

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

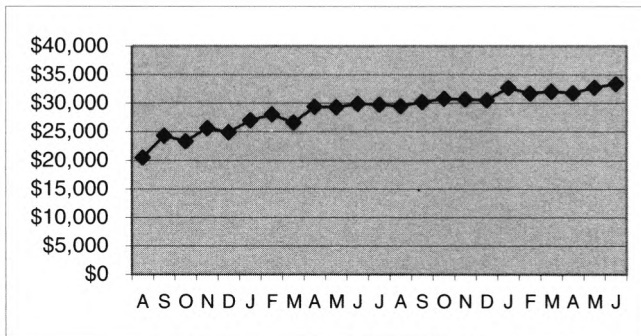
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www.LP.org July 2011

Monthly Pledge hits new high of \$33,345

By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee

Thanks to monthly pledgers like you, our monthly pledge total hit a new high last month: \$33,345.

Here's a graph of the total since August 2009.



A few interesting things are happening at the LP Headquarters office. A new group of summer interns started working a few weeks ago, and right now several of us are busy preparing to go to Freedom Fest in Las Vegas.

We just had a really successful campaign to distribute high-quality Declaration of Independence flyers on the Fourth of July. Libertarians all over America ordered more than 30,000 copies. If you haven't seen the flyer, you can find it at our website (LP.org).

While odd-numbered years typically have fewer opportunities to run for office, it's nice to see our state and local parties working to promote freedom.

For example, Libertarians in Florida and Texas have recently generated lots of press

coverage fighting back against the intrusive TSA agents at airports.

On another topic: ever since I became a Libertarian in 1996, I've heard people complain that the Libertarian Party mentions "drugs" and "gays" too frequently.

But interestingly, in the areas of drug laws, and government discrimination against gays, we have seen some movement (in some states) toward more respect for individual rights.

I think Libertarians have made a difference on those issues. I call that winning, and I'm proud the LP has continued to stay committed to speaking out in favor of freedom and individual rights across the board.

On economic issues, we're not doing as well. Liberty continues to slide by the most important measures: taxes and government spending. That's been true whether Republicans or Democrats have been in charge.

I think it's important for Libertarians to keep reminding liberals that Democratic Congressmen and presidents have failed to end the wars, while reminding conservatives that Republican Congressmen and presidents have failed to support serious spending cuts.

I want to thank our state and county officers, volunteers, and candidates who continue the fight for liberty.

And I also want to especially thank our monthly pledgers for so generously and consistently supporting our party.

Unfortunately, we were \$56,260 below our revenue target for the first six months of 2011. I hope we can catch up in the second half of 2011. In the meantime, your monthly pledge will continue to be critical to our financial health.

One final note: if the outside of the envelope you just opened said "There is a problem with your monthly pledge," please take a look at the enclosed letter and help us resolve the problem. Your pledge really is important to us.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Athens LP Rocks AthFest 2011

from the Georgia LP, June 16, 2011

Another AthFest is in the history books and what a festival it was!

The Athens Area Libertarian Party manned an Operation Politically Homeless booth for most of the hot, humid day, starting at 10 AM, lasting until dark.

About 300 people throughout the day interacted with the volunteers in the outreach booth. More people had questions about the Libertarian Party and showed interest in real Liberty than Chairman **Doug Harman** can remember at any event that we have worked in the last few years.

Just over 100 people participated in "The World's Smallest Political Quiz," posting their results on the Nolan Chart, shown at the top of this article. Two of the participants were local Athens political hopefuls, Charlie Maddox, former candidate for Mayor of Athens (scored 80/80, dead center Libertarian quadrant), and current candidate for the open House 113 seat, runoff election, Dan Mathews (100/60, Libertarian, leaning more towards social liberty than fiscal).

War on Drugs Debate – Televised

from the Colorado LP, July 1, 2011

With hundreds of medical marijuana dispensaries operating in Colorado, it's time to talk about full re-legalization. Libertarians and others gathered June 17 for a live television event that featured Libertarian Party of Colorado Legislative Director **Dave Williams** and Republican Mom for Legalization Jessica Corry supporting freedom. District Attorney Carol Chambers and undercover narcotics agent Thomas Gorman argued for a continuation of the drug war. Carol Chambers actually agreed with the legalization side on most

issues while Gorman hinted that it was time to also criminalize alcohol.

Despite differences, the debate was civil and both sides had interesting points. The live studio audience was polled before and after and gave the win to Williams and Corry with 21% changing their vote to support legalization.

Dave Williams was quoted extensively in an Examiner article on the debate. Some of his best arguments were:

"Drugs are bad. OK? I'm against drugs, I don't use 'em. But I'm pro-freedom. And no matter what the question is, freedom is the answer."

"The 'law of supply and demand' is a real, immutable, force. Supply and demand is just as real as the 'law of gravity'. Gravity kills people, you guys know that? People get hurt because of gravity, how many times have you fallen down? Gravity costs society. So I think if we want to stop the damage that gravity does, we need to make it illegal."

"You'll see often a sheriff's department, or some type of law enforcement agency, they'll make a big bust ... that guy's competitor, of who was selling the drugs on the table, is like, 'Sweet, my profits just doubled, awesome, thank you guys for helping me out. Thank you for taking out my competition.'"

"Drug warriors assume, basically, that the only reason normal people aren't 'hopped up on the goofballs' is because of that government force. They think that we are all waiting to go out there and get the meth ... I have a higher opinion of humanity than that."

