo County crew has, the Libertarian Party would be the second-largest party in California.” For more than six months, county party Chair Pro Tem Stephen Blakeman led a crew of enthusiastic and dedicated liberty-loving volunteers to develop an attractive political community. The Facebook group is among the most popular of all Libertarian Party sites in California, evident by the many “Likes” and prolific discussions about issues and principles. For an idea about how active a California Libertarian county party might be, visit Yolo County LP’s Facebook site.

Founded in October, by Southern Vice Chair Glynda Perrotte, was the California Libertarian Women’s Caucus. More than 25 women across California have joined the caucus and are actively working toward issuing a Voter Recommendation Guide for the upcoming elections. The stated goals of the CALWC are “to build an organization with the ability to speak out, influence public opinion and lead the way in local and state politics. The number of women in the Libertarian Party has continued to grow, with women holding positions of influence. The women committed to this project come from backgrounds across the spectrum and, more than ever, desire to reach out to women who have been dismissed and disenfranchised by the two big parties. These parties currently have women’s caucuses that exist but are silent and have no other purpose than to claim that they represent all women. But we know this to not be the case. Mission Statement: The California Libertarian Women’s Caucus seeks to reach out and represent the true issues and voices of women in California today. We desire for women to no longer be an afterthought in the world of politics and in issues of liberty. We will be a voice throughout California, to promote Libertarian principles

and establish media and political contacts with which to spread the message. The ultimate goal of the California Libertarian Women’s Caucus will be to draw in females of all ages, to teach our young women the importance of liberty and to stand in defense of all those oppressed by the politics of the day, and bring new voters and members to the Libertarian Party of California.”

Illinois

Candidate Conference provides training

The Libertarian Party of Illinois hosted a Candidate Conference on Jan. 18 for candidates, potential candidates, and campaign volunteers. Participants included candidates Sharon Hansen for U.S. Senate, Chad Grimm for governor, Ben Koyl for attorney general, and Chris Michel for secretary of state.

Evan McMahon, executive director of the LNCC, kicked off the event with keen insights on running successful campaigns and crafting campaign messaging. Illinois Political Director Lex Green shared his advice on public speaking and presenting the issues. Illinois Communications Director Crystal Jurczynski spoke on successful petitioning and the petition drive process. Finance Director Lupe Diaz concluded the conference with the basics every candidate must know about campaign finance and reporting.

According to State Chair Matt Skopek, “The 2014 Illinois Candidate Conference was a great way for our candidates to get together and learn the ropes of getting on the ballot and running a successful campaign. Many thanks to the Libertarian activists who made this event possible.”

Ballot access will be a serious challenge for the the Illinois Party and its candidates. Petition drives in Illinois this year begin on March 25 and end June 23. Getting on the ballot in Illinois representative and legislative districts can require more than 5,000 and 10,000 signatures, respectively, often in intricately gerrymandered districts. The goal for the statewide petition is to collect 42,000 signatures.

Ballot access champion Bill Redpath, former chair of the national Libertarian Party and current LNC member, has offered his assistance. Bill has pledged to come to Illinois at his own expense and collect 500 signatures. Furthermore, he has challenged Illinoisans and friends of

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AFFILIATE News And Events

...continued from page 10

Illinois to collect a matching amount of signatures or donate to the drive.

Those who wish to accept Bill's challenge should contact LexGreen@LPillinois.org and make their pledge to support the 2014 Illinois petition drive.

Kentucky

Annual conventions announced for 2014

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will hold its annual convention on March 1, 2014. The convention will be held at the Hampton Inn in Danville from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The cost to attend the state party convention is \$50, and a \$30 discount is available for those who are current dues-paying members of LPKY. For more information and to sign up, please visit the state party website: LPKY.org

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky — 1st District Convention:

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will hold its annual convention on March 13, 2014. The convention will be held instead of the regularly scheduled business meeting.

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky — 2nd District Convention:

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will hold its annual convention on March 25, 2014. The convention will be held instead of the regularly scheduled business meeting.

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky — 3rd District (Louisville) Convention:

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will hold its annual convention on March 18, 2014. The convention will be held instead of the regularly scheduled business meeting.

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky — 4th District Convention:

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will hold its annual convention on March 11, 2014. The convention will be held instead of the regularly scheduled business meeting.

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky — 6th District Convention:

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will hold its annual convention on March 12, 2014. The convention will be held instead of the regularly scheduled business meeting.

