

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072
www.LP.org April 2010

Candidate Count Growing; Convention Coming Up

*By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee*

Our party is doing well. Income is back on a growth trend, our 2010 candidate count is impressive and growing, and we've got some new projects that I'm pleased about.

With just 26 states reporting so far, we have a list of over 500 Libertarian candidates running for office this year. (You can see the list by going to LP.org and clicking "Candidates" in the "Our Party" menu.)

Just by being candidates, these folks will have their voices greatly amplified this year. They will get free press coverage, and many will have the opportunity to appear in forums and debates and express Libertarian principles. And I expect some candidates will win their elections, especially those running for non-partisan offices.

Registrations for our 2010 National Convention in St. Louis (Memorial Day weekend) are coming in according to plan. I think attendance at the convention will be at least adequate. Five strong candidates for LNC Chair have come forward. That contest will probably be the highlight of the convention, and I look forward to working with whoever wins and becomes my next boss.

Mark Meranta (our Affiliate Services & New Media Specialist) has left us to take a position with the Institute for Justice. Mark started off as an LP intern in 2008, and when Austin Petersen left last year, Mark took over many of his duties.

Mark managed our Facebook fan page and Twitter account, and both have showed very strong growth. Over the last year, our Facebook fan count has grown from around 7,000 to over 35,000. Kyle

Hartz, a former intern whom Mark hired and trained, will be taking over most of Mark's duties.

One of Kyle's projects is to help Libertarian candidates around America by offering to make campaign websites for them. Creating a campaign website can be a serious challenge for someone without that experience, and professional website services are often expensive. Kyle has already completed several websites for Libertarian candidates, and they are online and accepting donations.

We recently designed and publicized a one-sheet "Take a Look at the Libertarian Party" flyer, intended for activists to print and distribute at events such as the tax day protests going on around the country. It includes the World's Smallest Political Quiz, plus summarized information about the Libertarian Party, and a membership form. If you haven't seen this flyer already, you can find it online at LP.org/take-a-look.

Monthly pledge income was down slightly in March, but I think that's mostly because of calendar issues: some mail was delivered late, so some of the expected March income will appear in April instead. Here's the table:

		Pledgers	Amount
December	2008	1,045	\$24,468
August	2009	902	\$20,504
September	2009	940	\$24,301
October	2009	933	\$23,353
November	2009	1,035	\$25,623
December	2009	1,012	\$24,907
<i>Goal for December 2009</i>		<i>1,000</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
January	2010	1,089	\$26,969
February	2010	1,120	\$28,019
March	2010	1,102	\$26,594

Thank you for your past and continuing support. I'm looking forward to a great election season.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

New Jersey Libertarians launch radio show

from Jay Edgar, New Jersey LP chair

The NJ Libertarian Party and the South Jersey Libertarians have recently announced the launch of a weekly radio show. The show, "Common Sense", is broadcast live on AM 1360 in southern New Jersey.

North Dakota LP achieves ballot access

According to the Associated Press (April 12), "The Libertarian Party will have its own column on North Dakota's June primary ballot. Secretary of State Al Jaeger on Monday approved petitions from Libertarian backers asking for a separate column on the ballot. Jaeger says the petitions had more than the 7,000 signatures that state law requires."

Ballot access expert and LP member Richard Winger organized this petition effort in North Dakota, and no funds were needed from the national LP.

The AP article goes on to say that Libertarian candidates have filed to run for the U.S. Senate, North Dakota Tax Commissioner, and three seats in the North Dakota Legislature.

Record attendance expected at the 2010 Libertarian Party of Ohio Convention

from the Ohio LP

April 9, 2010 – The 2010 Libertarian Party of Ohio Convention gets kicked off today at the Doubletree Hotel in Columbus, and preliminary attendance numbers are showing it will be the

largest Libertarian Party convention in Ohio in the past decade.

"I must say that this is the largest crowd I have seen since I came on the LP-scene at the 2005 LPO state convention," said Kevin Knedler, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Ohio. "In fact our 2010 size would be more than twice the size of the 2005 convention"

Special guest speakers at the convention will include: Brian Wilson, Program Director and afternoon host on WSPD 1370 radio in Toledo; Wayne Allyn Root, Libertarian candidate for Vice President in 2008 and frequent guest on talk shows as 'the voice of the Libertarian Party'; James Bovard, author of nine books and described as "the roving inspector general of the modern state" by the Wall Street Journal; Mark W. Rutherford, attorney and appointee to the Indiana Public Defender Commission in 2007 as a Libertarian by Gov. Mitch Daniels; Teresa Geron, Fairtax promoter; Daniel Williams, author of "The Naked Truth about Drugs" and frequent guest speaker at colleges across America; Charles 'Charlie' Earl, Libertarian candidate for Ohio Secretary of State; and Michael Howard, Libertarian candidate for Ohio Auditor.

The Libertarian Party of Ohio holds a convention once every two years for the purpose of conducting party business such as constitutional and bylaw amendments; gathering members from throughout the state in one place to share ideas and network, and learn about politics, campaigning, and candidates; and reporting to the members on the progress and activities of the LPO.

