

# LIBERTY PLEDGE

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## newsletter

### Krist Novoselic to Speak at LP Convention Influential Rocker is the Recent Author of Grunge and Government

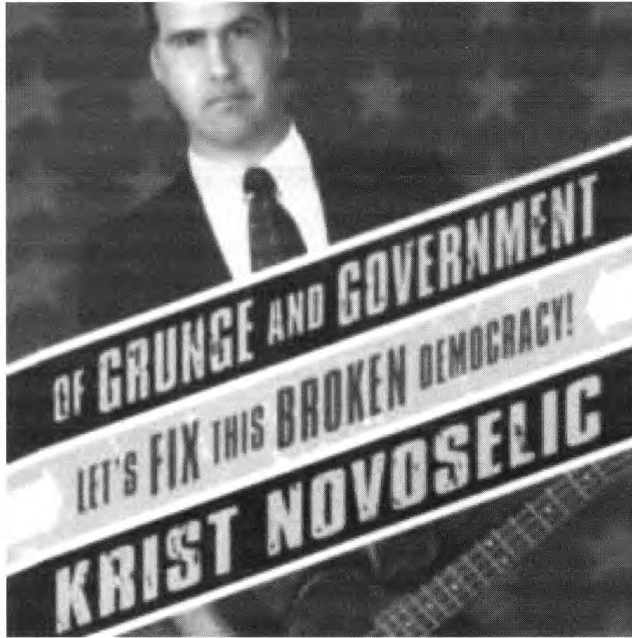
Krist Novoselic, former member of legendary rock band Nirvana and author/activist, will speak at the Libertarian Party Convention this July in Portland, Oregon. Best known for his work as the bassist for Nirvana in the early 1990s, Novoselic has moved on to fighting governmental injustice in the music industry.

Perhaps one of the most progressive bands of its time, Nirvana was known for supporting political causes and benefits. During their brief time together, Nirvana played the first Rock for Choice show, a concert in support of gay rights, and a show that raised money for the Balkan Women's Aid Fund.

In 1995, Krist formed the Joint Artists and Music Promotions Political Action Committee (JAMPAC) that advocated the rights of Washington's music community. JAMPAC has fought a number of different issues within the music community including the Teen Dance Ordinance which restricts the ability of minors to attend shows and concerts. JAMPAC's work eventually led to the ordinance being overturned. The organization is the only one of its kind designed to fight for artistic freedom in music.

JAMPAC was merely Krist's first step into politics and he has followed it up with several ambitious endeavors. Novoselic makes frequent appearances as an advocate for electoral reform and operates a website, Fix Our United States at [www.fixour.us](http://www.fixour.us).

Fix Our United States is a forum for meaningful electoral reform and Novoselic writes extensively on the subject. The website advocates the use of "super districts" as a means of achieving this reform. Super



districts would consolidate several electoral districts into one larger area and then create a ballot similar to that used in parliamentary democracies. This type of system is known for increasing the ability of third parties to gain seats and increase fairness and diversity in government. He also advocates ranked choice voting and reform in primary elections.

Another of Novoselic's recent political endeavors has been the publication of his book, 2004's Of Grunge and Government: Let's Fix this Broken Democracy. Hailed as

"one part memoir, one part political platform" on his website, the book tells the story of Novoselic's "musical and political coming of age."

**Its still not too late to reserve your place at the Libertarian Party Convention in Portland, Oregon this July 1st and 2nd. Simply go to our website [www.lpconvention.org](http://www.lpconvention.org) for a quick and easy online registration or give Chris Thorman a call at (202) 333-0008 to make your reservations over the phone.**

**Newly confirmed speakers include Chris Farrell of Judicial Watch, Judge John Buttrick of Arizona, former Congressman Bob Barr, and British news correspondent Andrew Neil.**

**Packages are available for every price bracket starting at just \$99 for a delegate's package which includes a place at our opening reception and delegate voter materials.**

**The weekend is sure to be exciting so book now to reserve your place at our best convention yet!**

## **LPHQ Says Goodbye to a Friend**

Sam New, an Arkansas native and graduate of Rhodes College, was hired by Joe Seehusen in June of 2004 to replace Diane Pilcher as the receptionist at the Libertarian Party Headquarters in Washington, DC.

In addition to answering phones and conducting administrative office duties, Sam was responsible for acting as Seehusen's executive assistant.

In time, Sam took over the roles of outreach coordinator and special projects manager. He also served as the primary events planner, organizing the LP's participation in major political action events such as the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), Freedom Fest, and the National Taxpayers' Conference.

When Shane Cory assumed the role of Chief of Staff in the wake of Joe Seehusen's resignation, Sam stepped up and acted as Director of Communications in the interim period, issuing press releases, communicating with members of the print media, and conducting live media appearances.