The Libertarian Party of Boone County, Kentucky, Convention:

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will hold its annual convention on March 18, 2014. The convention will be held instead of the regularly scheduled business meeting.

The Libertarian Party of Campbell County, Kentucky, Convention:

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will hold its annual convention on March 12, 2014. The convention will be held instead of the regularly scheduled business meeting.

The Libertarian Party of Kenton County, Kentucky, Convention:

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will hold its annual convention on March 11, 2014. The convention will be held instead of the regularly scheduled business meeting.

Primary open to all registered Libertarians

LPKY's state party Constitution guarantees any Kentuckian registered to vote as a Libertarian the right to vote for our candidates in our primary process, which takes place at convention.

At our upcoming state convention, the offices to be elected are any statewide offices (U.S. Senate) and any partisan office within the 5th District, since the 5th District is not currently organized.

Other offices will have candidate nominations and candidates elected at their district or county convention, depending on the campaign and whether there's an organized county party in that area.

You must make sure that you're properly registered as a Libertarian first! You can verify your registration status on the secretary of state's website, under "Elections." If it doesn't say that your party affiliation is "LIBERTARIAN," then please contact Ken Moellman and he'll work with you to get this fixed.

Our goal is to keep these elections as close to our voters as possible. If you have any questions, please contact us through our website: LPKY.org

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PAID SPONSORSHIP

Limited Edition "Libertarian Lion" Coin

1 oz .999 Pure Silver with 24k Gold Plating

The front features two Patriots, one holding a colonial flag designed during the American Revolution and the other patriot is holding a variation of the Gadsen flag, "Don't tread on anyone." The lion sprinting with the two men represents the authority we have over our own lives as well as our responsibility to fight for our liberties, taking them back from those who seek to steal them from us. "Rise and rise again, until lambs become lions." The front is all encompassed by the slogan, "Libertarians- Taking back our liberties."

The obverse shows the "Tree of Liberty" with the preamble to the constitution under its branches. The phrase, "Planting the seed of liberty" is in reference to the seedling next to the tree of liberty signifying mentorship and education. Libertarians must teach friends and family about the importance liberty has in our lives, as well as the skills and knowledge needed to protect it. Along the top half edge is a special micro-engraving featuring the quote, "It does not take a majority to prevail, but rather an irate tireless minority keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men." by Samuel Adams.

Proceeds benefit the LPWA
www.LibertarianLion.com



Only
 1776
 Minted!

AFFILIATE News And Events



Ravalli County, Mont., LP Chair Dave Merrick spreads a Libertarian message at the courthouse.

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Montana

Asking voters to give liberty a try in 2014

The Montana Libertarian Party is asking voters this year to give liberty a try in 2014. Candidate filing began on Jan. 9. New legislative districts have been drawn, and all 100 legislative House seats and 1/3 of the Senate seats are up for election. Also up for election: the U.S. House seat, U.S. Senate seat, Supreme Court justices, and local offices. Filing for a legislative seat in Montana is just \$15. The filing deadline is Monday, March 10, at 5:00 p.m. Candidates can file online, as well: www.sos.mt.gov/Elections

We need more Libertarians in the Montana legislature. In the 2013 session, Republicans controlled the legislature and state spending increased some 13 percent. Most of our targeted races will be against those in the legislature that supported S.B. 408, the top-two primary bill. This measure, now L.R. 127, is designed to eliminate competition from the general election. Montana voters will get the chance to support the free market of ideas or oppose it in the 2014 general election. We could always use more candidates running to help defeat L.R. 127. There is currently a lawsuit pending in the Montana Supreme Court on L.R. 127.

The MTLF Facebook page has more than 600 likes, and continues to grow.

Longtime activist and Ravalli County Chair Dave Merrick reports that the Libertarian Party of Ravalli County will once again have an official central committee. The minimum number for such committees is five people. Members wanting to form a central committee or chapter should contact the state chair, Mike Fellows.

Also in the works: getting our state newsletter, *The Porcupine*, sent out to members. Our end-of-year letter was a success, thanks to all who contributed.

Thanks for your support of liberty.

New York

State convention will be held in Albany

The Libertarian Party of New York announced that it has selected Albany, N.Y., the state capital, as the site of its April 26, 2014, convention. Libertarian Party Chair Geoff Neale will be the evening banquet speaker.

Earlier that day, the delegates will nominate candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, state attorney general, and comptroller, in addition to five officers and five at-large members of the State Committee.

