

Liberty for America

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Crusading for Liberty Since 2008

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Republicans Launch War on Libertarian Party

All across America, Libertarians are reporting on the new and systematic war of the Republican Party of torture, war crimes, and massive corruption on our Libertarian Party. The Republicans have attacked on so many fronts that it is difficult to know where to begin.

In Ohio, Republican public officials used new and bizarre interpretations of their state election laws to knock Libertarian Charlie Earl off the ballot for Governor. Contrary to all past interpretations of the law, they claimed that ballot access contractors were employees who had misfiled their nominating papers. Unless Earl's litigation restores him to the ballot, Republicans will cost the Libertarian Party ballot access in Ohio.

In Washington, Republican liars and several astroturf organizations are claiming that "Top Two" means that Libertarians are now being taken seriously, and have candidates on the two-way November election ballot. These people are showing up on Libertarian Facebook groups to spread their deceitful propaganda, and we urge all readers to call them out for their Republican Big Lie technique.

Under Top Two, there is an open primary, with the top two candidates advancing in November to the general election. In California, two years ago, the depraved top-two election scheme meant that in one heavily Democratic Congressional District in November voters had a choice of two Republicans. In Washington this year, some Libertarians were in two-way primary races, because the Democrats had not fielded a candidate. They advanced to the general election *exactly as they would have done if top two had not been in place*. The Republican Big Lie is that Top Two let the Libertarians run in November.

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Criminal Complaint Against Illinois Republicans

We are advised that the Libertarian Party of Illinois has filed a criminal complaint against the Republican party of Illinois. The issue is that Illinois Republicans sent men wearing guns to the homes of people who signed LP Illinois nominating papers to intimidate them into repudiating their signatures. The effort failed. Libertarians remain on the ballot.

Nearly Free Web Sites

Shawn Michael Hamilton

I have lowered the cost for this!
Time is running out to get exposure!
Libertarians helping Libertarians.

It's getting to be crunch time and MANY candidates still do not have a website and I want to help and have lowered the cost in an effort to help as many candidates as possible!

As a Libertarian candidate, I know how

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National Party News LNC Under Severe Financial Stress

Current staff reports from the National Committee show that the LNC is under severe financial stress. At least one staff member has been laid off. While the National Convention on very good authority ran in the black, the LNC has substantial remaining debts to the hotel that it is only slowly paying off. Apparently convention income was not used first to pay for the convention, The convention ran about \$10,000 over budget.

The Staff report to the next LNC meeting includes "We would have had a very serious issue paying our bills if it wasn't for a max donation solicited by Mark Hinkle."

The end-of-July Treasurer's report, which was sent to the LNC near the end of August, includes a Treasurer summary "We are still in the hole in terms of the reserve requirement, being at -\$12,871 at the end of July and expect to be no better for August. Our accounts payable at the end of July was \$45,376, and is currently \$31,256. We are making some progress with the Hyatt Regency Columbus being the biggest chunk still to be paid off."

The end-of-August membership report shows 14134 active members and 1018 donors; membership is up 550 in the last year. There were

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Wonderful News hard it is to raise funds and/or to gain exposure. With a record number of Libertarian candidates that will be on the ballot this year, I want to help out every candidate that I possibly can!

That is why I have come up with a plan that will help my campaign as well as another candidate of YOUR choice. For every \$30 donated to my campaign I will set up a professional campaign site for a candidate. This will include domain name, hosting, banner, email address associated with the site, fund raising integration, social media integration...the complete setup! All I will need from the candidate is their wording for their issues they are running on and opening page statement..I will do the rest,

Please click on the link below and donate today to get started! Once the donation has been made please message me on here or at: shawn@voteforhamilton.com with the information on the candidate you are choosing to "sponsor". Thank you for helping make the difference in TWO campaigns at once! Of course, any donation is always appreciated!
https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=8SX9DMNDBBAX6

Active Facebook Groups

The National Organization of Libertarian Women is to be complemented on maintaining a facebook group that is on-topic, free of right-wing and conspiracy spam, and focused on advancing our party and political movement.

The Libertarian Party of Oregon is using Facebook pages to ask members and spur debate about their referenda, most recently the poll on GMO labelling.