After nearly two years of service and dedication to the Libertarian Party, Sam will be leaving us to pursue a graduate degree in Business at the George Washington University.

"Sam is a true professional, and I feel fortunate to have worked with him," stated Chris Thorman, development coordinator at LPHQ. "We will miss him here at the office in DC."

Development Associate, Lorena Seitz, agrees, "Sam has been a real inspiration to me since I started working for LPHQ back in September. His strong work ethic and extensive knowledge of the LP have truly had an impact on me and our colleagues. I am truly sad to see him go."

**Have questions or concerns about your monthly pledge? Interested in increasing your monthly commitment? Need to update your address or credit card information for your monthly pledge? Contact April at [pledge@lp.org](mailto:pledge@lp.org) or call her at (202) 333-0008 for assistance**

## **Liberty Pledge News Welcomes New Pledgers**

Thank you to all of our new and renewed pledgers for April and May. Your gifts allow the Libertarian Party to continue to put Libertarians into office and to continue the fight for liberty.

John Lewis	Eric Larson
Roderick Woodman	Marcy Larson
Alan Bannister	Fredrick Gast
James Hicks	William Schulz
Robert Eichenlaub	Justin Troyer
John Hopson	Michael Meek
James Gallup	Martina Slowcomb
Irv Hopkins	Margery Wakefield
Wayne Rogers	Michael Wilson
Alan Stang	Kenneth Olson
Michael Fogelsanger	Mel Pinney
Claude Atkins	John Friedel
Richard Fontanesi	Geoffrey Hunter
Glenn Eddy	Larry Gavel
Stuart Russell	Colleen Trask
Ralph Jaeggli	Eric Tompkins
Harold Kyriazi	Lawrence Johnson
Wayne Klemme	Michael Escuder
Colin Sowards	David Schrader
Brian Nelson	Paul Panichelli
Eric Mast	Steve Phillips
Jacky Lee	Scott Smith
Russell Phillips	Greg Kerkow
John Wilbern	Ray Anderson
William Berry	Peter Lamb
Marie Halas	Steve Dodge
Michael Dunn	James Phelps
Beth Woodell	Brian Bergman
Randy Given	

## **Libertarian Jeff Russell to Run Against Senator Hilary Clinton**

At the Libertarian Party of New York's April 29th convention, Libertarian Jeff Russell was nominated as the official Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate. Russell will likely face Democratic incumbent, Sen. Hilary Clinton as well as Republican John Spencer in the general election.

Russell is a retiree and lives in Clifton Park, New York. He has been a member of the Libertarian Party since 1980. For several years, Russell served as chairman of the Capital District chapter of the Libertarian Party of New York, as a representative on the LPNY State Committee, and as a delegate to several national conventions.

Disturbed by Senator Clinton's support for the Iraq War, the Patriot Act, and the Department of Homeland Security, Russell decided to enter the U.S. Senate race. The focus of his campaign will be the repeal of the Patriot Act, the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, and the elimination of the Department of Homeland Security.

Russell vehemently opposes the NSA warrant-less wiretapping program, as it concentrates too much power within the federal government. Federal law enforcement can effectively fight terrorism without the use of the Patriot Act and warrant-less wiretapping, which infringes on our civil liberties, Russell believes.

Russell will be one of the speakers during the Marijuana March, a pro-legalization rally, to be held in New York City on Saturday, May 6th. He will also attend the Taste of Freedom event in Buffalo, New York on June 3rd. Taste of Freedom is an annual fundraising event that is organized by Free Buffalo, a free-market think-tank.

**Have a libertarian organization that you'd like to see profiled in Liberty Pledge News? Interested in being profiled in Liberty Pledge News yourself? Contact Lorena Seitz at [Lorena.Seitz@lp.org](mailto:Lorena.Seitz@lp.org) for details.**

## **Libertarian Paul King Could be the Difference in Special Election**

A special runoff election will be held on June 6th to replace Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, who resigned last November after admitting to taking \$2 million in bribes. Libertarian Paul King has entered the race for California's 50th District seat, where he will face Republican Brian Bilbray, Democrat Francine Busby and independent William Griffith.

With the two major party candidates locked in a statistical dead-heat, King could make the difference in the June 6th election. The pollsters stated, "Our data show the continuing ability of Busby to attract Republican and independent voters, while the presence of a Libertarian candidate and an independent candidate hurts Bilbray's ability to grow his vote."

In an interview with the North County Times, King said that he believes electing him would "send shockwaves through the political system." He added, "It would send a message to the status quo politicians."

King claims Bilbray is a Republican in name only and is far from being a fiscal conservative. The National Taxpayers Union gave Bilbray a C+ when they evaluated his previous six years in Congress. King says he is the best option to voters who believe in controlling runaway federal spending and limiting the role of the federal government.

