

LIBERTY PLEDGE

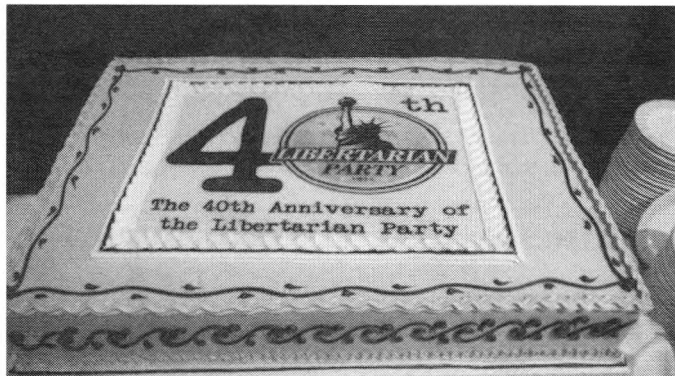
NEWSLETTER

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 2011

Libertarian Party celebrates 40th Anniversary

On December 10 in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Libertarian Party held a celebration of our 40 years of activism. (The LP was founded on December 11, 1971.) It was also a tribute to the late David F. Nolan, one of the LP's founders.

David's wife, Elizabeth Nolan, was among those attending, as well as our 2004 Presidential nominee, Michael Badnarik, 2004 Vice Presidential nominee, Richard Campagna, and 2008 Vice Presidential nominee, Wayne Allyn Root.



40th Anniversary birthday cake

From a recent press release:

WASHINGTON - On August 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon gave a speech announcing what would be known as his "New Economic Policy." The speech led directly to the formation of the Libertarian Party.

In the speech, Nixon announced two measures that were of particular concern to libertarians. First, a government-imposed freeze on wages and prices. Second, an end to the convertibility of dollars to gold.

Nixon said, "I am today ordering a freeze on all prices and wages throughout the United States for a period of 90 days."

Libertarians saw both of these actions as betrayals of the principles on which the United States was founded.

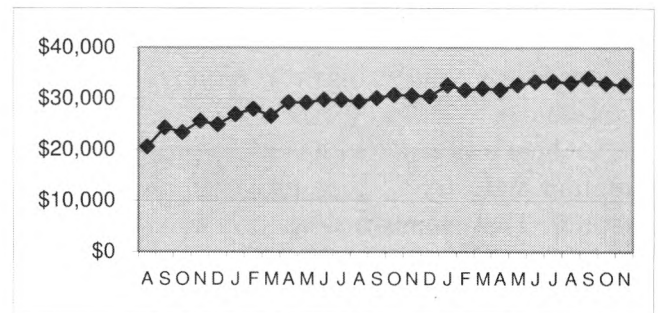
This speech has often been cited as the critical moment that ignited the formation of the Libertarian Party.

In his history of the libertarian movement, Radicals for Capitalism, Brian Doherty writes that the late David F. Nolan "was working for an ad agency in Denver and happened to have a handful of libertarian-minded friends over that day when Nixon hit the airwaves with his wage and price controls announcement. They all agreed: It was time for a third party...a Libertarian Party."

Nolan and several others formally created the Libertarian Party in Colorado Springs on December 11, 1971.

Libertarian Party Chair Mark Hinkle commented, "Taking the dollar off the gold standard has allowed the Federal Reserve to manipulate and devalue the dollar, and that's one reason our economy is in such trouble today. That, coupled with foolish wars and an unsustainable entitlement system supported by both the Democrats and Republicans, is why the Libertarian Party is more important today than ever before."

Below is a chart showing the monthly pledge total going back to August 2009.



One more big thank you for your continued support for the vital work of the Libertarian Party.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

WJBC Forum: I vote 'no' on electric cars

by *Lex Green*, as posted by WJBC (Illinois), November 21, 2011

When I was working for the Eureka Company in the late 1970s, I remember a discovery we made at an old warehouse. Locked up in the back were two electric cars made by Eureka Williams back in the 1950s.

Already interested in electrical innovations, my colleagues and I were really excited by what we found. But what I also found was a lesson in economics that explained why the cars were in storage and not on the street.

In order to be accepted by consumers, a product has to balance quality, appeal and affordability. Electric cars, then as now, don't quite make it. When consumers buy, they are voting on the products they think should remain on the market.

If we don't think the value is equal to the price, we vote "no" by holding on to our money, or buying a different product. In spite of my admiration for electric vehicles, I drive one powered by an internal combustion gasoline engine. I like the quality, the appeal of the looks and features, and the affordability.

I vote "no" on electric cars. But some people want me to subsidize the electric car market in spite of its many shortcomings. They want my tax dollars to help the development of e-cars. They want my tax dollars to pay for charging stations. They want to override my vote using MY money. That is not fair or ethical.

One problem with cities propping up a struggling industry is that program costs become structural. That means that we don't pay a one time cost, such as buying the charging stations. We have to set up programs for selling the electricity and maintaining the stations that we absorb into the budget year after year.

Taxes have to stay high when structural costs are introduced. And structural programs are

hard to remove from the budget. I hope electric cars become affordable and appealing to the public. I hope that manufacturers can develop a workable market that brings about their success.

But I object to elected officials and central planners using my taxes so they can make an unprofitable product successful. Let private companies install and maintain the charging stations. Let car companies market their own products without my tax money as support.

If we don't, we won't get the best product for the best price and your vote, like mine, will not count.

Lex Green was born in Bloomington, Illinois and graduated from Bloomington High School. He is married to Karen and has 3 grown children. His family has roots in McLean County going back to the 1820's. He ran for Governor of Illinois in 2010 as a Libertarian. He is the Political Director of the Libertarian Party of Illinois, the Chairman of the McLean County Libertarian Party, and Coordinator of the Illinois Tenth Amendment Center.

