

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

August 2008

Volunteer Takes Vacation to Collect Signatures

by Andrew Davis
Media Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

If there is one Phelps that deserves a gold medal, it is Mark Phelps. Phelps, a 33-year old technical writer and novelist from Tuscon, Arizona, has been an outstanding member of the army of Libertarian volunteers who always become the backbone of the Party during election season. Most recently, Phelps made the trek from Tuscon to West Virginia, where he was a part of a team of volunteers working to get Libertarian Party presidential nominee Bob Barr on the ballot in that state.

"I think it is critical we get on all 50 ballots so we can have the highest vote total possible for our party," says Phelps. "I decided to use my vacation time and directly lend a hand to the campaign."

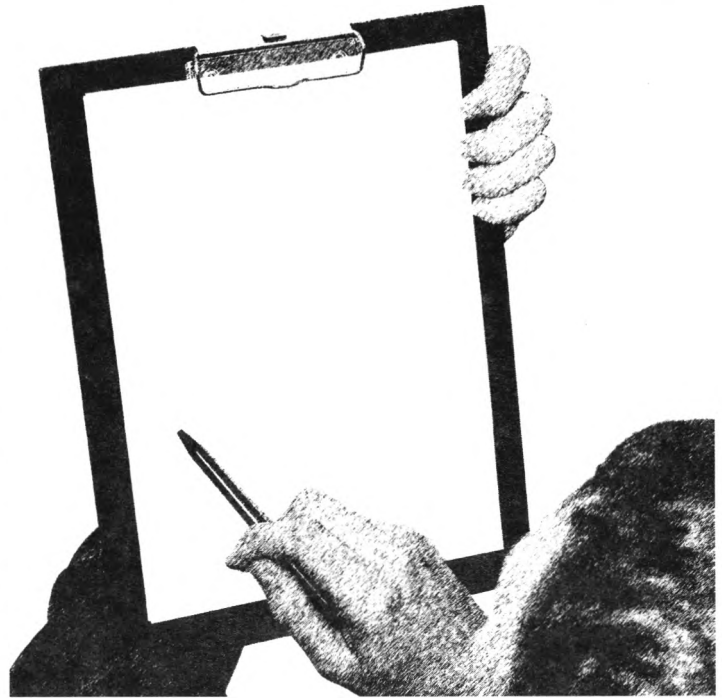
Phelps has been a member of the Libertarian Party since he was 18, and has done anything and everything a volunteer can to assist in the campaigns of Libertarians. Deciding recently to get more active in the Party itself, Phelps became an Arizona delegate and traveled to Denver for the Libertarian Party National Convention this past May, where he helped nominate Barr to the top of the Libertarian Party's ticket in 2008.

But why does he take vacation time to volunteer to collect signatures in a place 2,000 miles across the country?

"I believe the Bob Barr campaign is the beginning of the rise of the Libertarian Party in American politics," Phelps explains.

Though volunteering in a state like West Virginia to collect signatures is not exactly how many people spend their vacation time, Phelps did so without complaint or hesitation throughout the entire drive. Even when it was raining, Phelps hit the pavement canvassing neighborhoods for hours.

"It was a great experience especially going door to door," says Phelps. "People have a great faith in our democracy, but are unaware of the restrictions the establishment has put on our ballot." Phelps also adds that "being outdoors, getting exercise and meeting new people" are all things he enjoys about petitioning.



"The Libertarian Party is important to me because we are the party that wants to solve the root of our problems instead of putting a Band-Aid on the result," Phelps says of the reason he stays active in the Party. "We're also important because I truly believe only the Libertarian Party upholds traditional American values of hard work and self-reliance."

Phelps adds that, "without those values, our society becomes less."

Phelps believes the purpose of the Libertarian Party far surpasses simply the need to clean up political system, but is necessary to restore the nation to what it once was. "Over the last few decades, we've wasted our political, military and economic strength trying to police everything in the world," says Phelps. "For proof that our country is diminished, look at our dollar or the Russia-Georgian conflict and our inability to do anything about it."

"A country is only as strong as the individuals that make up its citizenry," warns Phelps.

If the same can be said for the volunteers of the Party, then there is no doubt that those like Phelps give the Libertarian Party its strength.

Positive Responses to Volunteer Ads

by Austin Petersen
Volunteer Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

Now is the time of the season when most of Washington D.C. is quiet. The traffic driving across the Arlington Memorial Bridge in the morning is slow enough to get a good look at the Lincoln Memorial as I pass. Although members of Congress have hit the road, the rest of us here are still hard at work, trying to fix the country before they get back to messing it up again.