We are finding a lot of Libertarian Facebook groups with strange debate and exotic opinions. The Massachusetts Libertarian Facebook Group rejects these, the statement being

“We are here to present a welcoming face of our state Association.

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts is concerned with doing election activity -- and things that support that activity -- in Massachusetts. We just put on the ballot -- the candidates did much of the work -- a recent-record number of candidates. We are here to do real politics here in Massachusetts. Rare posts from other states, showing the sorts of libertarian party political activity going on elsewhere, are welcome.

Announcements of non-repeating events, especially those that are a bit off-topic, will be left up for a while after the event and then sent on their way. If you are, e.g., publishing a weekly magazine, and sending us an announcement of the latest issue, and the last announcement did not attract discussion, when you put up the new post please take down the last post. Posts with good discussion are almost always welcome to stay.

We continue to block spammers. If you just joined facebook, and you belong to used junk groups across the world including places whose alphabets I cannot recognize, you are in the wrong place. We have recently started to hear from perhaps-

real people who apparently collect conspiracy theories and wrong legal theories for a living. We have also started to hear from people who are edging over from politics toward seditious or treasonable conspiracies. These posts will be smited without warning. In egregious cases, their posters will be banned. The recent outbreak of people claiming we are antisemites, neoNazis, or KKK supporters are meeting the gentle click of removal, with posts deleted and authors banned.

This is a Libertarian Party web site, not one of the above, so your efforts to spam us will be blocked pre-emptively. We don't dislike you, it's just that you are in the wrong place. Posts recruiting for non-Libertarian groups, such as Republicans, Democrats, and light infantry groups, will promptly face the stark click of deletion.

State Party News

Missouri

The Libertarian Party of Missouri is running a fundraising drive. Their appeal to their donors is that they run an efficient organization and tell you how your money is being spent. I quote:

Annual Fundraising Campaign

It's time for the Missouri LP's annual fundraising campaign. We run a lean, all volunteer operation and most of our month to month expenses are covered by our monthly pledgers, many of whom are the same people who do most of the work to keep the party going. However, we have extra expenses each summer and campaign season that we need to cover as follows and would appreciate your support:

Missouri State Fair Booth: \$1300 We will once again be out on the main boulevard, as we have been the last two years

Print 4000 and mail 3000 issues of the Show-Me Freedom Newspaper: \$1800

Print 10,000 Candidate Flyers: \$400

Good news! A generous donor has offered to match the first \$250 we raise!

Please contribute today to help keep the message of liberty alive in Missouri, and to help support our 30 candidates this election season.

Click the Donate Now! button to the left to donate to the annual fundraising campaign.

Thanks for your generous support!

The Missouri LP also reports concrete progress. In an August 6 press release, they report: “In yesterday's primary, a record number of voters requested Libertarian ballots. More than 5654 voters requested Libertarian ballots, up from a previous high of 3916 in 2004. Though numbers of ballots cast by party statewide are not available, estimates based upon the number of votes in the Auditor's race, the sole statewide race, for the Libertarians, the Republicans and the Constitution Party, and a total of the eight congressional races for the Democrats, who have no Auditor candidate, suggests that 0.75% of partisan ballots cast were Libertarian. This compares to the next highest

percentage in the 2010 primary of 0.39%. Perhaps more importantly, voters sided with Libertarians on the ballot issues. The Constitutional Amendments on the right to keep and bear arms and the extension of the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure to include electronic information both passed by impressive margins. Conversely, the proposed new statewide tax for transportation (which included considerable proposed spending on surveillance), and new taxing districts for the Kansas City streetcar boondoggle both failed by considerable margins.”

Nevada

Readers will note that the LP Nevada has moved from a position of controversy and disputation as described in past issues to a position of doing considerably more positive work. Their State Chair has announced a membership drive: “I am very excited to announce our first membership drive in a very long time-the **“Back 2 Basics”** Membership Drive. The Libertarian Party of Nevada (LPNevada) knows that in order to grow we must first be able to fulfill the essential functions of a political party. It's time to get back 2 basics! The new LPNevada Executive Committee spent the past 8 months working tirelessly to build a strong foundation for the party. During this time, we moved to a divisional structure and created over 50 leadership positions. Each month, we are identifying and placing new leaders and getting more and more organized.

