

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 December 2009

\$25,000 Monthly Pledge Goal Surpassed in November

*By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee*

After receding a little in October, our monthly pledge total jumped up over the goal we had set for December. That's great news!

I suspect a lot of this increase was the result of instituting an option to sign up online for a monthly pledge by credit card.

Over 100 people have taken advantage of that option since we rolled it out in October. Additionally, we've continued to emphasize the importance of monthly pledge in our regular postal mailings.

The table below shows our current results.

		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
Goal for December 2009		1,000	\$25,000

A special thanks to our 38 new monthly pledgers in November (listed on page 3).

Recently I sent an extra renewal letter to thousands of expired members, going all the way back to 2005. That proved to be successful. After a year of a nearly unbroken decline in membership, the count went up from 14,170 in October to 14,538 in November, and the letter made a strong profit.

As a former manufacturing engineer with plenty of experience with statistics, I'm not going to

claim two points define a trend. But I am encouraged to see that many people who let their memberships lapse are deciding to rejoin when we ask them to. We'll do more of this.

While improving the finances and membership numbers was a primary focus of mine after being hired last July, I haven't lost sight of the fact that we are a political party working to promote liberty in America. Funds raised and memberships are resources that help us run candidates for office and promote and implement our ideals.

After the recent November elections, we updated our list and identified 143 elected Libertarians. That's down some from recent years.

Our national headquarters in DC employs only four full-time and three part-time staff members. At this level, we can only provide a small amount of direct campaign support to individual candidates.

However, one of the most important things I try to do is send the message to our members that encourages and motivates them to run for office. It is up to us Libertarians to stand up for liberty—no one else is going to do it.

By now you may have heard me mention several times how I helped recruit a record number of candidates in Texas in 2006 and 2008. Critical to that effort was having our staff in Texas assist candidates with the filing of paperwork required to be a candidate and get onto the ballot. What may take a new candidate ten hours to figure out on his own, may take only ten minutes with the right assistance.

I'm hopeful that if we continue to receive monthly support from you, and find additional sources of support, we'll be able to supplement our staff so that we can field a strong slate of candidates in 2010.

Because of you, we stand a chance.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Candidate Recruitment a Priority over the Next Few Months

by Sam Goldstein, LP Indiana Chairman

The LP of Marion County is taking the lead in aggressive candidate recruitment for 2010 by scheduling a Candidate Recruitment Day for November 14th. The LPMC leadership will assemble from 1-4pm that afternoon with the express purpose of calling as many as 200 potential candidates for local, state and federal office.

To warm up the prospects Tim Maguire, LPMC Chair, is mailing a letter to current and recently lapsed members in the county about a week before Recruitment Day to stimulate interest in next year's races. This sample letter can be found [by contacting chair@indy.lp.org]. Feel free to adjust it for your own purposes.

We set a goal of 100 State Representative and 25 State Senate candidates at our state convention last spring and now is the time to begin the process of getting our membership excited about running for office. With 125 candidates working in their area to increase awareness about the Libertarian Party, it will increase vote totals for our Secretary of State Candidate.

Ron Cenkush from St. Joseph County has already announced his candidacy for our nomination for State Rep and was instrumental in the defeat this week of a new multi-county tax to support a NW Indiana Regional Transport Authority. Ron was featured twice in the South Bend Tribune and his candidacy was mentioned several times. This is great recognition for Ron and the LPIN's efforts in the Second District.

There are many, many issues in the news today that beg for Libertarian solutions. It is our job to find quality candidates to present them to Hoosier voters. I would like you to consider following the LPMC example and start finding them now.

Kennedy Nears Ballot

from *Massachusetts Liberty*, December 2009

Libertarian Joe Kennedy continues to show how sound organization, effective fundraising, and good political tactics can lead to positive results.

He writes: My volunteers and I just finished counting and sorting signatures. We have 17,625 signatures collected, counted and categorized.

Kennedy advises us that more than 9000 signatures are known to be valid, and another 6000 are still being checked. It appears highly likely that Kennedy has so many valid signatures that there is no likelihood of a legal challenge to his ballot access status.

from the *Joe Kennedy campaign*, December 7

We are officially the first candidate on the ballot for US Senate for the January 19th election. This morning we submitted and had certified 13,956 valid signatures. Thank you for your support.

Ohio ballot access has cleared the Ohio House

from *Kevin Knedler, LP Ohio Chairman*

Voting on party lines, the HB # 260 passed yesterday in the Statehouse on November 18.

A nearly 900 page bill, but portions address most aspects of minor party ballot access.

The LPO wrote the proposal.

Now, the Senate will need to address the situation. Once thru this very tough hurdle, Ohio will change over 100 years of VERY restrictive ballot access. The citizens of Ohio are demanding their 1st amendment rights to speak their mind in the voting booth!