The 2014 election is particularly important, as ballot status in New York is determined only once every four years. If the LP's gubernatorial candidate receives at least 50,000 votes in 2014, the Libertarian Party will have ballot status in New

York for the next four years, saving tens of thousands of dollars of future petitioning costs.

Attorney Warren Redlich received 48,386 votes for governor in 2010, more than three times as much as the 2006 candidate. "We all look forward to building on Warren's terrific showing in 2010 and receiving more than 50,000 votes for governor and permanent ballot status in New York this November," LPNY Chair Mark Axinn remarked.

Ohio

Ohio LP wins ballot access court battle

On Jan. 7, the U.S. District Court ruled that the LP and other minor parties could remain on the ballot for the 2014 election cycle in Ohio, including a party primary. This was a result of the case LPO vs SOS Husted after S.B. 193 was passed. The new law, which was 100 percent driven by the Republican Party, passed in November and would have stripped away primaries and ballot access for minor parties in 2014, unless they went back out and petitioned for new access. The issue was the lateness in the decision of the Ohio Assembly and that the law would go into effect on Feb. 5, the same day the candidates were to file their petitions. But it didn't stop there, as the state of Ohio appealed the decision to the Sixth Circuit Court. On Jan. 15, the Sixth Circuit Court ruled that they would not expedite the case, which makes it very likely that minor parties will be able to have primaries and be on the November ballot in Ohio.

"This was a Republican Party attack on voter freedom and the rights of citizens to express their right of free speech on election day," said LPO State Chairman Kevin Knedler. The LPO refers to S.B. 193 and the methods used by the Republican Party over the past four months as the "John Kasich re-election protection act." Kasich is the Republican governor of Ohio. Also note that the Republican Party controls all the state-level executive offices, including both houses in the Ohio Assembly.

The Ohio LP State Convention will take place from March 7 to March 9.

The state convention will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel on the north side of Columbus, Ohio. The convention will feature speakers, workshops, annual business reports, annual awards, and the Saturday night banquet featuring speaker and jour-

nalist Ben Swann. Full details and registration are available on LPO home page: lpo.org

For more information on the Ohio party, go to www.lpo.org or send an email to info@lpo.org.

Oregon

Gearing up for primary election season

The Libertarian Party of Oregon is preparing to begin its primary election season and mail announcements to more than 16,000 party members. We anticipate a record number of candidates for public office in 2014 once again. Additionally, members will be asked to vote on whether they support or oppose initiative measures that are expected to be on the November ballot, the results of which will be published in our party statement that is circulated in the election guide that the state of Oregon mails to every voter in the state. There is a candidate support team that is preparing to offer websites and other support to our candidates, free of charge.

In other news, there is a top-two initiative in the process of establishing its ballot title before it can be circulated for the necessary signatures. Although this may be too late in the season for it to reach this November's ballot, it is definitely an emerging threat that will need to be dealt with in future elections.

Texas

State convention will be held in Temple

IT'S BIGGER IN TEXAS.

The Libertarian Party of Texas 2014 convention, April 11–13 in Temple, may be the biggest in its history.

There are an unprecedented number of contested elections to be decided at this convention, and the competition will be intense. Contested nominations for the Libertarian Party candidate for governor, U.S. Senate, attorney general, commissioner of agriculture, railroad commissioner, and commissioner of general land office will be decided. Also, a new state chair will be elected; current state chair Pat Dixon will not be seeking another term. All other officers and members of the party's state committee will be elected. The state platform will be adopted and rules changes will be considered. A lot of very important

continued on page 13...

Affiliate News

...continued from page 12

decisions will be made.

The convention will begin Friday, April 11, with CJ Grisham, who was arrested by Temple police for carrying a weapon. There will also be convention training for delegates and debates among the candidates for contested offices.

The focus of the convention will be the youth libertarian movement, and will feature a lunch speech on Saturday from the founder of Students for Liberty (SFL), Alexander McCobin. In addition, the 2013 International Students for Liberty Conference student of the year winner, Noelle Mandel, will lead a session that will be free of charge to encourage young people to attend.

The convention will feature many other speakers and breakout sessions. Details are posted at www.LPTexas.org.

It will be held April 11–13 at the Mayborn Convention Center in Temple, TX. The convention center is the largest space the party has ever had for a state convention. It is conveniently located directly off I-35 on the north side of downtown Temple.