Our goal has been to create real value for our membership and donors. I am working full time as your Chairman and I have personally invested a lot of money into our infrastructure. Because of this we have been able to accomplish some amazing things. As stated in the past, we view LPNevada as a startup company. Before you approach investors in a startup, you have to build a prototype or develop a business model. It would be premature to ask investors to invest in your company before you have created value. LPNevada has built a working model; for the first time ever we have an office, fun events, a great website, regular communications and professional, full time leadership. We feel value has been created for LPNevada!”

New Jersey

A message from their new State Chair: “It’s my privilege to serve as the new Chair of the New Jersey Libertarian Party. Thanks again to Jay Edgar for his years of hard work and leadership. I’m confident 2014 will be an exciting year for liberty in New Jersey.

Not only is the Libertarian Party the fastest-growing party in America, since 2012 we’re actually the only growing party in America. While the other two parties shrank we grew by 11% nationwide. Here in New Jersey the number of registered Libertarian voters increased by 21% in 2013 alone. We are the party of the future.

I am especially pleased to congratulate our excellent 2014 NJLP candidates on their recent placement on the November ballot. They include:

Joe Baratelli - US Senate
Dorit Goikhman - US House (6th District)
Jim Gawron - US House (7th District)
Steven Uccio - Mercer County Freeholder
Brian Pizza - Ocean County Freeholder

Let’s keep the momentum going in 2014 by supporting our candidates. Please consider volunteering to help one or more of our campaigns. Our candidates are not career politicians. They are citizen-statesmen donating their time and energy to stand up for freedom.

If you are not a current member I urge you to join the party. Party members are the backbone of our party.

There has never been a more exciting time to be a Libertarian. Let’s make history together in 2014.
Patrick McKnight
Chair, NJ Libertarian Party”

Georgia

The Libertarian Party has released a 30 second TV ad for gubernatorial candidate Andrew Hunt. Produced by libertarian activist James Bell at the Van Gogh video production studio in Smyrna, GA, the ad is expected to show on local television stations.

Republicans Attack

In New York, Republicans filed suit to take Gigi Bowman off the ballot.

She had filed 5000 signatures, with 3000 needed. One of their claims was that it was impossible for anyone to collect the number of signatures she had filed, so her signatures had to be fraudulent. Of course, that does sort of say that the New York Ballot access laws are written to keep people off the ballot.

In Vermont, the state Republican Chair sent out a diatribe denouncing the Libertarian Party as too extreme for Vermont, and claiming that the Republican Party was the good choice.

Republican Senator Rand Paul launched a publicity campaign claiming he is a libertarian. The real Rand Paul is an antiabortionist daughter-slayer, who would leave our daughters and granddaughters to die in back-alley abortions. His stands are exactly like his father's actual stands -- antiimmigration, anti-gay rights, global warming denier -- his stands on far too many issues are not vaguely libertarian. The cornerstone of the campaign was a propaganda piece in the New York Times Sunday magazine, hailing Paul as a libertarian rock star. While the level of misinformation in the article was quite impressive, starting

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with the claim that the Koch brothers are major financial supporters of the libertarian political movement (they left us in the early 1980s), followed by an extremely extensive set of allegations about libertarian political choices that manages for the most part to ignore the Libertarian Party.

In Illinois, Republicans sent men visibly wearing guns to homes of petition-signers, trying to intimidate the signers into repudiating their signatures. They did this after their effort to challenge by more conventional means the signatures of Illinois Libertarian candidates failed completely.

We quote a letter from LNC Chair Nick Sarwark:
Dear friend of liberty,

In Illinois, the Republicans have actually hired gun-carrying investigators to intimidate Libertarian petitioners and petition signers, hoping to get us thrown off the ballot. We've spent a bunch of money on ballot access in states where the old parties put up ridiculous ballot hurdles (e.g. Kentucky, Illinois, New York). In fact, we've spent more than we had in the bank, because this fight is so important to our members. We're overextended for a good cause — putting Libertarian candidates on the ballot — but we can't keep this up without member support.

The old parties don't want competition on the ballot, and they work hard to eliminate it. In addition to the armed intimidators in Illinois, they've spent tens of thousands of dollars suing to kick our candidates off the ballot in Ohio. They're filing frivolous legal challenges against our candidates in New York.

