

Operation's Director Report (Acting ED)

by **Robert Kraus**

Overview

Since the last LNC meeting, LPHQ has focused mainly on 2009 budget planning and the presidential campaign.

Please feel free to address any issues not covered in the staff reports at the upcoming LNC meeting and we will do our best to address or answer any concerns.

Staff Update

Our staff levels remain at appropriate levels and includes a smaller than usual assemble of college students. We have recently cut back on our student's hours to an "as needed" basis to help curtail costs and Austin and Louise will be actively looking for unpaid college interns next semester.

Below are our current staffers and summary of their current job responsibilities/overview of what they do on a weekly/daily basis:

- ❖ Robert Kraus, Acting ED / Operations Director:
 - Fiscal Management (a/p, a/r, general bookkeeping in QuickBooks)
 - Working with Aaron Starr and the EC on the 2009 Budget
 - Maintaining compliance with government policies including FEC filing
 - Management of LP Staff (human resources including payroll and benefits administration)
 - Oversight of database management & cleanup (Raiser's Edge)
 - General purchasing and procurement
 - Customer service (internal and external communications with board members, affiliates, donors, etc.)
 - Working with the Chair, Andrew Davis and others to get out a cohesive Libertarian message across to the public
 - Facilities and equipment planning and maintenance
 - Preparation of financial and membership reports
 - Administrator of lp.org & hq.lp.org email and group list servers
 - Management of our higher donor direct solicitation endeavors (such as our telemarketing program with John Swallow)
 - Creating and overseeing various initiatives to establish a "cause célèbre" for our donors (such as Operation Elect-US to expand our political stature by increasing the number of elected Libertarians in office)

- ❖ Andrew Davis, Communications Director:
 - Scan national media for topics for press releases, blog entries, and Email messages
 - Draft press releases, blogs, email solicitations, email messages to members
 - Answer press inquiries and book media appearances for party officials
 - Write content for Web site, when needed Design graphics for Web site, emails, blogs, advertisements and newsletters
 - Develop content for monthly newsletter and newspaper layout and design monthly newsletter (and soon, perhaps, LP News)
 - Administrate and monitor the LP's Facebook and MySpace accounts, adding content and updating information
 - Function as the intermediary between the Party and the public
 - Essentially, responsible for any in-house communication with the outside world

- ❖ Sean Haugh, Political Director

- Follow up with people who have expressed a desire to run for office, starting by introducing them to their state party Chair or their designee
 - Track candidates' activities and offer them one-on-one support for their campaigns
 - Research, and dissemination of what I've found, on the what offices are available and how to file for them
 - Working with state parties and local activists to get ballot access reform bills introduced in state legislatures, and developing lobbying strategies for them
 - Managing our ballot access lawsuits and getting them ready for the next phase of declaratory relief
 - Write articles for LP News, Pledge News and lp.org on ballot access and candidates
 - Maintain and update the list of elected Libertarians
 - Customer service to state and local affiliates in all areas, right now concentrating on recruiting and placing candidates for 2009 and 2010
 - Report on my activities to the LNC, always keeping the Chair and ED aware of what I've found so they can inform the board and other relevant people
 - Answering email questions about the Party and its positions
 - Working with allies (e.g., Ballot Access News, FairVote, freeandequal.org, other third parties) to build coalitions for ballot access reform at the state level and share information to the benefit of all concerned
 - Preparing for petitioning efforts to begin in 2009 and 2010
 - Working with Austin and interns for follow up phone calls to candidate leads
- ❖ Louise Calise, Direct Marketing Manager
- Maintain accuracy of monthly giving program (donor calls and email changes; contact donors for updated information)
 - Process monthly gifts for members of monthly giving program and evaluate transactions that do not go through to find out why including contacting the donor for updated information
 - Oversee Member Service Specialists in the sorting incoming mail, updating membership information and caging of donations
 - Re-checking of daily deposits and cash audits
 - Work with vendors for house and acquisition appeals (copy, art, print, mailshop)
 - Analyze results on all mail appeals and select segments from house file for each house mail appeal, and order lists for each acquisition appeal
 - Data pulls from donor database for house mail appeal and for omission in acquisition appeal
 - Data pulls for membership cards, acknowledgments and cultivation
 - Oversee printing and mailing of membership cards; print and mail acknowledgments; search for creative ideas to cultivate high dollar and loyal donors
 - Work with Aaron Starr on the Board Member Solicitation program
- ❖ Austin Petersen, Volunteer Coordinator
- Respond to letters and email requests from volunteers
 - Recruit volunteers from advertisements
 - Work on operation "Elect Us" with Sean Haugh (calling candidates, etc.)
 - Produce, shoot, edit original videos for the LP. Continue creating infrastructure of permanent online web 2.0 material resources for training, education, inspiration, and recruitment
 - Work with state affiliates, and volunteers on event ideas, and creating opportunities for locals to be active
 - Edit LP.org website events and volunteer receipt lists
 - Write blogs for LP.org
 - Write articles for LP NEWS and Pledge news
 - Network with other high level organizations, and politicians in DC to increase the stature and reputation of the party
 - Manage supply of work for 1-3 rotating interns
 - Research current affairs and provide creative material for advertisements to be posted
 - Provide education and training to the Libertarian community (Leadership Institute knowledge)
 - Staff booths at LP events, direct recruitment of volunteers for affiliate events
 - Study opposition party tactics, emulate successes, learn from their failures