The Temple Hilton Garden Hotel will be the host for convention lodging. Registrations can be made online at our Libertarian Party group rate of \$89. To reserve a room:

- 1) Use the following link in your web browser: bit.ly/1n1Hv78
- 2) Use the Group Code “TXLIB” and insert your travel dates.

- 3) Select room type.
- 4) Insert personal and payment information.
- 5) Upon completing the reservation, you will receive your confirmation number.

Temple is a centrally located city in Texas on the I-35 corridor. Nearby cities are Waco (30-minute drive), Austin (one-hour drive), and Dallas (two-hour drive). Commercial flights are available to those cities.

Texas does it bigger, and the 2014 state convention is expected to exceed all others. Make your plans now!

Vermont

Vermont LP will retain official recognition

We did it! We have met the requirements to remain an officially recognized political party in the state of Vermont.

Thank you to everyone who helped out by organizing your towns and participating in our first official state committee meeting.

You can now view the new VTLP Executive Committee and VTLP Town Chairs lists at:

www.vtlp.org/organization

Citizens who would like to join the general discussion group, please let us know and we can add you. It's open to all.

Also, don't forget to join our social media pages:

- Facebook: [fb.com/vermontlibertarianparty](https://www.facebook.com/vermontlibertarianparty)
- Twitter: twitter.com/vtlibertarians

- Google+: [goo.gl/bzUKhG](https://plus.google.com/bzUKhG)

At our last January Burlington Libertarian Party meeting, Loyal Ploof was nominated as the Libertarian City Council candidate for Ward 4 in Burlington, Vermont.

Below are some ways to help out with Loyal Ploof's campaign:

Website, Facebook, Twitter:

His website, Facebook and Twitter pages are online: www.loyalploof.org. Please visit the site and show your support by liking his Facebook page, and following his Twitter account.

Donations:

You can also make a donation from the website. Loyal needs more funds for more yard signs and literature. Please consider making a donation through:

www.loyalploof.org/donate

Yard Signs:

If you are in Ward 4, Burlington, please volunteer to put up a yard sign, as they are in. You can request one from the following page:

www.loyalploof.org/blog/298/loyal-ploof-yard-signs-now-available/

West Virginia

State convention will be held in Charleston

On March 8, the Libertarian Party of West Virginia will be holding nominations for the 2014 WV Libertarian Candidates at a special convention in Charleston, W.V.

After receiving major party status, and unrestricted ballot access in 2012 —

thanks to the campaign of David Moran for governor — the LPWV had the option of nominating by convention or participating in the West Virginia primary election. After careful consideration, the LPWV determined that the party should be in control of the process, rather than the state government.

Based upon preliminary statements of intent, the LPWV plans to field approximately 20 candidates for office in 2014, including but not limited to: U.S. Senate, U.S. Representatives from all three West Virginia districts, several state House of Representative offices, and other county races.

In addition to nomination of candidates, the 2014 convention will select the new Executive Committee of the LPWV and the six delegates that West Virginia will field to the Libertarian Party National Convention in Columbus, OH.

With the LPWV gaining major party status, the 1,500-plus registered Libertarian voters throughout the state will be denied access to the polls in the primary. In order to preserve their right to cast a ballot, the LPWV is deploying new technologies for our state affiliate to provide online/absentee voting for our constituents.

If you are unable to attend the event, or would simply like to join us remotely, the LPWV 2014 Nominating Convention will be broadcast live — in its entirety — via our website and through our YouTube channel: youtube.com/lpwvrtv

More information regarding the convention and schedule will be available soon on the new LPWV website: lpwv.org

Next LNC Meeting:

March 1–2, 2014

Westin Old Town Alexandria
Alexandria, VA

Are you thinking of running for office? Or do you just want to learn more?

Go to LP.org/run-for-office and send us your inquiry. You'll receive information from your state LP affiliate or from the national LP headquarters that you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state's election laws, and get on the ballot.

Want even more frequent updates from LP Headquarters?

Become a monthly pledger and receive *Liberty Pledge*.

Your monthly contributions will be used to grow the LP and make it stronger.

Visit lp.org/contribute to make your pledge today!

Marijuana laws

...continued from page 5

Jay Nixon to grant clemency to Jeff Mizanskey, a Missouri man sentenced to life without parole for a nonviolent cannabis offense. He is living proof of the inhumanity of cannabis prohibition, and few people fail to realize that fact when they hear his story, which has now received coverage across Missouri and nationwide.