On the immigration issue, King believes the crux of the problem lies with the Mexican government. He stated, "Two million Mexicans flee their country every year in hopes of escaping the socialist oligarchy-style government that has no respect for the rights and property of its individual citizens." Illegal immigration will continue to be a problem, King said, as long as government continues to give away social services, health care and public education.

King has lived in Carlsbad, California for six years with his wife, Rita and his daughter, Alex. In addition to being an active member of the Libertarian Party, King is a member of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and the National Taxpayers Union.

## Monthly Pledger Rob Power of Outrightusa.org

Rob Power, monthly pledger since 2004, joined Outright Libertarians in 1999, and in 2002 started their first West Coast chapter in San Francisco. He is currently national Chair of Outright and an active member of the Libertarian Party.

### **When did you join the Libertarian Party? What person, book, or event inspired you or first taught you about the party?**

In high school, I was vice-president of our Conservatives Club and a devout Rush Limbaugh "dittohead." In 1994, as a college freshman voting for the first time, I am embarrassed to say that I helped vote Bill Frist into his first Senate term. I considered myself a Log Cabin Republican, and Frist (hard to believe it today) ran as a sane, moderate Republican. But in 1996, when even painfully moderate Bob Dole returned Log Cabin's donation check, I knew that religious fundamentalists had a permanent lock on the Republican Party. (Our blog at [www.OutrightUSA.org](http://www.OutrightUSA.org) shows how "moderates" McCain and Giuliani have recently started pandering to fundamentalists, since it's the only path to the Republican presidential nomination.) I looked for an alternative to cast my vote for President, and I found Harry Browne. His campaign website linked to the Advocates' quiz, and that's when I figured out I wasn't a conservative after all, but rather a Libertarian. So I joined the Party.

### **When was Outright USA founded?**

Outright was started in 1998 by Libertarians in Atlanta who were frustrated that most Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) people they knew thought that the Democrats were the most queer-friendly party. The founders of Outright thought that, if they could educate the LGBT community about the LP's positions on gay rights, both the LP and the LGBT community would benefit.

### **What is Outright USA's primary goal or mission? How do you hope to achieve these goals?**

Our mission is to reach out to the LGBT community and introduce them to the Libertarian Party, as well as to keep the Libertarian Party true to its queer-friendly roots. We think that the LP is the natural home to LGBT people, but to supplant the Democrats as the "gay rights" party, we have to significantly expand our outreach efforts as a party and resist "reform" efforts to write sexual minorities out of our platform.

### **What political issues are most important to you and your Outright USA?**

While the largest LGBT-rights organizations spend most of their time in the pursuit of winning "special rights" from the government, such as "hate crime" laws and employment nondiscrimination laws for private employers, Outright concentrates on ending government discrimination against LGBT people. To put it another way, Outright opposes "special rights" for straight people. Our top priority was the repeal of sodomy laws, which were all

struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 2003 Lawrence decision. Following that, our priorities have been marriage equality and equal access to military service and other taxpayer-funded employment and benefits.

### **Does Outright USA have chapters across the US? If so, where? How can other Libertarians get involved?**

We only have a few formally chartered chapters, spanning from Atlanta to San Francisco, but we have members in most states, state coordinators in several states, and statewide Yahoo groups to help our members organize at the grassroots level. Our website, [www.OutrightUSA.org](http://www.OutrightUSA.org), has a Chapters page with links to all of our statewide email groups, and we encourage anyone who doesn't see their state listed to contact us about starting a chapter. Straight allies are very important to our organization, and not only do we have several straight members, but also a couple of straight officers at the state level.

### **What do you think is the most important thing Libertarians can do to improve the profile and success of the party?**

A third party has no hope of success if it tries to look like a clone of the other two parties. Our uncompromising defense of individual liberty is what sets us apart from the rest. When talking to voters, instead of trying to minimize our differences with the major parties, we should minimize the differences between the major parties and maximize our differences with them both instead. I know that those who wish to "reform" our platform to make it seem less radical really do mean well, but I think that such watering-down of our message will only do more harm than good in recruitment and retention efforts.

### **What do you think is the most important thing for the party to accomplish in the coming election year?**

The Democrats, under the leadership of Howard Dean, are trying to mimic the Republicans' anti-gay rhetoric in an attempt to avoid the "wedge issue" of same-sex marriage equality. We need more Libertarians like Loretta Nall, the Libertarian candidate for Governor of Alabama who publicly supports marriage equality, to make clear that the Libertarian Party is the only party that will consistently stand by the LGBT community. We ought not take short-sighted positions based on opinion polls, because young people are the largest untapped market in politics, and they overwhelmingly support us on our more "radical" issues like marriage equality, drug legalization, and opposition to war.

### **Will you be attending the LP Convention in July?**

Absolutely. Outright Libertarians will be an exhibitor at the convention, and we invite everyone to stop by our booth and find out how to help bring more LGBT folks into the Libertarian Party.