Libertarian Party of Nebraska mounts ballot initiative

from Gene Siadek, Nebraska LP Chairman

The two-party system has failed to produce liberty-centered results at any level of government. Not only have the two biggest parties failed to represent citizens, they have essentially morphed into one party, further limiting the peoples' representation in the political process. The "Red"

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

and "Blue" parties have basically become one "Purple Party." And purple is the color one turns while being suffocated. It seems the only recognizable difference between the two entrenched parties is in which special interest group benefits from their time in office.

We believe Nebraskans deserve a choice, a real choice, in who represents them at the local, state and federal levels. For that reason, today we begin our petition drive effort to re-establish Nebraskans' right to register and vote as Libertarians.

We are focused on regaining the right to have our candidates on ballots, in allowing Nebraskans to register as Libertarians, and ultimately in gaining seats at the local, state and national levels to further the cause of freedom."

Nebraska law does not make it easy for third parties. The state requires thousands of signatures to be gained through very strict petition regulations.

We believe the Nebraska petition law is written to keep the voices of the people silent. Although the law is currently being challenged, we will move forward under the current restrictions to enable Nebraskans to have the option to register as Libertarians in 2010 and beyond.

New Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Robin D. Allen | John Moran |
| David Bauer | Wendy D. Moseley |
| Edward G. Bibb | Christopher G. Nicholson-Sauls |
| Jonathan C. Bierer | Jason Nordin |
| Thomas J. Burlingame | James M. Ockwood |
| Daniel Cardenas | William M. Oliver |
| William F. Condon | Allen Riddle |
| George E. Corbin | Emily H. Robideau |
| Karl A. Devenport | Adam Roe |
| Robert S. Devour | Noah Rosenberg |
| Andrew Ehret | John R. Seydel |
| Jeremy Fay | Andrew C. Shaffer |
| Rebecca Fenwick | Kyle Single |
| Larry L. Fox | Sara L. Sjoberg |
| Jesse Frewerd | Amanda Stephens |
| Harold J. Gooch | Nicholas L. Stephens |
| David Grill | Ken Swartz |
| James A. Hardison | Tate Tacon |
| John F. Hathaway | Steven Trubey |
| Bobbie J. Hazelton | Laura Valle |
| Kyle Irrgang | Susan Waddell |
| James Jaeger | John C. Weber |
| Dustin E. Johnson | Matthew White |
| Brian E. Kamerath | Michael J. Williams |
| Christine Kocher | Treva Wornath |
| M A. Leech | Brian Wynn |
| Brittanie A. Massey | Robert Yarbrough |
| Brent Mayberry | Nathan A. Zastrow |

I would like to make a one-time donation to the LP:

- \$5,000
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- _____ Other

I would like to increase my **monthly pledge to this level:**

- \$2,500
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$30
- _____ Other
(minimum \$10)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

(Please make checks payable to **Libertarian Party**.)

Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Occupation*: _____

Employer*: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

*Federal law requires political committees to report the name, address, occupation and the name of the employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Libertarian Party in the News

Census resisters cite distrust of government

Chicago Tribune, March 17, 2010

...Federal law prohibits the Census Bureau from sharing an individual's data with other government agencies, but some people still question how the data will be used....

Wes Benedict, executive director of the Libertarian Party, cited a Cato Institute report that census information was used during World War I to locate draft resisters and during World War II to round up Japanese-Americans and put them in internment camps.

"Breaches happen on purpose or by accident," Benedict said. "Having all that detail on people creates the opportunity for abuse, even if it's not intended or expected today."

Libertarians confront adverse election code

Houston Chronicle, March 19, 2010

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Surfside, and his acolyte, erstwhile Republican gubernatorial candidate Debra Medina, are the best-known Texas politicians with libertarian leanings, but their notoriety has been a mixed blessing for the Libertarian Party, says **Guy McLendon**, Harris County Libertarian Party chair.

"Her campaign and Dr. Paul's campaign brought a lot of public awareness to the libertarian — small 'l' libertarian — message, but the Texas Election Code puts constraints on what people could do," McLendon said....

Although Medina and Paul are libertarian Republicans, McLendon emphasized that Libertarians traditionally have no truck with either party.

"We're neither far right nor far left" he said. "We basically align ourselves with Ben Franklin,

who believed that government should neither spend all your money nor tell you how to live your life."

Abbott signs on to a lawsuit to stop new health care law

Austin American-Statesman, March 23, 2010

On the same day that President Barack Obama put his signature on sweeping health care legislation, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott signed on to a lawsuit to try to stop the new law....

Patrick Dixon, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Texas, also weighed in.

"The audacity of the Democrats to pass an unconstitutional health care reform law is only matched by the Republicans' recent posturing as anti-government crusaders," Dixon said. He said the congressional Republicans passed "the largest government takeover of health care in 30 years when they granted senior citizens an unfunded prescription drug benefit known as Medicare Part D."

Court orders Libertarian back on the ballot

Dayton Daily News, March 25, 2010

LEBANON — A Libertarian candidate should be allowed to run for the 67th Ohio House District seat despite a technical error on his petition, the state's highest court ruled.

The Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday, March 24, ruled 7-0 the Warren County Board of Elections must place the name of Libertarian candidate **Robert Waters** of Lebanon on the ballot....

"My phone has been ringing off the hook," Waters said. "Libertarians around the state are excited about this. I'm hearing from people from Marietta to Cleveland and everywhere in between."