

Liberty for America

October 2016

Editorial Note

Your editor's computer was down for two weeks, and has still not recovered completely. The Windows 10 Anniversary Upgrade has a known bug that occasionally makes it impossible to start the machine and wrecks the disk drive organization. (See Forbes, mid-October) Alas, Microsoft is still distributing the turkey. Systems with multiple disks (I had a RAID system; I stress *had*) are apparently more vulnerable. In any event, on my machine the Windows upgrade jammed and would not complete or let the good technicians do anything. I ended up with a bare main drive (had to reload all my software; fortunately I had all the backup disks), a RAID system whose backup disk has data on it, but you can't read it yet, and large stacks of CDs that let me recover *most* of my data, though not the most recent few months where I had short-term trusted the RAID configuration. Reloading all the CDs took quite some time, and I am still missing some things. Also, this is now a Windows 7 machine, and so it shall remain.

Johnson Contract Has Happy Ending

We have occasionally reported on the total lack of progress on signing a contract between the LNC and the Johnson campaign, a contract that would give the Libertarian National Committee a list of the Johnson donors and contacts and that would let the Johnson campaign do several mailings to LNC members. LNC Chair Nick Sarwark finally completed the contract with the campaign. At this point, there was a major issue. The terms of the contract guaranteed that the LNC would keep the terms of the contract secret *in perpetuity*. LNC members who wanted to see the contract, which they clearly needed to do in order to perform their duties as board members, were to be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement. The LNC transparency caucus, led by Caryn Ann Harlos, refused to sign the agreement. Harlos offered a motion to revoke the ability of the chair to sign the agreement without needing prior LNC approval.

In the end, libertarian common sense prevailed. Chair Nick Sarwark persuaded the Johnson campaign to agree to a modified contract, in which some of the terms will be kept secret, but only for one year.

A Candidate Worth Supporting

Thom Simmons. He spoke twice at the National Convention. <http://simmons4congress.com/>

Unlike many Libertarian candidates, Thom was at one time a Congressional candidate campaign manager. His candidate, John LeBoutillier, ran in a New York City District that was 3-1 Democratic (the district in which lived the mythical Archie Bunker of All in the Family) against a many-term incumbent

who chaired a major House Committee. Thom's campaign scheme worked. The campaign ran one TV ad, a map of the earth with push pins being stuck into tracking the incumbent's trips to important world trouble spots like Bora Bora. The pins were inserted, one at a time, lovingly, by a person who I gather could be described as 'a hot babe' wearing 'a minimal bikini'. (Well, it was 1980, in New York City).

Now Thom is running against a many-term incumbent who was just redistricted. Outside polling found that no one in the incumbent's new areas has a clue who he is; the polling number was in fact zero percent. The incumbent is viewed as living in DC and having little contact with his district.

The incumbent has just been caught using campaign funds to pay for travel and hotel expenses for trips to Ireland. Readers will recall that Ireland is a foreign country that is not in the Massachusetts First Congressional District. The press is aware of this issue and is about to raise it. The incumbent has no visible campaign.

Needless to say, these issues are being exploited, but Thom needs more money to get his message to the voters. Yes, there are TV ads, but production costs have already been covered.

Disclosure: I am a maximum legal donor to the Simmons campaign. Please join me.

<http://Simmons4Congress.com>

State Conventions

New Hampshire: Darryl Perry was elected State Chair. Recent immigrant from Arkansas (and former state chair there) Rodger Paxton was elected as LPNH Vice Chair. The LPNH has other officers, but I have not yet seen election results.

Massachusetts: The new state Committee and its officers are: Cris Crawford – Chair, David Blau – Treasurer, Susan Ruiz – Recording Secretary, Kristie Manning Moruzzi, Ken Van Tassell, Dan Fishman, Thomas Simmons, Justin O'Donnell, and Don Graham. In Massachusetts, the Convention elects the State Committee, and the State Committee elects its own officers. A considerable number of officer positions will be filled soon.

Johnson Campaign Finances

Johnson 2016: For a positive change, in August most Johnson campaign spending was directed toward advertising, with major foci on social media ads, radio, and billboards. The Johnson 2016 campaign began August with \$1,205,355 cash on hand. During the month, it raised \$4,971,147, which is a Libertarian record going as far back as there are FEC reports, namely 1993. The campaign spent \$3,683,598, leaving it at the end of the month with \$2,492,904.

There is also a Joint Fundraising Committee, which was going to exploit features of Federal Law to raise huge amounts of money from a few donors. The Committee is filing quarterly. Reports to date do not show much has been done.

And where was the money spent?

There was advertising.

\$251,347 went for Facebook ads. \$12,020 went for Google ads. Website hosting came to \$5045. NoizeTV, SlackSlack, and Snapchat received \$3721. Twitter received \$218.

Signs came to \$181,226.

Printing cost \$287,718. Promotional items, and production of campaign materials, came to \$5123. Postage and shipping went for \$3249.

\$1,804,431 went to Evan Twede, Inc for media/advertising. Evan Twede, Inc., has an identifiable national reputation, notably for radio and digital billboards. IVC Media was given \$59,665 for media/advertising. \$29,582 went City Creek Entertainment for media/advertising. Advertising/media included \$6975 to Power & Industry, \$1400 to No Monkey, and \$1020 to Phoenix Media.

There was travel. \$29,380 went for air fares; \$13,669 went to hotels. Political events and venues cost \$20,025. \$4071 went for AV equipment for events. \$3572 went to event catering. Shipping cost \$832. Travel insurance was \$404.

Handling money and data has costs. Merchant fees (credit cards and the like) came to \$178,975. Accounting cost \$ 14,419.13. Software came to \$25,010. Bank fees came to \$607. Credit cards fees were \$310. \$30 to Wells Fargo for Wiring. \$3266 for refunds are technically disbursements.

Then there were consultants and other people doing things. \$550,000 went to Liberty Consulting Service. Social media consulting to Robert Koski of Birmingham, Alabama received \$181,226. A total of \$107,456 went to a list of 27 people and firms for 'campaign consulting'. Many of the payments were relatively modest, but among payments to individuals note \$12,000 to Cliff Maloney, and \$6000 to Jesse Ranney. Press relations went for \$13,789, including \$10,000 to Joseph Hunter. Legal and compliance services, legal consulting, and legal fees came to \$9404.

A mileage reimbursement of \$1012 is, we are advised, for ballot access expenses. \$19,500 was specified as going for ballot access.

Other spending included \$3433 for insurance, \$326 for office supplies, and \$258 to Dave's Septic Service of Manchester, NH for utilities.

Johnson 2012: Gary Johnson 2012 failed to pay debts of \$1,538,118, not counting another third of a million dollars in dispute between the campaign and the FEC, and has yet to gain agreement of the FEC that they will never pay those debts. Back in the Florida Presidential debate, Johnson claimed that those debts were about to be written off; in fact there has been no FEC action since the Florida debate.