

LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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Monthly Pledgers Vital to Libertarian Party's Survival in Down Economy

*By Wes Benedict
Executive Director
Libertarian National Committee*

It's an honor to be serving as the new Executive Director of the Libertarian Party. I especially want to thank the 902 individuals who continued to support the Libertarian Party by making monthly pledge contributions in August. With the economy doing so poorly and unemployment close to 10%, I know that supporting the Libertarian Party is a tough choice for many of our donors to make.

I first found out about the Libertarian Party in 1996 while I was a graduate student at the University of Michigan. I was so excited to finally have found a group of people with the same political views as mine that I joined right away. In 1997 I signed up for a \$30 per month pledge even though I had to pay for it out of savings since I was still in school.

I let my monthly pledge lapse in 2000, but I restarted about two years later. I am proud to have made more than nine full years' worth of monthly pledge donations to the National Libertarian Party so far in my lifetime.

The revenue from our monthly donors is vital for keeping our National headquarters in Washington, DC open so we can support our affiliates and members.

The LNC lowered our national budget from \$1.6 million in 2008 to \$1.2 million in 2009. In addition, the Libertarian Party has experienced a drop in monthly pledge income. While our monthly pledge total was \$24,468 at the end of 2008, our

preliminary reports show that it was only \$20,504 in August 2009.

After I was hired in July, I set a goal for our staff to get the monthly pledges back up to \$25,000 by the end of 2009. We're making calls to former pledgers, and many of them are signing up again. We're getting some new people to sign up as well.

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

A special thanks to our 74 new and resumed monthly pledgers who are listed inside this newsletter.

In the August *Liberty Pledge Newsletter*, we were only able to welcome 32 people, and in July we were only able to welcome 15, so our trend is heading back in the right direction.

Just to be clear, not all of the people we list are brand new monthly pledgers. For example, some may have had a credit card expire, and perhaps after a month or two passed, we were able to get updated information from them and resume their monthly donations.

Like you, I am unhappy about the direction our country has been heading in for the past several decades under both Republican and Democratic leadership. The Libertarian Party stands for more freedom and less government, and that is the message we are working hard to get out to voters.

Thanks again to you, our monthly pledgers, for helping the Libertarian Party survive these challenging times. I'm hopeful the Libertarian Party and our candidates can return the favor many times over by helping to restore the freedoms that allowed America to prosper in the first place.

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Texas Libertarians Tour State to Rally Candidates and Support County Affiliates

Libertarian Party of Texas (LPT) officials are planning a three-month, 24-city tour through Texas to recruit local candidates and support their county parties in the 2010 elections. The public and the media are invited to attend.

"It's time to stop complaining about politics as usual. You can run for office yourself," said Robert Butler, Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas. "It's fun, and it's easier than you think!"

Butler and LP Texas Chair Patrick Dixon will travel from Tyler to El Paso; Amarillo to Brownsville. Along the way, they will help candidates and county parties organize their efforts and become more efficient. Butler will present his new book, *18 Steps to Win a Local Election*.

Dixon announced, "We aim to break all prior records and challenge as many incumbent politicians as possible. Over 200 potential candidates have already volunteered."

In 2008, 173 Libertarian nominees were on the November ballot [in Texas].

"Our goal this year is to help Texans channel their political frustration into practical and effective campaign action. We will introduce the Libertarian Party and its objectives. Then we will provide 'nuts and bolts' political training," said Dixon. "We'll have all the necessary paperwork to sign up candidates."

Dr. Mike Beitler Announces For U.S. Senate

GREENSBORO, NC — Dr. Michael Beitler (pronounced Bite-ler) will announce his candidacy for the Libertarian Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate September 17 at a press conference in the

Piedmont-Triad International Airport Marriott Hotel at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Michael Munger, 2008 Libertarian gubernatorial candidate and Barbara Howe, North Carolina Libertarian Party chair will also speak at the press conference.

As a U.S. Senator, Beitler promises to dramatically reduce the size of the Federal government. "The big-spending, big-government advocates, both Democrats and Republicans, must be stopped. We are beyond the point of simply reducing government program budgets; now we must abolish entire government programs and agencies" he said.

Beitler is a business practice professor in The Bryan School of Business and Economics at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. "I tell my young students, I am ashamed of what the baby-boom generation is doing to the futures of young Americans. An inheritance of tens of trillions of dollars in debt is a disgraceful legacy," he said.

He is the host of "Free Markets With Dr. Mike Beitler," an internet-radio show that airs on the VoiceAmerica Business Network. Beitler is the author of three business books used in MBA programs and "Rational Individualism: A Moral Argument for Limited Government & Capitalism," a book about his libertarian political philosophy.

Beitler believes his experience as a chief financial officer in banking and his current work as business consultant will allow him to quickly see which government programs and agencies must be eliminated. "I will have a contract with the citizens of North Carolina. If I cannot accomplish the goal of abolishing government programs and agencies, the citizens of North Carolina can fire me mid-term," Beitler promised.

Missouri LP testimony at MIAC hearing

Missouri Libertarian Party Vice Chair Cisse Spragins testified at a Missouri House of Representatives Interim Committee on State

Libertarian Party: On the Trail

Intelligence Analysis Oversight public hearing August 31st in Grandview, MO.

In March, a "Strategic Report" on "The Modern Militia Movement" written by the Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) was leaked to the press.