They don't want voters finding out about a real Libertarian option. Too bad. We're going to keep bringing the fight to the establishment parties, and we're going to keep beating them in court.

But we can only do it with your support. You are the most important part of the Libertarian Party. I can't do it without you. I serve as the party's chairman at your direction. If you support real political action, putting boots on the ground to put Libertarian candidates on the ballot, we need your support now. What gets funded gets done. If members don't step up, we can't keep bringing the fight to the old parties.

We can't fight them if our candidates aren't on the ballot. Please donate now.

Yours in liberty,
Nicholas Sarwark
Chair, Libertarian National Committee

Finally, across America, bloggers are surfacing with the assertion that Libertarians are dividing the conservative vote, thus causing conservatives to lose. Let us ignore the minor detail that there is extensive polling on the question, and Libertarian voters not finding a candidate would otherwise not vote at all, or if they did vote would tend to prefer a Democrat over a Republican. The number of these diatribes we are seeing is skyrocketing, using repeated themes as though there was astroturfing.

LNC NEWS 153 new members and 358 renewing members, a join and renew rate that supports an equilibrium membership of 6000, plus the 2443 life members.

What can be said about party finances? First, if you look at the Executive Director report to the LNC on finances, you note that it uses GAAP accounting standards, not the cash flow standards used by the FEC, and therefore the two reports do not agree. The largest changes are (i) the FEC does not think that our \$500,000 mortgage is a debt and (ii) the GAAP report credits all convention income as happening when the convention did, even though the money showed up earlier. Looking at the first seven months of the year, general, project, and program party income was in the range \$79,000-\$130,000, totaling \$60,000 for the building and \$700,000 for everything else except the convention. That's \$100,000 per month for general operations, including salaries, mortgage payments, etc. Fundraising costs for the grand total of \$897,000 came to \$215,000, modestly under a quarter of the income raised. The convention cost \$127,198, somewhat less than the convention income of \$137,849. Salaries for the seven months were slightly over \$134,000, with monthly amounts climbing from \$15,815 in January to \$23,156 in July, a 50% increase in salaries. Administrative and overhead expense came to not quite \$139,000, peaking at \$32,378 in April. "Professional services" came to nearly \$45,000.

For the first seven months of the year, the LNC ran in the red to the tune of \$32,000, but this includes ballot access, which is heavily loaded toward the first half of the year. The report includes a comparison of the comparable period of 2012, income is only down \$3600, while fundraising costs are up by

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Liberty for America will be performing political acts, and other activities that the Federal government calls "Federal Election Activity" and hence FEC-reportable. We must therefore funnel dues to our PAC, "Liberty for America". Dues will not be used to support candidates.

Your Donations are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to request the occupation and employer of donors of \$200 or more in a year. Paid for by Liberty for America. Your donations may be used in relation to a Federal Election. We can only accept donations made by American citizens with their own money.

\$14,000. Those changes are actually extraordinarily good (or perhaps reflect a very difficult situation in 2012), namely often after a Presidential election LNC income falls considerably. Furthermore, the 2012 income was inflated by an extra \$70,000 in convention income (the net convention return was \$30,000 larger). Exclusive of the convention, LNC income thus far in 2014 has been larger than in 2012, which is a really remarkable positive performance.

For this year, income net of fundraising expenses came to \$606,000. Convention costs are, of course, quite legitimately viewed as a fundraising expense.

And how was that \$606,000 spent? \$185,886 went for "administrative costs". \$309,248 went for "compensation". \$88,792 went to ballot access petitioning. \$34,685 went to member communications. Other spending was trivial: affiliate support—\$2472, brand development -\$6053, litigation- \$5073 (and this was mostly to cover for the Johnson campaign) and \$5771 for outreach. Of the total \$897,000 received, less than one part in six went for real politics.

And now I shall make an editorial aside: For an organization that believes that the social security system is problematic, so that private retirement funds must cover everything, our employee retirement payments are massively hypocritical. Our opponents would legitimately say that our payments prove we don't believe what we say. As a beneficiary of a competent university guaranteed payment retirement scheme, like most other college professors in America, which means I will live comfortably when I retire, I can assure you that we should be paying about 15% of income, not half of that.

LNC In Action

On the bright side, the LNC seems to be much more focused on serious themes under its new chair.