As of press time, we have received approval to circulate our 2014 legalization initiative from the Missouri secretary of state's office, but we are awaiting the results of a new poll. I am

optimistic that the poll will show that around 60 percent of likely 2014 voters support legalization — and, if that is the case, we will pursue legalization this year. If not, we will likely shelve the initiative and wait until 2016.

By that time, the field for legalization measures will likely be crowded, with California, Massachusetts, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, Nevada, Rhode Island, Vermont, and even Washington, D.C., all being discussed as possible candidates. The question of when still remains difficult to answer for many states, but with each passing day it seems more and more certain that cannabis prohibition's days are numbered.



Libertarian Party—issued news release:

Libertarian Party response to 2014 State of the Union

WASHINGTON — Libertarian Party Executive Director Wes Benedict issued the following statement today in response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address:

Thanks to unprecedented levels of government interference and government coercion, Americans' rights are violated like never before. We are harmed by taxes, regulations, prohibitions, and shocking privacy intrusions.

Unfortunately, most of the harm and injustice of government occurs because too many Americans support existing government policies. We're suffering under a tyranny of the majority. Our Libertarian hope is that we can convince enough Americans to change their minds. We hope voters will come to understand that government is force, and force is unjust.

Here are some of the problems we see.

The government debt situation is atrocious. Government debt is a terrible thing, because it forces future generations to pay off debts they never agreed to incur. From 2001 to 2008, George W. Bush doubled the debt, mostly with the support of a Republican Congress. Since 2009, Barack Obama and the Democrats (and Republicans) have nearly doubled it again. It doesn't matter whether Republicans or Democrats control the government. Libertarians would quickly balance the budget by cutting spending on everything, including entitlements and the military.

Thanks to the work of Republicans and Democrats, America has declined in the Economic Freedom Index. We've been sliding for years, and now we're down to #12. We're below Australia, Canada, and Denmark. Libertarian policies would get us back to #1.

Government should stop creating programs to fight economic inequality. Some economic inequality is natural and healthy in a free society. Actually, government often creates artificial inequality by granting special privileges to certain businesses or classes of people. Republicans and Democrats do that all the time. Libertarians prefer a level playing field.

The employment situation is still pretty bad. Why? Because government gets in between employers and employees, and tries to dictate everything. Minimum wage laws, hiring laws, firing laws, subsidies, and business taxes all make it harder to create jobs and find jobs. These laws are supported by both Republicans and Democrats. Libertarians would eliminate the minimum wage, employment red tape, and business subsidies and taxes.

Since 2001, the federal budget has exploded. Whenever the government spends money, it displaces it out of the private sector. That means the government is making more choices about how we use our resources, and free

**LIBERTARIAN PARTY
RESPONSE TO
PRESIDENT
BARACK OBAMA'S
2014 STATE OF THE UNION**

**LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, D.C.**



"All in all, the state of our union is a big mess created by Republicans and Democrats. Libertarians offer a path forward to peace and prosperity."

people are making fewer choices. That inevitably harms our economy. Libertarians would eliminate most programs, and cut spending on the rest.

If there's one thing we have learned since 2001, it's that we can't trust what government officials say. They lie. Bush and Cheney said there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. James Clapper (Director of National Intelligence) said under oath that the NSA does not collect data on Americans. Those are a couple of the most outrageous lies, but there have been many others. The more power government has, the more government officials will have the opportunity and incentive to lie. Libertarians would greatly reduce government power.

Government should not be trusted to tell the truth about global warming, or to create restrictions in the name of fighting it. Look at the waste and environmental damage caused by government ethanol subsidies!

It used to be that if you said the government was watching you, people thought you were paranoid. Now, partly thanks to the efforts of Edward Snowden, everyone knows it's true. Between the Patriot Act, the IRS, the FBI, and the NSA (and probably other agencies as well), Americans have no idea whether ANYTHING they do is private anymore. Government should respect people's privacy, not violate it. Libertarians would end foreign wars, and end the War on Drugs, which would take away most of the government's excuse for spying. Libertarians would also repeal the Patriot Act and other invasions of privacy.

What about Obamacare? The problems with American health care go far beyond Obamacare. The problem is the whole huge mess that government interference has created. For decades, the government has done nothing but

undermine health care by interfering in the health care market, and creating mandates and prohibitions that override our choices. Obamacare took a bad situation and made it worse — but let's not forget that it was already very bad. And that's thanks to the efforts of both Democrats and Republicans. As stated in our platform, Libertarians would "recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions."