- ❖ Susan Dixon, Member Services Specialist
 - Process and cage all checks, credit cards and cash received via mail into RE
 - Photocopy checks before deposit
 - Process and cage all web transactions into RE
 - Process refunds and contribution returns
 - Update and maintain records in RE
 - Import new inquiry and volunteers from web and send prepare data for information packets
 - Prepare data for new memberships and renewals and print letters for membership cards
 - Prepare daily reports and do daily cash audits
 - Create new records for people who ask for information packets
 - Properly sort and file all source material to comply with FEC rules

- ❖ Casey Hansen, Member Services Specialist
 - Answers and directs incoming phone calls
 - Accepts, opens and sorts mail/packages/couriers and supplies
 - Greets visitors
 - Produces and mails out LP Membership Cards
 - Produces and mails out LP Information Packets
 - Sorts and tags physical monetary contributions sent to the office (checks/money orders/cash)
 - Deposits checks at PCN bank after Louise has verified deposit and cash audits
 - Updates member's address and contact information
 - Assists in general office upkeep, organization and maintaining office supplies
 - Any other extra tasks as assigned by other LNC staff such as general filing, research, and responding to member correspondence

- ❖ We have cut back down to two college students working part time 1-2 days per week: Erin Taylor (a GW student) & Mark Meranta (a GMU student)

- ❖ We also have a contractor, John Swallow, to help us with tele-fundraising of mid range (\$250-500) donors part time. Since late Aug, he has raised over \$12,000.00

Operations

As mentioned above, Robert has been focused on budget prep, the campaign, preparation of pre-election and post election FEC reports, reducing expenses and raising money.

Affiliates

Sean Haugh provides a full report on campaigns and ballot access. Austin and Andrew have also been in frequent contact with our affiliates. Data dumps continue to go out regularly. We added a few extra dumps during the fall so the states can keep up and mail to all the new members and inquires.

We have seen some major improvements on the information flow from states to LPHQ, especially from newer state chairs that appear to be more responsive in getting us data updates, events and news items. We encourage the regional reps to please continue to help us receive information from your states. Receiving news and event updates from our affiliates is an ongoing battle. Again, news worthy items (especially when accompanied by high quality color photos) can be sent to news@lp.org while events simply can be sent to events@lp.org

Finance and Fundraising

Internet Fundraising – Web Site

Internet based fundraising continues to be a growth area for us. Since the launch of the new web site, we have raised a total of \$272,227.00.

