

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072
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Monthly Pledge Total Rebounds By Nearly \$4,000

*By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee*

Last month I wrote about how vital monthly pledgers like you are to the Libertarian Party's survival in this down economy.

I talked about how the LNC lowered our national budget from \$1.6 million in 2008 to \$1.2 million in 2009, and how our monthly pledge income had dropped from \$24,468 at the end of 2008, to only \$20,504 in August 2009.

Well, we had a great September!

Special thanks goes to one major donor who was responsible for putting us about halfway toward our goal. He had this to say:

"Politics is all about people and after reading Wes' note asking for monthly donations, it was easy to contribute. I've know Wes since he was executive director in Texas, and now that he is at national, I feel very confident in making a large donation because Wes will make sure it is well spent on promoting liberty and a smaller government."

It's always nice to sign up a surprise large contributor, but we also worked hard to recruit more people at the typical \$10 to \$50 per month range. We got the number of monthly contributors up from 902 to 940.

So, at \$24,301 for September, we're close to reaching our December goal.

	Pledgers	Amount
December 2008	1,045	\$24,468
August 2009	902	\$20,504
September 2009	940	\$24,301
Goal for December 2009	1,000	\$25,000

A special thanks to our 20 new monthly pledgers in September who are listed on page 3. (The September count is higher because some people resumed in September whose cards did not process in August.)

I've served as your Executive Director now for about three months. While our monthly pledge program is going well, I don't want to give the false impression that all is well.

Our total number of what we call "active donors" (people who have contributed \$25 or more in the past 12 months, plus Life members) has declined.

In December 2008, we had 16,349 "active donors." By August 2009, the number had dropped to 14,975. In September, the number dropped again to 14,331.

I'm not fibbing when I tell you the decline makes me nervous and also keeps me awake at night.

I do think I have pinpointed a few improvements that will turn those numbers around. For example, I think we haven't been sending enough renewal letters to our expired members, and I don't think those letters have been high enough quality. I've got a big test mailing going out now that may help a lot, but of course I'll be nervous until I find out for sure.

As Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas, I was able to produce record fundraising and membership growth. Additionally, the first fundraising letter I helped produce here at national headquarters out-performed all of the other letters sent in 2009. So, I am feeling cautiously confident.

I am very grateful to the monthly pledgers like you who provide the stability and financial security we need to allow us to make medium-term plans.

Thanks again for your dedication and support.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

From the Chair

(reprinted from *Michigan Libertarian*)

by Emily Salvette

I spoke at a Tea Party group meeting in Plymouth in mid-September. I explained how the Libertarian Party was the only party of limited government and free markets, and the whole room was nodding. They agreed with me that government is too big, that liberty is important, and that the role of government is to secure rights, not take from one group to give to others. They were nodding like Bobbleheads! But then that dreaded question came: "Since we have to beat the Democrats next year, isn't it best to support Republican candidates who can win instead of splitting the limited government vote?" Unfortunately, many nodded in agreement with that statement, too.

After 30 years as a Libertarian, this argument is getting tiresome to me. The obvious truth is if people vote for Libertarians they will win. All those supporters of limited government who have been voting Republican since Richard Nixon have brought us to the mess we're in today. Republicans--whose mission, by the way, is not limited government, but electing more Republicans--have supported bigger government at every turn: a bigger government for War, Welfare, Health, Education, Immigration, Business, Banking, you name it.

They had the presidency and control of both houses of Congress and wouldn't cut government. In fact, those in the Republican Party who espouse limited government, such as Dr. Ron Paul, are routinely marginalized. Republicans haven't heeded the call for less intervention, regulation and taxes in my memory. After decades of evidence to the contrary, why do tea party activists believe Republicans will suddenly take their message seriously now?

I asked the tea party folks that night to send a stronger signal: Do something that will let everyone know you're serious about wanting

smaller government and liberty for Americans. Don't "split the limited government vote" by voting for Republicans; vote Libertarian. If everyone over the past 37 years who thought government was too big had voted for Libertarians, we'd be in much better shape today.

Not only would we have more champions of limited government in office, but the argument that people have a right and responsibility to be independent and manage their own affairs would be stronger and clearer. Maybe we wouldn't, once again within a score of years, be talking about nationalizing health care (another argument I'm sick of). It's time to cut the losses society's incurred by voting for ersatz limited governmentals. It's time all the independents, libertarians, and people who value freedom vote for what they believe in and unite behind Libertarian Party candidates in 2010 so they can WIN. Thanks to all of you who are sending a clear message for less government and more freedom by supporting the Libertarian Party in Michigan!