Libertarians believe that government should have no involvement in education whatsoever. That goes double for the federal government. Unfortunately, the federal government massively interferes with education today: subsidies for preschool, subsidies for K-12 education, subsidies for higher education, and lots of mandates and regulations thanks to efforts like the Republicans' No Child Left Behind law. Our children would be much happier and better educated if government would get out of the way. Libertarians would eliminate the Department of Education and repeal No Child Left Behind.

Republicans and Democrats have also created a mess with immigration. The immigration debate has nothing to do with border security; it's all about employment. Currently, millions of foreigners work here illegally, because Republicans and Democrats have made it almost impossible to do legally. Libertarians would make it very easy for foreigners to come here, live here, and work here.

How about the military? The Libertarian attitude is pretty simple: the U.S. military should leave other countries alone, even if their governments are unstable, and even if there are people living there who hate Americans. We need to cut military spending a whole lot. Try getting Republicans or Democrats to support ANY cuts to military spending.

Amid all this gloom, we do see a bright spot: the War on Drugs. In 2012, voters in Colorado and Washington passed initiatives to end prohibition of marijuana. Recently the New Hampshire House of Representatives did so too. A majority of Americans now believe that marijuana should not be prohibited. As time goes on, we believe that more and more Americans will join us in opposing the War on Drugs. We're pleased President Obama is moving in our direction on this issue.

All in all, the state of our union is a big mess created by Republicans and Democrats. Libertarians offer a path forward to peace and prosperity. Our 149 elected Libertarians nationwide work to implement libertarian policies directly. Hundreds of other Libertarians run for office each election cycle.

The Opt-Out: A way to break free of Big Government programs

By Michael Cloud
LNC Representative At-Large

After we make a convincing case against Big Government and for individual liberty, we're faced with a tough practical question:

How do we get from here to there in one or more ways that minimize the losses and harms?

What are the least painful, damaging, and costly ways to *transition* from this or that Big Government program to far better free-market, voluntary alternatives?

How do we help people get out of Social Security into more dependable and profitable free enterprise alternatives?

How can we help people move out of tax-funded, government-run Medicare into better-value-for-your-money voluntary and private elder care medical coverage programs?

What are our Libertarian solutions for helping families get their children out of government-run public schools?

How about Obamacare? Medical insurance mandates? What are our Libertarian transition programs that take us from what we have today to far better free market options?

One transition may spin off a government social or economic program, with participants owning shares of the newly privatized endeavor.

Another transition proposal — say, the U.S. Postal Service — may offer an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP), partial or full buyout, to the government employees currently running the program.

Another transition proposal could offer a wasteful or underperforming government program for sale to the highest bidder.



Another might set up the sale of a government program as a stock market offering.

But some of these government programs are so big and so longstanding that many people may fear taking them out of the hands of government — and putting them into private hands. Even when they're more reliable, much cheaper, and far better.

"I know that Medicare is wasteful and underperforming," thinks one skeptic, "but better the devil you know than the devil you don't."

"Sure, public schools are way more expensive and way less effective than parochial schools, home schooling, and unschooling," fears a mainstream mom, "but bad as they are, they're something we can count on."

As Dostoevsky wrote, "Taking a new step, uttering a new word, is what people fear most."

Especially when it comes to retirement, medical care, and education.

So, how do we get people to try our Libertarian pro-

posals? By reducing their risks. By letting them take a Libertarian solution out for a test drive before they buy it.

Here's one way: **The Opt-Out.**

Most of us are familiar with free subscriptions to email and blogs and offerings on the Web. And we are equally familiar with our right to unsubscribe if we don't like it.

We regularly exercise our right to opt out from what we don't want. We're comfortable with our online right to opt out. Why not amend the law so that all Americans have the right to opt out of Big Government programs we don't want?

Suppose that Big Government automatically enrolls us in Social Security, Medicare, Obamacare, public schooling, and other Big Government programs. Suppose our paying taxes for and participating in all of these programs is the default position for all of us.

But, under the Opt-Out law, every one of us has the right to unsubscribe, to unenroll, to *opt out*. You fill out the proper form for opting out, and you no longer have to pay or participate in the program.

Under the Libertarian Opt-Out Law:

You can exempt yourself from paying Social Security taxes — and *not* be entitled to Social Security.

You can free yourself from Medicare taxes — and give up Medicare coverage

You can spare yourself from state and local taxes that pay for public schools — and *cannot* send your children to public school in your state.