Working closely with Andrew, Austin, Louise, Sean and Susan, Terra Eclipse is completely finished with the back end of our web and Andrew has taken the lead for most of our web site management needs. This should save us some considerable programming expenses. We are now able to export data such as inquiries and volunteers in batches, which is imported weekly into RE. This saves staff, and Susan especially, considerable time. We are working with Blakbaud to find a way to import the gift batch records into RE as well. TE has finished creating the back end for exporting gift batches which still must be manually entered by Susan into RE. We are currently working with TE on finishing the creation of the widgets (the linkable graphics which direct people to our web site and donation page) which we've delayed in order to save money.

Phone-based Fundraising

We had hired a new telemarketing vendor to do a renewal call series in late Oct and early Nov. Last year this resulted in over \$30,000 in revenue for Nov 07 alone. Unfortunately we were unhappy with the results (\$8,500 for Oct/Nov combined) and will be returning to our previous vendor. We made the switch mainly for financial reasons (the new vendor was half the price of the old one) but obviously, you get what you pay for. Thus we will use the new vendors pricing proposal to re-negotiate our terms with the old vendor.

Finance

Accounts payable remained higher than we would like for most of the last few months, yet we stay current on our bills. As mentioned in the last meeting, we had a high of \$47,000 in Aug which had been reduced to \$18,100 for Oct and \$22,200 for Nov. I do not anticipate getting back to our previous normal levels of \$10-15,000 if the economy continues to do poorly.

Speaking of the reduced economic situation, in terms of profitability, we have somehow managed to have three months with small surpluses which brought our total loss for the year down to - \$124,800 as of end of Nov from -\$152,900 at the end of Aug. I do not expect this to improve for Dec. The only reason we had a surplus in November was due to an adjustment of \$19,700 in our bequest from the estate which finally sold off their coin collection.

We have seen a significant reduction in both on line and direct mail contributions over the last few weeks. For the 1st half of Nov (11-1-11/15) we received \$68,000 in donations, for the 2nd half only \$11,241 was received. November has not traditionally been a great month for us with the exception of last year and 2003. The main reason last year was better was due in part to our tele-marketing efforts as previously mentioned. Here is a comparison of this Nov vs. prior ones:

Month/Year	Revenue	% Change
Nov-08 Draft	\$ 79,241.00	-36%
Nov-07	\$ 107,531.00	26%
Nov-06	\$ 79,630.00	2%
Nov-05	\$ 77,781.00	-26%
Nov-04	\$ 98,126.00	-21%
Nov-03	\$ 118,368.00	
(2008 Adjusted for bequest - actual = \$98,975)		
Nov-08 Draft	\$ 79,241.00	-24%
Nov-04	\$ 98,126.00	

I think the 24% drop in the 08 vs. 04 comparisons is the direct result of the economy. Many of the messages we have been receiving from donors say "I wish we could give you more but can not at this time." For example, our average gift has gone from \$44.59 in Oct down to \$38.44 for Nov. People are still giving, but they are unable to give as much.

The conclusion one might draw from this is that Aaron's conservative projections of revenue for 2009 are justified and that we really will need each and every board members help in directly soliciting donations to avoid the financial hardships that we experienced several years ago. Please do let Aaron know if you wish to participate so Louise can start researching possible donors for you to visit and John Swallow can start to arrange the appointments.

Membership

The membership report for 11/30/08 previously submitted to the LNC is also attached. As with the last few months, I've included a comparison of 04 vs. 08 numbers on the first page.

Highlights:

Total active donors from 04/04-11/04 increased by 3.57% (total of 752 net) Total active donors from 04/08-11/08 increased by 17.56% (total of 2564 net)

New donors Apr-Nov 04 = 2786 vs. Apr-Nov 08 = 5314 (90.74% increase) Renewals Apr-Nov 04 = 2436 vs. Apr-Nov 08 = 4615 (89.45% increase)

Presidential Campaign

LPHQ would like to thank all the staff and volunteers of the Barr/Root campaign and especially the candidates themselves for their help in promoting the LP and our down ballot candidates. We all had a mostly enjoyable, positive experience working with the campaign and felt that we had made a real collaborative effort to expand our brand.