Meanwhile, the Ohio SoS will soon be giving a Directive that will state that 4 minor parties WILL have ballot access for both the May 2010 Primary and the November 2010 general elections.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

The LPO will also participate in the May primary by electing the Central Committee. This means there will be a ballot in all of the Ohio voting booths, if we can find 2 people from each US Congressional District to run for office. Since affiliating with a party can only be done via a primary, the Ohio LP team will have access to all Ohioans that requested a Libertarian ballot in May.

Patty Tweedle to challenge the status-quo for recently-vacated House seat

from Glenn Nielsen, Missouri LP Chair

With the departure of Rep. Dennis Wood, the special election for the 62nd House District will include a Libertarian challenger. Patty Tweedle, of Branson, has filed for the vacant House of Representatives seat.

Tweedle, a longtime Branson resident, is a proponent of lower taxes, smaller government, and personal and economic liberty. "With the government increasing its control of our lives and our businesses, it's time to scale back the size, cost, and scope of the state and federal levels, and the best way to do that is to have our country grounded in liberty for all," said Tweedle's campaign

manager, Teddy Fleck.

Tweedle added: "As a homemaker and former professional, I bring to the table ideas that better reflect the constituency as a whole. Ideas such as smaller, smarter government, and individual responsibility. I think we can all agree that it's time to get government out of our business, and to resurrect government of and by the people. For these reasons, I am stepping up to the plate to become the representative of the 62nd District."

New Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| George W. Adams | Bruce Hooper |
| Herman Alley | E. W. Horton |
| Ray Best | Douglas Kelly |
| Keith Binam | Bambi Koch |
| Jill R. Binsley | Michael Lepis |
| Jerald Blankenship | Kellie J. McLucas |
| David Britt | Robert Mendez |
| Eric Crocker | John Naftzger |
| Dave Crookston | Robert Owen |
| Kevin Donoughe | Poul Petersen |
| Julien Duplant | Armando Romero |
| Stephen Ellis | Dominic Salvia |
| David S. Finley | Keith J. Sauter |
| Ronald Fisher | Jerry M. Skelton |
| Tim Flowers | Mark Spikes |
| Michael Fuller | Tony D. Stuntz |
| Justin Garrett | Lorraine Sutphin |
| Ronald B. Gostomski | Jennifer Wilcox |
| Douglas Harman | Nancy Zardeneta |
| David Havard | |

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

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

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Occupation*: _____

Employer*: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

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

Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

*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

Third-party supporters fed up with both Republicans, Democrats

Abilene Reporter-News, December 8, 2009

Greta Holzberlein counts herself among Americans fed up with the dealings of the Republican and Democratic parties.

So when she had the chance, Holzberlein invited Robert Butler — the Libertarian Party of Texas' executive director — to address local members of the grass roots 9/12 Project.

Butler did so Tuesday.

“We know what the Republicans are about. We know what the Democrats are about. A lot of us don't know what the Libertarians are about,” said Holzberlein, one of the project's local founders.

Libertarian candidate blasts county moratorium on pain clinics

Palm Beach Post, December 8, 2009

Our Jennifer Sorentroue reports that Palm Beach County commissioners this morning approved a one-year moratorium on approving new pain-management clinics amid concerns that drugs are being dispensed with insufficient controls.

A recent Palm Beach Post investigation found that more than 30 such clinics have opened in the county since 2007. Among the people running pain businesses are convicted drug dealers, serial criminals and former addicts, according to a review of county, state and federal records.

Libertarian commission candidate Karl Dickey blasted this morning's 6-0 vote, saying commissioners are “punishing the many for the actions of a few. Whereas we understand some pain-management clinics have abused the system, it

is outrageous for the county government to ban the ability of legitimate clinics from opening.”

Dickey is the only announced challenger to Republican Commissioner Steven Abrams.

John Famularo, 70, a Libertarian force

Philadelphia Inquirer, December 3, 2009

John D. Famularo, 70, of Center City, a computer consultant and leader in the Libertarian Party, died of complications from multiple myeloma Monday at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Mr. Famularo was secretary of the National Libertarian Party and former treasurer of the Pennsylvania Libertarian Party. For more than 15 years he also chaired the Philadelphia Libertarian Party and ran for several state and city political offices on the Libertarian ticket. The party's agenda calls for less government, lower taxes, and more emphasis on individual rights.

Back to the drawing board for expanded smoking ban

WTHR (Indianapolis), November 12, 2009

Indianapolis - Red and green are not just the colors of Christmas, but the colors of the battle over a wider smoking ban in Marion County. Supporters on each side dressed in colored T-shirts at a City-County Council meeting Monday night.

The expanded smoking ban was set for a final battle in the council until sponsor Benjamin Hunter played it safe and asked it be sent back to committee, keeping it alive.

Libertarian councilor Ed Coleman said he had over 700 signatures from people asking for a no vote. He said council should "vote on this tonight and get it over with." He got applause.