The Libertarian Opt-Out Law gives each taxpayer more freedom to choose between lower taxes and fewer government programs — or higher taxes and more government programs.

The Libertarian Opt-Out Law is a small change that can make a huge difference.

Candidate 'memes' created by the volunteer LP Facebook design team

Military Policy: Strong Defense, not Aggression

"We must stand for a strong America, but must also fight against aggressive policies that only serve to create new enemies and strain relations with current allies. As your Congressman, I will oppose any unsanctioned aggressive action taken by the President, including, but not limited to, drone strikes, military action, military support of a foreign nation, and murder of American citizens abroad."

Lucas Overby for Congress
Libertarian Candidate
U.S. Congress, Florida (13th)
FB.Com/LucasOverbyForCongress

End Domestic Spying

"Let's End domestic spying on innocent Americans. A warrant should be required for any domestic surveillance."

In the U.S. Senate I will fight for your constitutional right to privacy."

David Patterson
Libertarian Candidate
U.S. Senate (KY)
FB.Com/DavidPatterson4Senate2014 David4Senate.Com

End Legislative Pensions

"The General Assembly gets paid far too much for what is essentially a part time job. Spending on these pensions is money that should be going towards putting Illinois back on the path to fiscal solvency. As your representative, I will introduce legislation to end pensions for the members of the Illinois General Assembly."

Jonathan Parker for Representative
Libertarian Candidate
State Representative, Illinois (37th)
Parker4Illinois.Com

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR STATE?

A list of Libertarian events can
be found online at:
LP.org/event

You can get more information
by visiting the website of your
state affiliate. See a list at:
LP.org/states

If there is an event you would
like to see listed on the
website, please send details to:

EVENTS@LP.ORG

OR CALL THE LP HEADQUARTERS AT

(202) 333-0008

Upcoming state conventions

LP Nevada State Convention

Saturday, Feb. 8

El Cortez Hotel and Casino, "Founder's Room"

600 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89101

<http://lpnevada.org/events/convention>

LP Virginia State Convention

Saturday, Feb. 8

Hilton Garden Inn, Richmond Airport

441 International Center Dr., Sandston, VA 23150

<http://lpva.com/Calendar/>

LP Arkansas State Convention

Friday, Feb. 21, through Sunday, Feb. 23

Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel

707 Interstate 30, Little Rock, AR 72202

<http://lpar.org/news-events/the-lpar-convention/>

LP Pennsylvania State Convention

Friday, Feb. 21, through Saturday, Feb. 22

The Best Western Plus

Lehigh Valley Hotel & Conference Center

300 Gateway Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18017

<http://lppaconvention.org/>

LP Kentucky State Convention

Saturday, March 1

Hampton Inn Danville

100 Montgomery Way, Danville, KY 40422

http://www.lpsy.org/state_convention2014

LP Georgia State Convention

Friday, March 7, through Saturday, March 8

Multiple locations; see website for details.

<http://www.lpgeorgia.com/convention/>

LP Ohio State Convention

Friday, March 7, through Sunday, March 9

DoubleTree Worthington, OH

175 Hutchinson Ave., Columbus, OH 45235

<https://www.lpo.org/convention>

LP Oklahoma State Convention

Saturday, March 8

Blue Belle Saloon & Grill

224 West Harrison, Guthrie, OK 73044

<http://www.oklahomalp.org/conference--meeting-schedules.html>

LP West Virginia State Convention

Saturday, March 8

The Charleston Civic Center

200 Civic Center Dr., Charleston, WV 25301

http://www.lpvw.org/2014_convention

LP Tennessee State Convention

Saturday, March 15

Embassy Suites Nashville SE – Murfreesboro

1200 Conference Center Blvd.

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

<http://lptn.org/2014-state-convention/>

LP Iowa State Convention

Saturday, March 22

Hilton Garden Inn

8600 Northpark Dr., Johnston, IA 50131

<http://lpia.org/>

LP California State Convention

Friday, March 28, through Sunday, March 30

Holiday Inn

9000 W Airport Dr., Visalia, CA 93277

<http://ca.lp.org/2014-convention>

LP Colorado State Convention

Friday, March 28, through Sunday, March 30

Marriott Denver West

1717 Denver West Blvd., Golden, CO 80401

<http://lpcolorado.org/events/convention>

LP New Jersey State Convention

Saturday, March 29

Tavern on the Lake (upstairs)

