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## From the Chair

A few words from Chair William Hunt.

As many LPRI members have heard me say numerous times: if our party activities do not either 1) grow our membership/volunteer base, 2) raise money, or 3) help Libertarian candidates get elected in RI - then it is not worth the effort.

Currently, LPRI membership and volunteer involvement is the lowest it has been since 2016. As evidenced by the underwhelming attendance at this year's annual convention and the lack of LPRI members running for open executive committee positions, recent efforts have not increased our volunteer or membership base.

On the other hand, LPRI's finances have never been in a stronger position. After years of having little to no money, we now have more than enough to cover party operating expenses with enough left over to support any RI Libertarian candidate who wants to run a serious campaign.

We are currently in a weird position where we have money, but no one to spend it on. Our last two events (our "Muh Road" Earth Day cleanup and LPRI convention) took a lot of volunteer effort to plan and pull-off, and few LPRI members other than the volunteers who planned it cared to even show up. Again, if our efforts cost us money and volunteer time without growing our membership - it was a wasted effort.

Insanity is continuously doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome, so the Executive Committee is currently working on two initiatives in an effort to get some better results for the three objectives enumerated above.

### **Libertarian Presidential Candidate Events:**

Planning a successful event is not as easy as picking a date and finding a venue. An essential element to a successful event is having current LPRI volunteers agree to actually show up and engage with potential prospects. Think about it, if you were thinking about getting involved with an organization and showed up to an event and nobody from the party was there, would you ever come back?

Prior to the pandemic, there were at least a half dozen members who attended every event to make sure we were meeting and engaging with anyone who decided to show-up for the first time. We always have to have at least one volunteer arrive 10-15 minutes early to help setup and, more importantly, make sure anyone who shows up for the first time doesn't just turn around and leave because they can't find any other LPRI members.

Until we build LPRI's volunteer base to assist in planning and hosting a meetup in their local area, we are not going to have successful events. Instead, as we enter into another presidential election cycle, we are shifting our focus to support the candidates seeking the Libertarian endorsement for president with their efforts and events in our

state.

We are in the process of working with the Chase Oliver campaign on an event on October 13 in Westerly, and are in talks with the Mike ter Maat and the Lars Matstead campaigns to support their plans for local events. If you are looking to get involved with any Libertarian presidential candidate, we encourage you to reach-out to your preferred candidate's campaign and see how you can coordinate their efforts in the state with the LPRI.

This strategy will help us with our objectives of growing our membership/volunteer base and directly help Libertarian Candidates get elected in RI. Additionally, this will give us a head-start in the process of helping whoever wins the Libertarian nomination to actually get on the ballot in RI.

### **LPRI Membership Dues:**

The last time we raised the annual membership dues from \$30 to \$40, it was in response to the debt the party was carrying as a result of the 2018 Liberty Forum we hosted. For those who don't remember, the Liberty Forum was a great event the LPRI hosted at the Crowne Royal hotel in Warwick. Unfortunately, due to the complexities of RI campaign finance laws and our nebulous status as a political action committee, we were unable to accept any sponsorships for the event, and the ticket sales did not cover our expenses. Because our bylaws prohibited us from carrying debt, we were forced to increase our dues to pay off that balance.

Since we have returned to a positive balance, and have a better understanding of what our annual operating expenses are, the executive committee feels as though the \$40 price point is hindering our ability to attract new members. After reviewing our budget, we feel comfortable lowering our dues by 75% to \$10 per year in the hopes of attracting more local members and volunteers.

While lowering our dues may seem counterintuitive to our objective of raising money for the party, if we are able to increase demand with a lower price, we can offset at least some of that lost revenue. In addition, more volunteers will help grow our membership exponentially and will increase our pool for potential Libertarian candidates. Therefore, as long as we are able to cover our expenses, we will trust the free market principles we advocate for to meet our goals.

### **What you can do:**

In conclusion, we need you to get involved. If you feel like criticizing me or the Executive Committee for not having events, I am asking you to plan an event and we will help you promote it. If you are upset we didn't field a candidate for the special election to replace David Cicilline in Congressional District One, choose your preferred Libertarian presidential candidate and help us get them on the ballot next year. If you think I'm full of it and want to have your own say on the Executive Committee, our Vice Chairman is vacant and we are looking for a replacement to fill the seat until the LPRI convention next year. Stop waiting for an invitation and be the change you want to see in our state.

