

# 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 June 2010

## New Officers Elected at St. Louis National Convention

By Wes Benedict  
Executive Director  
Libertarian National Committee

Congratulations to our new national Chairman, **Mark Hinkle**, a former California LP chair. Five strong contenders campaigned vigorously for the top position in the LP which Hinkle ultimately won.

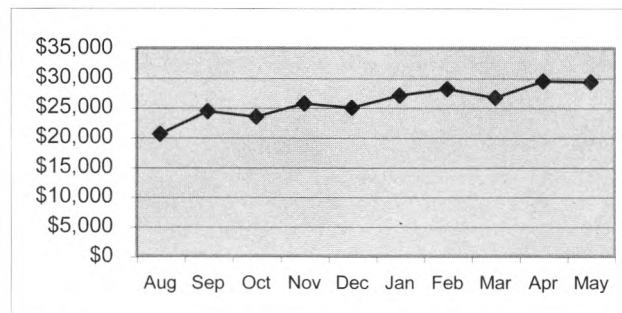
Hinkle replaces **William Redpath**, who served two terms as chairman and is best known as the LP's "ballot access champion."

We're not losing Mr. Redpath, however. He was elected to an at-large position on the LNC, is a candidate for U.S. Representative District 10 in Virginia, and continues to assist ballot access efforts around the country.

**Mark Rutherford**, a former Indiana LP chair, was elected Vice Chair, **Alicia Mattson** of Tennessee, who has served as Platform Committee Chair, was elected Secretary, and **James Oaksun** of Maine was elected Treasurer.

Putting on a big national convention can be a risky venture, particularly since turnout is hard to predict. We've had to dip into general revenue funds to help cover the cost of some of our recent conventions. However, attendance at this convention was much higher than anticipated (we expected turnout in the low 400s but well over 500 attended), and our initial projections show that event registrations handily covered the cost of the convention. We'll report more details in *LP News*.

Our monthly pledge program **surpassed \$29,000** again in May. Here's a graph of the pledge total since last August 2009:



Our list of candidates for the November 2010 elections continues to grow. At the recent May 28, 2010 LNC meeting, I was able to report the following summary figures:

Candidates	2006	2008	2010
U.S. Representative	114	127	171
Other	482	466	545
Total Candidates	596	593	716

The quantity of candidates reported above is not an exact apples-to-apples comparison between years, but without getting into a lot of details, it's fairly close.

With our economy and civil liberties under constant threat from the big government policies delivered by Republicans and Democrats, America needs an effective Libertarian Party.

I am feeling optimistic about the possibilities for Libertarian Party candidates and officers to make a positive impact on public policy.

I want to thank our monthly pledgers who provide the financial foundation for the Libertarian Party Headquarters here in Washington, DC.

Our staff will continue working to improve our customer service to members and our service to our candidates and state and local affiliates.

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

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## Virginia Libertarians File Ballot-Access Lawsuit

*from Ballot Access News*

On June 3, the Libertarian Party sued the Virginia State Board of Elections over that state's rigid rules on residency of petition circulators. No one may circulate a petition to get a candidate on the ballot for a district office, unless that circulator lives in that district. The case is *Libertarian Party of Virginia v Virginia State Board of Elections*, filed in U.S. District Court, Alexandria, 1:10-cv-615.

There are lawsuits on this issue now pending in California, Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska, although Kansas has informally indicated that it will concede the issue. The recent Idaho case won on April 9, 2010, is now over, because the state did not appeal. Lawsuits on this issue have also won in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania, in the last ten years.

## Convention turnout bodes well for liberty in 2010

*from the Michigan LP*

The Libertarian Party of Michigan state convention proved once again that liberty is alive and well. The Okemos event on Saturday, May 22, showed that many fresh faces and enthusiastic candidates are ready to take on big government this year.

Many activists worked together to provide members with one of the most successful conventions of recent years. Political Director Bill Hall worked tirelessly throughout the day to get our candidates organized. Hats off to Bill and Leonard Schwartz for spending most of the day Saturday filling out forms for dozens of candidates and organizing our filings.

Members were treated to a mixture of regular business and light-hearted entertainment.

LEC officers provided reports on the status of various initiatives, financial matters, and other routine business. In addition, Platform Chair Nathan Allen presided over discussion of our platform for 2010. Afternoon elections saw some new faces joining the LEC.

If you weren't there for the banquet, you missed a rare event indeed. Larry Reed, President of the Foundation for Economic Education, once again delivered a memorable presentation that we in Michigan have been so fortunate to know. It was an event that brought the nearly 100 banquet attendees to their feet and won't be soon forgotten by any. Donors gave life to plans for a big outreach effort this year. Thank you to all!

I speak for all the volunteers with hope that you consider attending next year's convention, as this year was an inspiration to both new and seasoned members. Our efforts clearly got a kick of juice....and it reminds us why we do this. Our members. It is our members that give the LPM life....and the 130 people in the hall on Saturday certainly walked away ready to take on the forces of big government.

## Media Alert: Libertarian candidates file at SoS Wednesday morning

*from the New Hampshire LP, June 8*

### MEDIA ALERT

Libertarian candidates for state and federal offices will file their candidacy paperwork with the Secretary of State's office on Wednesday morning. Following that will be a brief press conference at 10:00AM at the Legislative Office Building. Speaking at the press conference will be gubernatorial candidate John Babiarz, US Senate candidate Ken Blevins and others.