The past several weeks I have been concocting a mass recruitment strategy that has been aimed to excite, recruit and activate new volunteers all across the nation. I have two enthusiastic interns placing targeted advertisements in all major metropolitan areas of the United States. The ads are highly politically charged, ringing the bell of liberty for anyone to read and to respond. It has been extremely successful. Some responders are Libertarians, but the majority of them are fleeing the major parties.

I wanted to share with you some of my ads, and some of the responses.

In response to "Protect your rights as an American:"

Austin, I read your (ad) and went to the, lp.org site and I found it very informative. I live near Albuquerque, NM. So I would be interested in getting involved in the Albuquerque area some way.

I hope we can bring enough people to their "senses". People are so "desensitized" to what's happening to them, that they can't believe it, but curiously, they still believe the corporate propaganda that is being hand fed to them daily, with no questions asked. Thank you for the opportunity to help change this mindless cycle we are currently in.

In response to "Help us reduce the size of government now:"

Hi, I'm a recent convert to Libertarianism. I've been a Republican all of my life and I'm beginning to see that there is little real difference between the Republicans and Democrats. I'm in the Georgetown/Lexington area. What can I do to help?

In response to "Interested in learning about Liberty?:"

I'm embarrassed to announce that I didn't realize Libertarian candidates don't have full ballot access in all 50 states. After Ron Paul dropped out, I was seriously considering voting for Bob Barr, so this makes me feel a bit stupid!

Please feel free to write back with local contact info.



I live in Southington, CT.

The positives far outweigh the negatives. I've divided up the nation between my two interns and they are ringing the bells of liberty in every corner of the country over the Internet. In Kentucky, gun rights advocates come calling, and from New York, disillusioned liberals complain of Pelosi and her leadership. They express doubts about Obama. McCain doesn't even render a blip on anyone's voting radar.

The misfortune of both the major parties candidate choices will be our gain. Volunteers are connecting with local parties for events across the country. Just like I've divided the country between my interns, the new volunteers have been dividing themselves from their ethically bankrupt major parties.

Good News Continues With Ballot Access

by Sean Haugh
Political Director for the Libertarian Party

Ballot Access for the Libertarian Party and the Barr/Root ticket is just about done although there are still a few challenges left. After long hard days put in by dozens of people, we are nearing our goal of ballot access in 50 states for 2008. As of this writing we are now officially on the ballot in 38 states. In most of the rest we are simply awaiting final certification or turning in our last signatures. In a few states, we'll have to sue our way on to the ballot.

Iowa is the latest state in the books. The Iowa LP turned in 1,945 signatures, which were certified just a few days later in mid-August. This came a couple days after we received official word that our petitions were sufficient in South Dakota, Washington and Kentucky. Scott Kohlhaas, national ballot access coordinator for the Libertarian Party, helped tremendously by traveling to South Dakota, Iowa and Washington to collect signatures.

The last month started off quite well, when our lawsuit in state court in Ohio was won. The case was brought over the rules the Ohio Secretary of State devised when the courts struck down their ballot access laws last year. Our attorney Gary Sinawski successfully argued that in the absence of any law, all our candidates must be placed on the ballot.

More good news arrived when the deadline for anyone to challenge our signatures in Pennsylvania passed without a peep. So far this year, our statewide petitions have not been challenged in any state where that option is available to our opponents. That's a tribute to our professional and volunteer petitioners who have produced hundreds of thousands of good signatures from registered voters all across the country this year.

We've turned in plenty of signatures in New Hampshire, Connecticut and Virginia. Once those are certified, we'll be on the ballot in 41 states. Our last petitions are being handed in now in New York, Rhode Island, Alabama and Tennessee, which brings us to 45 states. Minnesota is the last one where we still need to gather signatures, and that state should be done by the end of August.

The Libertarian Party and the Barr/Root campaign are having to file several lawsuits to knock out the final states. The Massachusetts ACLU has engaged attorneys to file a lawsuit over substitution of our candidates' names on our petition there, since we had to start it before the convention. A separate lawsuit over New Hampshire's substitution procedures is also un-

derway although the Barr/Root ticket will be on the ballot by the most recent petition there.

In Maine, we have turned in enough signatures to the various town clerks, after the first of two deadlines set forth in that state's statutes, but before the final one. We may have to sue in Maine in order to get them to count our signatures and place Barr/Root on the ballot.

The campaign has filed suit in Oklahoma to strike down what are easily the highest Ballot Access barriers in the country. In West Virginia, the Barr/Root campaign has collected the necessary signatures and is ready to go to court there as well if necessary.