101 North Main St., Hightstown, NJ 08520

<http://njlp.org/index.php/njlp-convention>

LP Maryland State Convention

Saturday, April 5

Squire's Italian Restaurant

6723 Holabird Ave., Dundalk, MD 21222

<http://md.lp.org/events/phpevents.php#95>

LP Mississippi State Convention

Saturday, April 5

Beau Rivage Resort & Casino

875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39530

<http://www.msip.org/#!convention/c1gn7>

LP Wisconsin State Convention

Saturday, April 12

Best Western Midway Hotel

2901 Hummingbird Rd., Wausau, WI 54401

<http://www.lpw.org/>

LP Texas State Convention

Friday, April 11, through Sunday, April 13

Mayborn Convention Center

3303 N 3rd St., Temple, TX 76501

<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-texas-2014-convention>

LP Kansas State Convention

Friday, April 25, through Saturday, April 26

Holiday Inn Wichita East

549 S Rock Rd., Wichita, KS 67207

<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-kansas-2014-state-convention>

LP Minnesota State Convention

Saturday, April 26

Cambria Suites Hotel, Maple Grove

9655 Grove Circle North, Maple Grove, MN 55369

http://www.lpmn.org/ai1ec_event/2014-lpmn-state-convention/

LP New York State Convention

Saturday, April 26

Best Western Albany Airport Inn

200 Wolf Ave., Albany, NY 12205

<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-new-york-2014-state-convention>

LP Indiana State Convention

Friday, April 25, through Sunday, April 27

Caribbean Cove Hotel & Conference Center

3850 Depauw Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46268

<http://lpin.org/events/2014convention/>

LP Alabama State Convention

Saturday, May 10

Caribbean Cove Hotel & Conference Center

3850 Depauw Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46268

<http://www.lpalabama.org/events.html>

LP Florida State Convention

Friday, May 16, through Sunday, May 18

Howard Johnson Plaza — Tampa Downtown Riverfront

111 West Fortune St., Tampa, FL 33602

<http://lpf2014.org/>

LP Michigan State Convention

Saturday, May 17

Johnson Center at Cleary University

3750 Cleary Dr., Howell, MI 48843

<https://www.lp.org/event/lp-michigan-2014-state-convention>

LP Idaho State Convention

Saturday, June 21

To Be Announced: Caldwell, ID

<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-idaho-2014-state-convention>

LP Illinois State Convention

Saturday, Sept. 12, through Sunday, Sept. 14

Holiday Inn in Bolingbrook

205 Remington Blvd., Bolingbrook, IL 60440

<http://www.lp.org/event/lp-illinois-2014-state-convention>

Media Buzz About the Libertarian Party

"Bruce Majors is likely to become the first D.C. mayoral candidate to appear on the Libertarian Party ballot; the city's Libertarians are holding their first-ever primary this year."

Washington Post, 1/2/2013

"I have joined the Libertarian Party, not to spite the GOP, but to withdraw consent from what has become a shadowed single party. This 'super party' has waged almost constant illegal war [since] the end of WWII. It has made criminals of those who would report its own criminal activity. It has plundered the wealth of hard-working people through inflation of the currency, market manipulation, exorbitant and unconstitutionally collected taxation and fraud. Both sides have, [through] executive fiat, worked to debase and overthrow the constitution of the United States and the liberties it recognizes. They have agreed to the destruction of habeas corpus by the passing, and this year upholding, of indefinite detention of American citizens contained in the NDAA. Because of this, we must declare the parties to be the usurpers they are, involved [in] subversion against the constitution."

Cape Coral Daily Breeze, 1/2/2013



EXPERIENCE
COLUMBUS

Mark Your Calendars!

Come to Columbus for the
LP National Convention

June 26–29, 2014

Hyatt Regency
Columbus, Ohio

And visit LP.org soon for the official
2014 LP Convention Site

It's a Vibrant, Happenin' Town!

ExperienceColumbus.com

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- New Hampshire legislature first to vote in favor of marijuana legalization
- North Carolina Libertarians see opportunity in rising discontent of voters
- New Gallup Poll: 46 percent of Americans don't identify as either Democrat or Republican
- LPIN targets vulnerable state House seats in 2014 Indiana election
- Ohio LP court victory cuts back GOP attempt to block ballot access
- Harry Browne's New Year's Resolutions for Selling Liberty Effectively
- An open letter to 2013 Libertarian candidates and their supporters
- LP statement on rock-bottom approval ratings for lobbyists, Congress