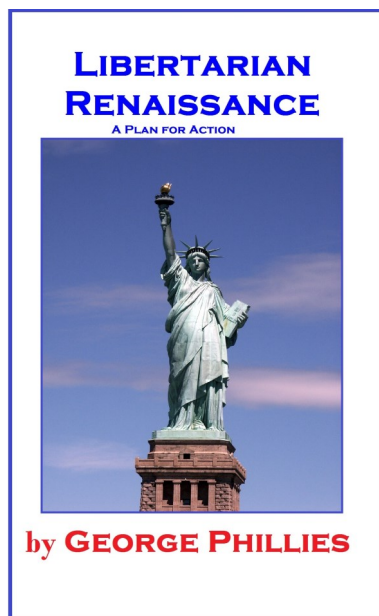
"Ron Windeler" <rowindeler@aol.com> wrote:

Josh,

I appreciate your thoughtful concern about our current financial situation, and your previous suggestions for saving money, but these three proposals don't appear to be particularly effective or necessary to address the situation. Dan has explained why the balloon payment is not threatening us. Nobody else thinks that we are anywhere near bankruptcy, just experiencing a temporarily tight cash flow. Our financial experts advise us that we'll get by just fine if we avoid extravagant spending for a while.

If we had the votes to pass #1, we would have enough votes to reject any unnecessary new expenditures without tying our own hands. Furthermore, it would prevent us from pursuing opportunities to spend a small amount to dramatically improve our financial status. I was thinking of new membership and fundraising outreaches, but what if we received an email from the son of a Nigerian prince, who's father tragically died of ebola before he could finish donating a hundred pounds of gold to our building fund. Your motion would prevent us from sending the small sum needed to pay the duties, shipping, and handling (sterilization?) to carry out his father's dying wish.

Any negotiated agreements with vendors concerning de-



Libertarian Renaissance

George Phillies has created and published a new edition of the New Path Plan for saving our party.

Libertarian Renaissance is an update of the 2010 edition with new information.

The volume is available on

Amazon Kindle
amazon.com/Libertarian-Renaissance-Essays-Liberty-ebook/dp/B00E1SVGAK and

Smashwords
smashwords.com/books/view/339159

for ninety-nine cents.

layed payments are voluntary contracts that don't require formal apologies from the LNC. If you feel that it is necessary to apologize personally, you are free to do so.

#2 implies that staff doesn't know how to do their job and that it would somehow save money if no more than two staff members walked down the street to physically attend the meeting. (do we actually have more than two paid staff on duty any particular day?)

While #3 doesn't authorize any additional expenditure, it does expend paid staff's time to produce an unneeded report. I believe that Wes has already gone through that planning process many times in order to enable our tiny staff to accomplish the great things that they have. Do we really need him to write a report telling us how efficiently he will manage things after he finishes writing the report? Do we have the expertise to interpret that report and tell him how to do his job better?

I believe that our staff practices economy every day and doesn't need us to tell them how to be thrifty. The last thing that they need from us is more make work assignments.

Better that you return to thinking of ways to help our cash flow by reducing spending and increasing revenue. Maybe you could locate a suitable meeting facility within walking distance of headquarters that could be rented for a few hundred dollars per day. And/or you could help me convince this group that our continuous email meeting would allow the in person LNC meeting to be shortened to a single day. (cutting the expenses in half would save over \$2,500 from our current tentative arrangements) The second day could be taken up with familiarizing us with our staff and the new building, checking out future convention sites, and socializing in the parking lot or at that great barbeque joint I found during the last convention in DC.

During the last decade of the last millennium, we doubled our membership and revenue, mostly with a project called Ar-

chimed. Amidst some scandals and infighting, we abandoned it because it had been overpromised way beyond its wonderful results. Both revenues and membership have been steadily declining ever since.

You're a bright young guy who understands this new digital stuff. Could you develop a modern version of Project Archimedes involving social media, crowd sourcing, bitcoins, etc? We could use another doubling of resources about now.