Virginia Libertarians host tea party



Dr. James Lark addresses the crowd at the Lynchburg Constitution Day Tea Party.

On September 17, the Lynchburg Libertarians organized the Lynchburg Constitution Day Tea

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Party in Lynchburg's City Stadium. The event was very successful and received substantial media coverage in central and southwest Virginia.

Libertarians participating in this outreach effort included Dr. James Lark, Prof. Liz Bowles, Jeff Bowles, James Curtis, Dana Hale, Dave Overstreet, and Patrick Hubble.

with all of the smiles and thumbs-up we received, you could tell that many people felt little or no allegiance to the Republican Party. There was a constant flow of people stopping to photograph our signs and we passed out lots of Libertarian Party literature and stickers."

Libertarians Join 9/12 Tea Party March on Washington

Libertarian Party headquarters staff and interns joined the 9/12 Tea Party March on Washington. After gathering at Freedom Plaza, just blocks from the White House, the march proceeded the 1.1 miles down Pennsylvania Avenue to the U.S. Capitol for a rally.

"Libertarians say Republicans equal big government: \$400 billion Medicare drugs, \$700 billion bank bailout, \$3 trillion budgets, \$1 trillion war" read one sign. Other signs displayed "There is only one way to kill capitalism: taxes," and "The drug war: keeping criminals employed since 1971."

Wes Benedict, Executive Director of the Libertarian Party, commented, "As expected, there were lots of Republicans at this event. However,

New Liberty Pledgers

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Edna Alderman | Robert Ryan |
| William Bamler | Adam Salazar |
| Ann Brown | Carina Sewell |
| Frank Clement | Aaron Shaffer |
| Ken Eggleston | Adam Shahid |
| Lorenzo Gaztanaga | Edward Sudduth Sr. |
| Elden Gebaroff | Zac Tidwell |
| Arthur Krolman | Charles Warfield Jr. |
| Joe Parrott | Ron Wilfong |
| John Poitras | William Wissen |

Thank you for your support!

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

New Government Policy Imposes Strict Standards on Garage Sales Nationwide

FOX News, September 18, 2009

Americans who slap \$1 pricetags on their used possessions at garage sales or bazaar events risk being slapped with fines of up to \$15 million, thanks to a new government campaign...after a series of high-profile recalls of Chinese-made toys.

"It's absurd when nanny-state bureaucrats want to regulate things we buy at mom-and-pop shops or second-hand stores," Wes Benedict, executive director of the Libertarian National Committee, told FOXNews.com. "Consumer product safety is best left to a free market where suppliers can compete based on reputation and track records. American grown-ups aren't stupid, and they know they need to be careful about what they buy for their children from complete strangers at no-name stores."

Topekan Teams With Libertarians On Smoking Petition

WIBW (Topeka), October 5, 2009

TOPEKA, KS — A Topeka woman looking to overturn Topeka's recently approved no-smoking ordinance is teaming up with the Libertarian Party.

Gail Trembley says the Libertarians view it as an issue of business owners' property rights to decide for themselves whether to allow smoking.

Trembley says she and the party are working out a petition which will either repeal the ordinance or allow for some exemptions.

The Topeka City Council measure approved last week bans smoking in most public places, including bars and restaurants. It's to take effect December 4th.

Libertarians try to come to campus

The Collegian (U. of Richmond), September 24, 2009

RICHMOND, VA — A University of Richmond political science major is trying to bring another perspective to the university's political organizations through Students for Liberty, a libertarian group.

Senior Danielle Lewis, 26, has been involved in the Libertarian Party for nine years. She said she had been surprised to discover that there were not any third-party representation groups on campus....

Students for Liberty is a nonprofit educational organization that promotes the libertarian philosophy at colleges and high schools. There are more than 125 chapters throughout all 50 states. Its mission statement rests on three principles: economic freedom to choose how to provide for one's life, intellectual and academic freedom and social freedom to choose how to live one's life.

Seeking middle ground

Brownsville Herald, September 17, 2009

BROWNSVILLE, TX — ...Several other political parties exist, although most of them are single-issue groups like the Green Party, America First Party and the U.S. Marijuana Party.

Some, however, do offer comprehensive philosophies that can be applied to all aspects of life and government.

The largest of these is the Libertarian Party. Traditionally most in line with our country's Jeffersonian founders, it combines the small-government views that conservatives espouse, while defending the social freedoms that many modern political liberals tout.