Libertarians Call On Florida Sheriffs To Arrest TSA Agents

from the Florida LP, July 4, 2011

In a strongly-worded email sent today to all of Florida's 67 county sheriffs, the Libertarian Party of Florida demanded the arrest of TSA agents for

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

violations of the U.S. and Florida Constitutions, and accused TSA agents of committing sexual battery.

The letter reads as follows:

“...The Libertarian Party of Florida is reaching out to you, and to all of Florida's 67 Constitutional Sheriffs. We, The People of the State of Florida must turn to you as our last line of defense against a federal government that is usurping authority and ignoring the rule of law.

“I am referring specifically to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and their egregious violations of the United States Constitution, as well as the Florida Constitution and state law....

“As Sheriff, you have the absolute duty to enforce the law uniformly and without prejudice. You are, at best, engaged in selective enforcement by choosing to further ignore these flagrant violations of federal and state law. At worst, you are complicit.

“If you have TSA agents within your county that are violating the law, then you must act. Warn the TSA agents that they are subject to arrest if they continue to violate the law. Should they continue, then you must begin making arrests.”

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Judith B. Abel	Vicki Kirkland	Philip D. Ryals
Donald Annen	Scott D. Knowles	Richard D. Sanford
Lyle C. Arthur	Barry Kruse	Peter J. Setcoski
George M. Autry	Benton Leary	Joseph Shaber
John M. Brendel	Anne Lindl	Bruce Shellenbaum
Michelle Brixius-Kasich	Eric Lineback	Roy Shelton
David R. Campos	Anthony K.	Kirk Singh
Ruben Canseco	Mastrogiovanni	Jeffrey D. Smith
Steve I. Chantelois	Malcolm Mathis	Samuel J. Smith-Trasher
Martin H. Coalson	Juliana M. McCalpin	Harry R. Sparks
Roger J. Cooper	Robert G. McDaniel	Arthur Thomas
Kerry G. Daniel	Aaron J. O'Brien	Greg Tlapek
Ryan Daniel	Karyn J. Olsson	William Tomasek
James Duerksen	Harold Owens	Stephanie L. Tracy
Ruth E. Ferris	Oscar J. Palma	Douglas L. Turcotte
J. David Fruechte	Robert O. Parker	Dennis Vecchio
Bernard R. Gans	Francisco Perrotta	Daniel J. Veldkamp
Rommel J. Guzman	Paul Pierson	Arch Wakefield
Evan Haas	Stephen Pilling	Paul D. Waltman
Ronald J. Hartmann	Jeffrey J. Pittel	Montana J. Ware
Patricia Hone	Michele R. Poague	Ken Welch
Robert L. Hoover	Chad Polenz	Lyle D. Wescott
Lincoln B. Hubbard	Roy Powley	George R. Whitfield
Larry D. Hutchinson	Richard C. Price	Nikki Wickham
Steven J. Ingram	Earl Prochaska	Deborah H. Wilson
Amber James	Robert E. Rayner	David J. Wise
Bradley J. Johnson	John R. Reid	Coni Worley
Dorsett W. Jordan	James C. Reis	Jeffrey Zweber
	Jeannette A. Richards	

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: _____

(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 us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Libertarian Party in the News

Indiana Libertarians see an opening on social issues in 2012

Evansville Courier-Press, June 12, 2011

Though the Indiana Libertarian Party has not landed a candidate for the 2012 governor's campaign, it has identified an opening to influence the race.

On social issues...the Libertarian candidate could be the only one who offers a significantly different position on issues such as abortion and gay marriage.

Chris Spangle, executive director of the Libertarian Party of Indiana, said they have talked to a few individuals, but no one has announced any intent to run for the governor as a Libertarian.

Spangle is already drawing some distinctions. He said the Libertarian Party was the only political party to speak out against a constitutional amendment to bar gay marriage and civil unions in Indiana.

"[Our party is] against allowing discrimination in our constitution," Spangle said. "We are a party of principle."...

Spangle said the Libertarians fully anticipate having a candidate run for the governor's seat and that they are still in the process of finding a candidate.

"Our timeline has always been shorter than the other two parties. We are a smaller staffed party made of volunteers and citizens," he said.

Pot dispensary ban one step from finalization for Nevada County

The Union (California), June 24, 2011

Nevada County officials are one step away from uniformly banning medical marijuana dispensaries throughout the county....

A dispensary, if it is well-regulated, would provide people a safe alternative to getting medical marijuana than going to illegal dealers for it, said Brad Glasse, an Alta Sierra resident.

His claim was backed by **Donn Coenen**, chair of the Nevada County Libertarian Party.

"There are no controls on illegal marijuana. With dispensaries we're giving them the choice of a clean, safe drug," Coenen said. Pesticides and other harmful products could be added to marijuana, which is not regulated as it would be in a dispensary setting.

What Freedom Means: Blount politicians take independence to heart

Blount County Daily Times (Tennessee), July 1, 2011

...The Daily Times has reached out to members of the four major political affiliations in the county to ask them what freedom means to them....

Jay Polk, chairman of the Blount County Libertarian Party, who also answered in an email, cited various aspects of freedom from a Libertarian point of view.

"Freedom is having the ability to succeed and show others the way," Polk said. "It is having the ability to make bad decisions, fail, and try again. It is having the ability to earn as much money as you want without the government taking it away."

Polk went on to include various other freedoms, including the right to defend "against those who would take your freedom away," but summed it up saying, "In short, freedom is life."