Or maybe we don't need to update it. Lots of other organizations are still using direct mailing, so it must still work. I would be willing to put up the first \$1,000 if we dust off the results from Archimedes and sent out a new batch of tested effective solicitations to the proven profitable mailing lists that we found. (see, there's ways to get around your proposed spending freeze)

In the immediate short term, conventional political wisdom says go back to your previous donors and ask for more. We (yes, I mean you, me, and the rest of the LNC) could make personal phone calls to the donors to the building fund, asking them for just a 5 or 10% additional contribution to the general fund to protect their previous investment. Warn them that some crazies within the LNC want to sell the new building and move headquarters staff into a needle park nearby. The brass plaque with their name on it might be put on Ebay, where some metal recycler will buy it.

Or, we could pass a special rule that says the sponsors of any motion that commits to new spending must personally submit the funds to pay for their proposed project along with their list of cosponsors.

Even without your spending freeze, we have been doing pretty good so far this session. Alicia's proposed motion does commit the cost of a stamp and envelope. No expenses were actually committed to in the meeting motions. You and I and some others are lobbying to keep those meeting costs down. All other motions have been freebies.

Ron Windeler
rowindeler@aol.com

To this Joshua Katz responded:

Thanks. To clarify, I meant for 2 to apply to New Orleans, not DC, to reduce travel and lodging costs.

The intent of 3 is to see what staff functions can be performed by volunteers.

I already explained my views on our continuous email meeting. I do think phone or video meetings will be useful, but still value physical meetings, just at the lowest cost possible.

I would prevent the EC from spending, and require a 2/3 vote to spend, but can be passed by only a majority.

I will get to work on your suggestions, but the fact remains that saving money remains good, even if more is taken in, so more

can be spent on our core mission, or saved.

I am not particularly willing to make calls regarding a non-existent building when I was not in favor of the purchase, particularly since it kept us in Mordor.

Norm Olsen answered:

We have a competent Executive Director who is certainly monitoring this situation. I am confident that he will implement appropriate policies to address this issue as necessary. If he decides obtaining a loan is an appropriate action, I'm sure he'll advise the chair and we'll soon after have a motion to vote upon.

We as a governing board should not be trying to micro-manage these affairs from afar.

Lieberman Urges Lean to Right

For those of you who think that the Libertarian Party needs to lean to the left in its outreach if we want to attract new donors from the Millennial generation: Appendix 2 from the recent Reason report on Millennials (1):

Of Millennials who self-identified as libertarian and explained why they were libertarian:

“Economic/Small Govt. Conservative only 22%
Social Liberal only 2%”

In the abridged version of that survey that they mailed out to Reason donors, they combined some categories, but still:

Of self-identified libertarians, the reason they used to justify that label:

“Economic Issues 67%
Social/Tolerance Issues 48%”

Either way, these results strongly suggest that if the Libertarian Party wants to attract more 18 to 29 year olds who already identify as libertarian, it would be more fruitful to advertise our positions on economic issues rather than our positions on social issues. If you have a goal other than getting the most bang for the buck with our outreach, then you might come to another conclusion.

Scott Lieberman Region 4 Alternate, LNC

Alicia Mattson had submitted a motion that would have led to the Reeves faction being recognized as our Oregon State Party. That motion is still looking for the required number of co-sponsors before being brought to a vote. From the discussion, the LNC was not supportive of the proposal.

Guy McLendon at first said he would co-sponsor the motion and then announced

“On the state chair's list, many members have recommended against bringing this motion to a vote. At least for the moment, I hereby retract my co-sponsorship of this motion.
Guy McLendon”

Katz on Electronic Meetings

Joshua Katz made recommendations on rules for conducting

electronic meetings. He suggested:

Using an implied numbering:

1. The first question is whether or not the LNC wants to set the rules for how other large committees conduct business. The new bylaw says we may, but doesn't require us to. I'd suggest the following - for the LNC, the same number as is required to initiate an email ballot, plus one, or the chair. For another large committee - the same percentage of membership as for the LNC, or the committee chair, or the LNC chair can call a committee to meet. I agree that no commitment should be made on items not noticed. Unless I'm mistaken, it's in order in general to give notice at a meeting of intent to make a motion at a future meeting, on a topic not in the agenda, and I think that should be allowed - a rule stating that no commitments may be made would still allow for that.