When it comes to Ballot Access, we have to scrape and claw for everything we can get, and usually it is just enough. Once again, having the Libertarian Party on the ballot in all 50 states is within reach.

But, as our candidate for Governor in North Carolina and Libertarian National Convention Keynote Speaker Mike Munger pointed out, this effort drains our resources to the point where our candidates show up to the starting line of the race already out of breath.

Continuing with the sports metaphor, we've left it all on the field again in 2008. Now we need your help to support our Libertarian candidates all across the country, starting with Bob Barr and Wayne A. Root at the top of our ticket.

You can make a donation to replenish our war chest at <https://www.lp.org/contribute>, a secure site. Check out our candidates now being listed at lp.org to see who in your district needs your help to win in November.

Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

Thank you for your generous contributions

Melvin Aber
Ron Andes
Daniel Bryant
Russ Butler
Pete Carpenter
William F. Condon
William Curry
Earl C. Curtis
James Downen
Ernest M. Duffy
Steve Fedorko
Ted Ferring
Michael A. Fusaro
John W. Holcombe

Alan R. Knauber
David M. Kornbluh
Anthony Lambos
Will Levins
Greg Masters
Thomas L. McAmis
Diane M. McFarland
Ronald G. Moore
Nick N. Morana
Winford Nettles
Paul Osborn
Jeffrey Pasquinelli
Brett Prieur
Richard Sutton

This Month in the Media

by Andrew Davis
Media Coordinator for the Libertarian Party

'We are not all Georgians'

Aug. 17 - Though Sen. John McCain may believe that we are all 'Georgians,' as he commented following a recent spat between Russia and the Georgian country, Libertarians respectfully disagree.

"The Saakashvili government in Georgia made a foolish mistake by initiating hostilities in its breakaway province of South Ossetia," says Bob Barr, the Libertarian Party's nominee for President. "American taxpayers should not have to pay for that mistake. After all, they already are paying \$10 billion a month for the administration's mistaken invasion and occupation of Iraq. They cannot afford to pay the price for other people's wars as well."

The recent conflict between Georgia and Russia made strange bedfellows between those on the right and those on left--largely putting anti-Communist hawks together with international humanitarians.

Libertarians, of course, took the more rational position, with Barr repeatedly calling McCain's comments "simplistic" on his latest *Fox News* appearance with Neil Cavuto.

"It is time to start saying no more," says Barr. "No more international welfare clients. No more foreign governments treating America as a cash cow."

Give'm Who They Want!

Aug. 18 - Though Libertarian Party presidential candidate Bob Barr may have been snubbed from the Saddleback Church forum with Pastor Rick Warren that featured Senators Barack Obama and John McCain, Americans want Bob.

A recent Zogby International poll found that 55 percent of likely voters want Bob Barr included in the debates, and that number rose to 69 percent when asked of independents.

"We're very pleased to hear the results of the poll and are heartened to learn that most voters don't buy into the 'spoiler' argument being espoused by partisan talk-



ing heads," states Russell Verney, campaign manager for Bob Barr and former campaign manager for Ross Perot. "People want real change and they know that they are not going to get it from a Republican or a Democrat. America's only hope for change is by allowing more competition in the political process and that means opening the debates to any candidate who can meet the ballot access criteria."

Barr, currently polling at 6 percent nationally, would need to meet the thresholds established by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), a private corporation run by former chairs of the Republican and Democratic National Committees, and funded by many large corporations.

"In 1992, Ross Perot was polling at seven percent nationally and was included in all three debates. It's time to go back to those more inclusive times," continued Verney.

The Price of "Celebrity"--to Taxpayers

Aug. 19 - "My party has already held its convention without a single taxpayer dollar in its support," notes Bob Barr, the Libertarian Party presidential nominee. "But what can be more obnoxious than forcing taxpayers to underwrite other people's political opinions?"

Be you friend or foe of the Libertarian Party (and we're assuming friend since you're reading this article), at least you can appreciate that the Libertarian Party doesn't cost

you tax money to operate. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Republicans and Democrats who will use more than \$100 million in taxpayer funds for their conventions.

"It probably doesn't surprise a lot of people that Sen. Barack Obama's party is trying to pry more money out of government. After all, Democrats have perfected the art of using a political crowbar to bust open the Treasury's doors. But why is Sen. John McCain, supposed maverick and reformer, going along with the raid? How is he any different than any of the other people who fill Washington clamoring for a bailout?" Barr asks.