Senate to allow US military to jail Americans indefinitely

from the Nebraska LP, November 29, 2011

Nebraska Libertarian Party Chairman **Gene Siadek** issued the following statement:

"Today the United States Senate voted-down removing language from the Defense Authorization bill that authorizes our own military to arrest and detain US Citizens within the United States....

"Unfortunately, our elected officials—the same elected officials that can't come to agreement on how to manage the Nation's finances—voted 61-37 to KEEP this language in the proposed defense bill. How far have we come as a Nation that we allow fear-mongering bureaucrats to take away our constitutional rights?"

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

“The right of habeas corpus is fundamental to American philosophy and is guaranteed by our Constitution. The same Constitution that was written and ratified to limit government’s ability to do what it is now doing.”

LPNH convention report

from **Rich Tomasso**, *New Hampshire LP Chair*, December 8, 2011

We heard from two presidential campaigns, raised some money for ballot access, and met new Libertarians. We have money in the back, but more is always needed with petitioning and elections around the corner.

We ratified two amendments to our party constitution. Consolidated the two vice-chair positions into a single vice chair, and expanded our ability to fill in a vacant past chair seat.

I was re-elected chair in a 3-way race, despite my frank admission that I’d have less time to work on party activism for the next six months.

We passed one Resolution, focusing on the troublesome policy created by the current administration for execution orders on American citizens without any judicial review.

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Jack W. Arwood | Brendan M. Mai |
| Alvin C. Bailey | Roland Malone |
| Robert W. Behr | Kenneth W. Martin |
| Arden E. Bicker | Brent Mayberry |
| Jason Biggs | Michael J. Mazzitello |
| William A. Buzzell | Kent Merritt |
| Bryant Callaghan | Matt Middleton |
| David Cardosi | Michael Mitchell |
| Nicholas Celli | Chuck Moulton |
| William D. Chance | Donald Nakelski |
| James D. Criveau | Peter J. Orvetti |
| Kerry G. Daniel | Paul Osborn |
| Gary Decker | J. Gregory Parks |
| Christopher W. Etter | Timothy O. Peters |
| Ted J. Ferring | Amber R. Piotrowicz |
| John Findlay | Sven E. Ratsep |
| Dave Flood | Honor M. Robson |
| Arolynn Francis | Gordon C. Rogers |
| Robert S. Frazier | Brandon Ross |
| Stephen R. Gaines | Keith J. Sauter |
| Alicia Hansen | Steven Schoch |
| Blair T. Harle | Leonard C. Schwartz |
| Jackson Harvey | Teresa Serna |
| Thomas F. Hastings | Bill W. Shaw |
| Dean S. Hodge | Wade J. Skalsky |
| Thomas L. Howe | William A. Spalding |
| W. Hayward Hulick | Carl M. Swinney |
| John Ivey | Richard H. Timberlake |
| Brendan Kelly | Maurice Vanegas |
| Thomas J. Kern | Rex C. Wade |
| Nathan Kleffman | Mark Walker |
| Mike J. Knight | Charles W. West |
| M. Ann Leech | Richard J. Wiegand |
| Arron LuBrant | Bradley W. Wiitala |

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

- \$5,000
- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- _____ Other

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Occupation*: _____

Employer*: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work: _____ Cell: _____

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

Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

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

Libertarian Party eyes Old Town Alexandria for headquarters

Alexandria Times (Virginia), November 18, 2011

Alexandria may be known as a Democratic stronghold, but that isn't keeping the national Libertarian Party from eyeing the city as a new home for their national headquarters.

Nothing is set in stone, said **Wes Benedict**, executive director, but the political organization is interested in buying a townhouse office building in Old Town. Party officials believe the move will save money while remaining a short distance from Washington, where the organization currently has an office in the Watergate complex.

Party officials began discussing a move about a year ago, Benedict said. They began fundraising in earnest in September.

Wrightstown's bidding process being scrutinized

Burlington County Times (New Jersey), November 20, 2011

The process of competitive bidding for the borough's automotive services is under the microscope.

A formal complaint was filed with the Local Finance Board and the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office concerning the borough's failure to obtain bids for auto repairs and gasoline sales for municipal-owned vehicles.

The complaint was filed last week by **John Paff**, chairman of the New Jersey Libertarian Party's Open Government Advocacy Project.

Paff said he is concerned that the borough uses Tom's Service Center on Fort Dix Street for gas fill-ups and auto repairs. The station is owned by the Harper family, and Tom Harper is the longtime mayor.

Political parties file suit attacking Prop. 14

The Union (California), November 23, 2011

The Peace & Freedom Party and the Libertarian Party of California, along with the Green Party of Alameda County, have filed a lawsuit complaining that Proposition 14, the "top-two" measure passed in June 2010 by the voters, violates the rights of voters to vote freely in November.

The lawsuit, filed in Superior Court in Alameda County, alleges the essence of the top-two system is unconstitutional. Prop. 14, which passed last year, created an election system which the top two vote-getters advance to a general election, regardless of party affiliation.

The proposition "cuts off all minor parties, that's the problem," said **Gary Bryant**, the vice-chairman of the Nevada County Libertarian Party. "Anyone could run for any party and not really represent what the party is about.

"And if we don't have one percent of all registered voters by 2014, we're off all ballots."

East Central Indiana Libertarians announce 2012 campaigns

Muncie Star Press, November 30, 2011

Two East Central Indiana Libertarians have announced they will be political candidates in 2012.

Rex Bell of Hagerstown will run for Indiana's Sixth District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, now occupied by Republican Mike Pence.

Jeremiah Morrell, of New Castle, will run for the Indiana House seat in District 54, now held by Republican Tom Saunders.

The Libertarian Party will select its state and federal candidates at its spring convention.