2. I strongly support the use of Doodle, and also think we should use it for LNC meetings, at least to craft a motion, but that's a side point. As for notice, it depends on what we want the electronic meetings to do. One idea would be to use them for urgent items, which would require a low threshold. However, we've gone for years without them, and we have an EC to handle most urgent items. Another way to use them would be to reduce reliance on email ballots. RONR seems to suggest that video or telephone conferences are preferable for the conduct of business to asynchronous balloting, so this seems like a good use for them. As such, I think a moderate threshold makes sense. Maybe 3 days notice to the website and email? Anyone can read Inc-business, so I don't think there's a need to email all members.

3. For physical meetings, it says "Party members." Does this mean sustaining or pledge-signing? In either case, I'd suggest aligning it with the rule for physical meetings. The right of the committee to invite others is not removed by the adoption of a rule allowing a class of people to attend since these are rules, not bylaws, so I don't think it's necessary to add that to the rule.

4. The 11th edition contains a section handling electronic meetings, we should make sure this rule requires all that is required there. I don't have it with me, but if I remember correctly, it also suggests having standing rules or rules of order to deal with recognition, how the floor is sought, and so on. In addition to what you have, I'd add the ability to identify participants (and listeners, given that we're limiting those) by some positive means. The rule should be crafted in a way that allows for some splitting of responsibilities. I'd say that the presiding officer of the meeting is responsible for tracking who is participating, being able to identify participants and observers, and may either track a quorum or delegate that task to the recording officer, and must ensure that the technical aspects you list are taken care of - either by doing them or through delegation and checking prior to the meeting. I also think the rule should limit the use of mute. In a physical meeting, there are rules whereby the chair silence a person, of course, but there are also ways to deal with a chair who is behaving badly. Technical means of silencing someone, on the other hand, don't allow for that. In addition to not acting on an appeal, for instance, a chair could

make it so that a person who is expected to appeal will not be heard, or even mute someone in anticipation of their raising a point of order. Not that I'd suggest that this is likely, but it just makes sense to have some rules on its use. I would say mute should be limited to a case where a non-member attempts to disrupt a meeting, a technological failing causes a problem (such as feedback or severe echoing), or non-decorous and out of order behavior after 3 requests - in the latter case, only with unanimous consent from the rest - i.e. the chair informs the body that he has muted that person temporarily and asks for objections.

5. I don't think it makes sense to require a recording officer since it's already in our parliamentary authority. Copy the rule for minutes and their approval from physical meetings for the LNC. I'd strongly suggest letting other committees set their own rules for approving minutes and posting them. I agree with requiring a recording to be made and archived. I also think they should be made available publicly.

Olsen apparently also offered a motion dealing with the 2018 National Convention:

Please consider this message as "previous notice" of the following motion to be made at the September 2014 meeting in Alexandria:

Resolved:

1 The 2018 national convention of the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) will be held on the Memorial Day weekend of 2018 (25 thru 28 May 2018).

2 The schedule of official business of the 2018 national convention of the LNC shall consist of 2½ days, commencing on the morning of Saturday, May 26, 2018 and adjourning by 2PM on Monday, May 28, 2018.

3 We, the LNC, would prefer to have a private entity produce the convention and, in that regard, hereby directs the Chair and staff to solicit bids from such private organizations. Such bids must be sufficiently detailed per Executive Director specifications and received by the Executive Director by close of business at the Alexandria office on May 1, 2015.

4 Regardless of whether the LNC accepts a bid by a private organization or not, the LNC shall choose the specific venue of the 2018 convention at, or prior to, the last LNC meeting in 2015.

Informal rationale (in lieu of a whole slew of Whereas's >:):

1 Attendance statistics suggest that attendance of an off-year convention on the Memorial Day weekend is significantly greater than conventions on other dates.

2 A convention prior to the commencement of summer activities and following most final exams would enable more students to attend.

3 A shorter convention on a holiday weekend will cost dele-

gates significantly less in base financial costs, and even greater savings in "lost work" opportunity costs.

4 A private organization which produces a convention can (and usually do) accept corporate sponsorships and engage in other activities which would reduce the cost of the actual convention to both the party and its delegates.

5 Either way, we need to make a decision as soon as reasonably possible. Actually, we should already be looking at preparations (soliciting bids?) for the 2020 convention.

Wes Benedict offered a series of recommendations for having a less expensive state convention. We quote from the letter ascribed to him:

Dan, I'll just list several areas where I see large savings potential without looking up all the details and writing up a formal report. I believe a formal request would have to come from the chair, the LNC, or a convention committee.