We want to especially thank the campaign for encouraging their supporters, through their email blasts, letters and "60 Seconds" promotions, to join the LP, volunteer or request info from us. In addition, we appreciate their help in financing some of our ballot access efforts and encouraging their donors to aid us as well. We really could not have done it without you.

We agree that, as Chairman Redpath said, we "did not win as many votes as most of us thought they would get, there is much that we gained in 2008 and a lot to be proud of for the Libertarian Party."

Without the record amount of media Barr/Root generated, their help in promoting our brand and candidates, our over all vote totals would never have eclipsed the record 13 million plus obtained. Nor would we have had the growth in membership, volunteers and inquires at both the state and national level.

Communications Directors Report – Andrew Davis

After the 2008 election year, 2009 is sure to be a challenging year for the Libertarian Party for media exposure. However, one benefit from the 2008 presidential election is that the Libertarian Party established itself as a credible expert on fiscal and pro-liberty issues. Building on the media successes of the Barr/Root presidential campaign, I believe 2009 can be a good year for the Libertarian Party in the off-season.

My main goal for 2009 is to simply maintain a media presence for the Libertarian Party.

We have recently invested in a media-tracking tool called Meltwater News. Meltwater works very much like Lexis Nexis in tracking media, except better and cheaper. Meltwater will allow us to effectively track our media hits, to find out which press releases are working, in which markets, running in what papers. Google News alerts miss many of our news hits that run in smaller papers, and Meltwater will be able to better track and count these hits.

We can also pass these hits along to our state chairs in helping them identify sympathetic newspapers, and help development the media presence of our state affiliates in their areas.

This is a very important component of the long-term media strategy of the Libertarian Party. One mistake we continue to repeat is having a large-scale media presence every four years with our presidential candidates. While our presidential campaigns should of course be the climax of any four-year cycle, it will help tremendously in our local presence if media is aware of our party, views and candidates.

To do this, our state chairs must be trained in media strategy, which can easily be done by developing a training package that can be given to state chairs, and then passed to local leaders too.

Another goal I'd like to set is booking a Libertarian Party official or representative on at least one major media hit a month. I wish I could be more aggressive in this goal (such as one a week), but I'd like to set a realistic goal instead of an unattainable one. I think once a month will set a solid foundation for the next four years, and one that we can always increase.

You may have noticed a recent change to LP News and Pledge News. I have fully redesigned Pledge News to a more modern look, which makes it easier to read, more pleasant at which to look and also contain reoccurring features that readers enjoy. In each issue, there is one article about recent events, as well as a monthly column by our volunteer coordinator and political director. The back cover features snippets from recent news releases by the Party.

LP News has also undergone a drastic redesign, and we have attempted to outsource it as had been tried for years. The quality has not been as high as we would have liked with

our contractor, and we plan to bring it back in-house, which I strongly recommend. This will increase the speed at which the paper is completed, but more importantly, reduce the costs of production.

Since the launch of the Web site, I have gained more control over it and can now use it to advertise programs, such as recently with the "Operation Elect-Us" drive. If you visit LP.org, you can see the graphic I designed on the front page to advertise the program, and also the landing page for the drive that features a (temporary) banner and a description of the drive written by Sean Haugh. A day after launching the new page, Haugh already reported candidates signing up.

To engage our email subscribers, and to keep them donating and active in the party, we have started two, new weekly features called "Heroes of Capitalism" and "Monday Message." In the "HC" feature, we praise pro-capitalism individuals that have made unique and significant contributions to free market advocacy—not just inside the Libertarian Party.