-Billy Hunt  
Chairman, LPRI

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# 2023 Convention Recap

New officers and bylaws changes from our May convention.

## **New Officers**

- William Hunt was re-elected to the position of chair.
- Theresa Haydt was elected to the position of secretary.
- Thomas Markey was elected to the position of at-large member.
- Shawn Mizener vacated the position of vice chair. The position was not up for re-election this year. Rather than nominate a replacement from the floor, a motion was made at the convention to defer nomination of a new vice-chair to the executive committee, which passed by voice vote.

## **Bylaws Changes**

- Members voted to remove language in the bylaws requiring the party to hold its annual convention in either April or May. A proposed bylaw change to insert language allowing the convention to happen anytime before October 14 annually passed.
- A motion to amend the bylaws to require the party to provide 60 days notice before the annual convention, extending it from 30 days, passed by voice vote.
- A motion to amend the bylaws to elect delegates to the national convention during off-number years also passed.

## **Delegates to the National Convention**

- William Hunt, Pat Ford, and Theresa Haydt were elected to serve as delegates at the 2024 LNC national convention.
- Tom Markey, Larry Davis, and Jared Haskell were elected to serve as alternate delegates.

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# From the Floor

A space for LPRI members to have their voices heard.

**Get more involved!**

The party currently has a vacancy in a number of positions. If you're looking to make a greater impact in the party or the liberty movement in the state, get in touch with us about next steps for becoming part of party leadership.

### **Vice-Chair**

Per LPRI's bylaws, the vice-chair shall: assist the Chair and perform the duties of the Chair when required; be responsible for the internal committee work of the LPRI; and represent the committees at executive sessions in the absence of committee directors. The Vice-Chair shall also serve as an ex officio member of all committees.

### **Public Policy Director**

The Public Policy Committee is responsible for developing and maintaining interactions between the Libertarian Party and elected government officials, as well as tracking the results of interactions to help shape candidacy strategy. The Public Policy Committee is also responsible for ensuring that the Libertarian Party input is provided for key legislation and initiatives when and where possible.

### **Outreach Director**

The Outreach Committee is responsible for grassroots-level contact between the Libertarian Party and the public at large. These responsibilities include maintaining useful contacts and coordination with student organizations, recruiting key demographics into the party (building membership), Identifying potential coalitions with like-minded groups and coordinating outreach events in partnership with the Events Committee.

### **Events Director**

The Events Committee is responsible for planning and implementing statewide events such as our state convention, monthly meetings, social events and organizing political events. As well as work with the Outreach Committee to organize cross-promotional opportunities with other organizations or public events where there is an opportunity to promote the Libertarian Party of RI.

Interested in any of our open positions? [Get in touch](#).

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# Chase Oliver Meet and Greet

LPRI is excited to partner with the Rhode Island Liberty Alliance to take proactive community action.



Come meet libertarian presidential candidate Chase Oliver!

Chase's campaign is holding a meet and greet event on Friday, October 17 at Amigo's in Westerly.

This is a great opportunity to get to know one of the candidates delegates may vote for at the 2024 LNC Convention and to lay the groundwork for organizing behind the LP candidate in the 2024 general election.

Tickets for the event are free, but make sure to [register](#) and claim your spot.

## About Chase Oliver

Chase Oliver is a 37-year-old Libertarian activist living in Atlanta. Dubbed "...the most influential Libertarian in America..." by Rolling Stone, Oliver is a champion of the rights of the individual against the growing power of the state. He began his political activism opposing the War in Iraq under George Bush, aligning with the Libertarian Party after an encounter at the Atlanta Pride Festival in 2010.

In 2020 he ran for Congress in Georgia's 5th district to complete the term of the late civil rights icon John Lewis. In 2022, he ran for US Senate, debating incumbent Senator Raphael Warnock and Herschel Walker's empty podium. Oliver was widely credited with causing the runoff election between Warnock and Walker. He advocates the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting to avoid future runoffs.

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