1. Choose a hotel that offers reasonably low pricing and terms. For example, in 2014 and 2012, staff recommended lower cost hotels than were chosen. There was a much lower cost hotel in Las Vegas (but still good quality). But still convenient to fly to for most of the U.S.

2. Memorial Day weekend conventions typically cost less than other weekends. If candidates are too busy campaigning, that's fine. I think the extra attendance at Memorial Weekend conventions is higher than the loss of candidates who prefer campaigning.

3. Shorten the convention a little (as Mr. Olsen suggested).

4. Those lunches and dinners cost like \$40 to \$80 per person at the hotels we've been choosing. Yet, we don't usually have a food and beverage minimum that requires us to buy as much as we do, and could choose hotels that minimize that.

5. A/V costs could be cut significantly. \$10k+. Use the screens in some of the breakout rooms that LPHQ has. Use a single screen at the front of the convention hall.

6. Those vertical state delegation signs used in Columbus cost about \$2,500 but we already had a set we could have re-used. Now we have two sets.

7. Let staff make the convention website--which doesn't take long (we did that this year), but not in prior years.

8. Cut back on the speaker travel, meal and hotel expenses. You can get decent speakers for free or at lower cost. And you can have fewer meals and meal speakers. That way delegates can mingle more, or go to training sessions. You could probably sell speaking slots in some cases.

9. Keep staff travel expenses to a minimum. That was done very well this year.

10. Printed material costs could be cut in half by printing earlier at low cost printers instead of at the last minute at FedEx-Kinkos.

11. Staff tends to not like spending lots of money because we have to raise most of it. Non-staff convention organizers have typically been given authority to spend without oversight on many expenditures. With more oversight, suggested savings can be proposed.

12. "Right-size" the space. Which means be open to reserving a slightly smaller space. If attendance starts shooting

through the roof, then let half the states sit in "class-room" style seating (with tables in front of each row of chairs), and the other half of the states sit in "theatre-style" seating in the back third of the room (no table in front of them--you keep your papers on your lap or under your chair).

It all adds up fast. If all of the above were done to a significant degree, perhaps a \$40,000 convention could be done. But I'd keep the budget at \$60k to leave plenty of wiggle room.

If staff were formally requested to provide a convention proposal, I'd start by brainstorming with Robert Kraus about where a few good cities might be with potential for low cost venues (still nice national chain hotels--but ones with lower than average prices), then I'd pick a few good hotels from those cities. That's not been our process recently. It's more been about selecting a state or city. Then picking a hotel. Cost has been further down on the list of priorities.

Yes I'm too busy, but hopefully this email has the potential so help save at least \$10,000 to \$20,000 in future savings. I'm fully expecting the LNC to steal all of my ideas above and not stick staff with putting on the convention. :)

...Wes Benedict, Executive Director

Norm Olsen Moved to Eliminate the Outreach Committee

We gather he moved:

The following four changes are hereby made to the Policy Manual of the Libertarian National Committee:

1 Section 2.02-10, titled "Outreach Committee" shall be deleted.

2 References to the "Outreach Committee" shall be removed from the table which appear in Section 1.03.

3 The bullet item "Outreach - Initiatives to reach the general public and outside groups" listed under Program Expenses in Section 3 (page 28) shall be deleted.

4 Table of Contents and Index shall be modified to reflect the above changes.

Informal rationale (in lieu of several Whereas's :>)

1 Examination of the current web page shows that the "Outreach Committee" has no members (i.e. membership is "TBD"). I suspect that there has been no significant activity in this area (as described in the Policy Manual) for the last four years.

2 Reference to the "Outreach Committee" in Section 3 implies that funds are to be allocated for this function in the annual budget even though there have been no expenditures that I am aware of over the last four years. Availability of funding is always tight. If we are to allocate funds, let's allocate funds to committees which will do something with the funds.

3 Rather than trying to do many things (all of which are well intentioned) in a half-assed manner, let's plan to do only a couple of things but do them well. That is, let's fully fund the things that are really crucial and drop those that are not crucial.

4 When the financial squeeze eases and we find individuals willing to commit resources to these worthwhile efforts, we can add this back in to the policy manual.

5 But for now let's not allocate very scarce resources to an effort in which there is very limited interest.

Norman T Olsen

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