The memo claimed that membership in, among other groups, the Libertarian Party and/or the display of what it calls "political paraphernalia" in support of the party or its 2008 presidential nominee (former US Congressman Bob Barr) could be an indicator that someone is involved in a "militant militia."

The memo was retracted in late March and Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director John Britt issued apologies for the report's reference to specific Presidential candidates, including Libertarian Bob Barr and Republican Ron Paul, and for the references to specific political organizations, including the Libertarian Party and the Campaign for Liberty. Van Godsey, the Director of MIAC who signed off on the report was reassigned.

By working closely with key lawmakers and continuing to apply pressure, the Missouri LP along with other freedom groups ultimately succeeded in getting the Legislature to create a special interim committee to investigate the report. Hearings are being held around the State. The first hearing was held in Jefferson City in June and the second in St. Louis in July. Hearings in Kansas City and Springfield are planned for later in August or September.

The successful media campaign resulted in a great deal of media coverage in Missouri, including TV interviews. Even some national coverage with the Missouri LP quoted in an article published by CNN and an appearance on Fox Freedom Watch with Judge Napolitano.

New Liberty Pledgers

Billy S. Boren	Nick Martin
Gary C. Bryant	Sheldon W. McGraw
Jeffrey Butler	Phillip H. Mitchell
Stephen Cantin	Charles A. Monteleone
Lee Cayer	Claude Mott
Vincent T. Chambers	Edmond J. Muhlenberg
Robert C. Cornish	Kim D. Murphy
Tim Cowles	Lemuel M. Nash
James F. Findlay	Justin R. Niceswanger
Alfred M. Garcia	Pamela Norman
Richard E. Gardiner	Robert Odden
Allyn K. Gerard	William N. Ogden
Craig Gilkison	Joseph H. Perry
Clayton Gilmore	Timothy O. Peters
Edward M. Gore	Derek Pomery
Matthew Graham	Ed Pongracz-Bartha
Susan J. Hartman	Roy Powley
Daniel Hogan	Louis Roederer
Jay Holloway	Robert E. Roten
John Hopson	Stephanie E. Russell
Michael R. Houze	Karen S. Schroeder
Marjory Hurtell	Joshua Shankle
Jeffrey James	Jeffrey Shapiro
Jeffrey N. Jones	Bradley Smith
Margaret Kantz	Mark Spieker
Thomas J. Kern	Cisse Spragins
Terry Kinder	Mark Stockfisch
Laurence G. Knight	Robert Stuart
Eric Knipe	John R. Swisher
James K. Lancaster	Darren Thorneycroft
Joshua L. Lang	William Tomasek
Jonathan Lee	Bill Wareham
Joe Liemandt	Dan White
Tim T. Lowe	Charles W. Wilson
Stanley V. Lowry	James A. Wilson
Taylor B. Mahanes	Roderick E. Woodman
Gregory I. Marra	Aaron Yeargan

Is your credit card about to expire? Did you recently receive a replacement card? If so, please call 202-333-0008 (ext. 235) and provide us with your updated information. Thank you!

Thank you for your support!

Libertarian Party in the News

Stricter panhandling proposal advances

Indianapolis Star, August 25, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — After almost two hours of debate that incorporated issues including free speech, government intrusion and compassion for the poor, a City-County Council committee voted Monday to recommend an ordinance to further restrict panhandling....

"The knee-jerk reaction is to create new laws that take away our freedoms," said **Timothy Maguire, chairman of the Marion County Libertarian Party**. "How long is it before this applies to political signs?"

Conn. campaign finance law ruled unconstitutional

Los Angeles Times (AP), August 28, 2009

NEW HAVEN, CT — A federal judge has ruled that Connecticut's public campaign finance law, seen by some as a possible national model, is unconstitutional because it discriminates against minor party political candidates....

The Green and Libertarian parties and others sued the state, arguing the law makes it difficult for minor party candidates to meet the criteria for getting public funds for their campaigns....

Andrew Schneider, executive director of the ACLU of Connecticut, which represented the Green and Libertarian parties, called the ruling "a victory for free speech and equal protection for all candidates."...

[Judge Stefan] Underhill said the qualifying criteria for minor party candidates to get public funding are so difficult to achieve that most never become eligible for public funding at even reduced levels.

Libertarian Party candidate contending for state Senate seat

Times-Herald, September 7, 2009

UPPER HANOVER, PA — **Barbara Steever** said her first exposure to politics came in contesting a U.S. Department of Agriculture attempt to tag all the animals on her farm.

The USDA's proposed standards call for tagging all the animals on every farm and required her to file a report every time an animal left the farm, according to Steever....

The Upper Hanover resident will represent the Libertarian Party in the Sept. 29 special election against Anne Scheuring, the Democratic candidate, and state Rep. Bob Mensch, R-147th District....

Steever says Pennsylvania has surrendered its independence in exchange for federal money.

"The federal government has been pulling strings and bribing the states to get what it wants," she said.

Political party chairs talk trust, caucuses

Colorado Statesman, August 14, 2009

DENVER, CO — Last month the state chairs of the Colorado Republican, Democratic and Libertarian parties participated in a panel discussion at the South Metro Chamber of Commerce. It was part of "Election '09" sponsored by Business Leaders for Responsible Government. This is the second part of the story that started in last week's issue. It picks up at a question and answer session following the presentation of the three political party leaders, Dick Wadhams, chairman of Colorado Republican Party, Pat Waak, chair of the state Democratic Party, and **David K. Williams, who heads up the Colorado Libertarian Party**.