# Libertarian Party: On the Trail

## Bob Barr Endorses Alex Snitker for U.S. Senate

*from the Snitker for Senate campaign*

Former U.S. Representative and 2008 Presidential candidate Bob Barr offers his full endorsement to Libertarian Alexander Snitker in Florida's U.S. Senate race.

From Bob Barr:

"In recent decades, Americans have faced a growing threat from the limitless power of the federal government. Our liberties are being stripped from us. Our property is being redistributed. Our children are being burdened with crushing debt. Our Constitution is being ignored and subverted.

"It is more critical than ever that we elect candidates who will reverse this trend. We must support those candidates who will support the Constitution. We must embrace candidates who will fight for the rights of every American. We must vote for candidates who will enact sound fiscal policies.

"If we do these things, we will have elected officials who represent the people – not try to rule them.

"It is for these reasons that I offer my solid endorsement to Alexander Snitker for U.S. Senate in Florida. Alex is a man of principle, and he shares our Founders' vision of the greatness that America can achieve when government endeavors to defend liberty."

### New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Phil Baggett           | Raye J. Houtz          |
| Cody Barney            | Joseph C. Johnson      |
| Eric A. Berg           | Patrick B. Keller      |
| Stephen W. Bishop      | Holly A. Kuehn         |
| Brian Blum             | Kimberley A. Levine    |
| Gregory Boozier        | Bradley J. Lowry       |
| Billy S. Boren         | Robert Madden          |
| Elinor A. Brandt       | Robert Margetin        |
| Dale W. Brockelman     | Mitchell McElwain      |
| William L. Brooks      | Mike Minyard           |
| Miranda J. Cantrell    | James Nichols          |
| Aaron M. Chandler      | Tony F. Oliveira       |
| Raymond D. Craig       | Andrew Piscitelle      |
| Harry Davis            | James F. Powell        |
| Jeremy Dixon           | Donald Powers          |
| Howard F. Drury        | William D. Rawson      |
| Megan Duffy            | Andrew S. Riley        |
| Gorm P. Emberland      | Richard D. Sanford     |
| John D. Fuller         | Nicholas A. Schoenmann |
| Edward I. Garbarino    | Richard Secula         |
| James C. Gravley       | Eric Sharp             |
| Stephen K. Gray        | Phillip Walker         |
| Franz Halaschek-Wiener | James M. White         |
| Joseph B. Hamilton     | Aaron D. Yeargan       |
| Rebecca M. Hauser      |                        |

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

- \$5,000     \$100  
 \$1,000     \$50  
 \$500        \$25  
 \$250         \_\_\_\_\_ Other

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

- \$2,500     \$100  
 \$1,000     \$50  
 \$500        \$30  
 \$250        \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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

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### Secretary of state candidate wants easier ballot access

*Marin Independent Journal*, May 16, 2010

**Christina Tobin**, who moved to Mill Valley in September, will appear on the November ballot as the Libertarian Party candidate for California secretary of state.

Tobin, who faces no competition in the June primary, will appear on the November ballot along with the candidates of the Peace and Freedom, Green, and American Independent parties - as well as the nominees of the Republican and Democratic parties.

Tobin, 28, says one of the chief reasons she is running is to guarantee that future California ballots will feature that same range of choice. She is using her candidacy to challenge Proposition 14, the so-called open ballot initiative, which will also be on the November ballot.

### Prop 100: Only a Penny or an Excessive Tax?

*myFOXphoenix*, May 17, 2010

PHOENIX - Is a penny part of the solution to our problems? Tuesday voters will decide on Proposition 100, the 1-cent sales tax increase which, if passed, will help save us from dire fiscal straits....

**Jim Iannuzo** is a business owner -- and the County Chairman of the Libertarian party. He says the tax could affect his business negatively.

"When it's a penny, it doesn't sound like a lot. But when you multiply it millions of times, it adds up... If the state isn't put in a situation where it has to get spending in line, it's much easier to always go to the pool and say we need a penny here, a penny there."

### Education funding, political diversity are issues in regent races

*Colorado Statesman*, May 21, 2010

[Colorado University] Law professor Melissa Hart, D-Denver, and CU professor of electrical computing and neurological sciences Howard Wachtel, D-Boulder, are vying for the Democratic nomination to challenge Steve Bosley, R-Boulder, in his second term as CU regent. Libertarian **Jesse Wallace**, a CU graduate and owner of a Denver advertising firm, is also an at-large candidate....

The Libertarian nominee Wallace, 29, graduated with a communications degree from CU in 2004 and as a regent would drive down tuition rates. He said CU must make cuts from the top down. According to Wallace, the students' constitutional rights are being violated on campus. He is concerned about students' right to smoke medical marijuana on campus and their right to free speech, to bear arms and their ability to guard against unreasonable search and seizure.

### Libertarians join lawsuit over Neb. petition rules

*Associated Press*, May 27, 2010

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - The Libertarian Party of Nebraska has joined a federal lawsuit against the state over its petition signature requirements for ballot initiatives and independent candidates....

The filing says changes made in 2007 and 2008 to state law are keeping independent candidates and ballot initiatives off the Nebraska ballot, violating protected political speech....

The Libertarian Party's **Gene Siadek** said Thursday that unfair requirements have kept the party out of Nebraska's political process.