"The Monday Message" offers the Libertarian perspective on the hot issue of the week. They usually have been informal, light-hearted and a great read for the average constituent. It helps our members argue our positions better by providing the knowledge and information they need on these issues.

The responses to both of these have been extremely positive:

This kind of communication is greatly appreciated. In these difficult times we libertarians need all the good news and encouragement we can get. And who better to receive it from than the national political organization that represents us. This kind of daily/weekly editorial commentary is long overdue. Keep up the good work!

Ron Paris
Santa Rosa, CA

Getting our party officials on big media hits, training our state affiliates to become better media strategists, keeping our members informed and engaged, are all important and necessary projects for the Libertarian Party in 2009. We've already made a strong start, and I plan to build on our gains from 2008.

Political Director's Report - Sean Haugh

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Ballot Access Lawsuit Updates
Lessons of 2008 Ballot Access
Current State-by-State Ballot Status
Candidate Results 2008
Operation ELECT-US

BALLOT ACCESS LAWSUIT UPDATES

All of the lawsuits which we filed during the election season are still active, except for Ohio. Each one has two phases, injunctive relief and declaratory relief. None of these lawsuits should incur any significant future costs beyond the minor expenses of filing papers and possibly some travel for our attorney in each case if a personal appearance in court is required. There are no significant developments in these ongoing cases since the election. Below is a brief summation of where each case stands.

Added to this list is our involvement in the Washington state "Top Two" litigation.

Washington: The Libertarian Party of Washington's lawsuit against I-872, aka "Top Two," is at a critical juncture. I have been helping in the search for a new attorney and am recommending the LNC pick up the cost of this new attorney, not to exceed \$15,000 over the remaining course of the lawsuit. The LNC would not become a named party in this case.

The LPWa has been represented until now by Richard Shepard. Shepard has been wanting to be released from the case since April. The state party has essentially expended and burnt out all the resources they have to continue this case.

The case currently is back in US District Court after having been heard by the US Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of I-872 early in the year, but kept the case open for various issues and said they may hear the case again once the Top Two system has had a chance to work and an "as applied" challenge could be developed.

The Democratic and Republican parties in Washington are co-plaintiffs. The Washington Grange Association, which has joined the defendant's side in favor of I-872, has filed to have the case dismissed. This is easily overcome, but a response is required by Monday 12/8/08. Shepard has agreed to file both a formal request to be removed from the case and a motion to delay further proceedings pending new counsel. This is probably a foregone conclusion as the original judge in the case very recently recused himself because his wife now represents the state in other legal matters, which creates a conflict of interest.

LPWa Chair Scott Lindsley and Krist Novoselic, the new Chair of FairVote and a resident of Washington, are working to raise money to pay Shepard's remaining expenses.

While this is not yet fully confirmed, I have been in contact with Oregon attorney Orrin Grover to take over from Shepard. Grover was the attorney for the Barr campaign in our Texas case. By the time of the meeting I hope to have an

agreement between Shepard and Grover about the transfer of the case. If this doesn't work out I will continue to search for a new attorney to replace Shepard.

This case, and the LP's involvement in it, is vitally important for three significant reasons. The LP is the only plaintiff who can bring the trademark issue, as we are the only party to have trademarked our name and logo, and the rights to keep and defend our trademark are obliterated by I-872, which invests the sole power of party identification with the candidates. Clearly, the Top Two system discriminates against us and other third parties by eliminating most of our candidates from the general election ballot. This leads to the reason why it is in the LNC's interests to continue the case to the end, because if this system is allowed to survive in Washington it could very easily spread to Oregon and California, and from there across the country. It has to be killed now before it becomes a national problem.

The estimate of no more than \$15,000 over the remaining course of the lawsuit comes from discussions with Grover and several others involved in ballot access litigation, and is in line with fee structures from previous cases. These funds would only pay for new representation. Any costs generated by Shepard would be covered by Lindsley's and Noveselic's efforts.

Massachusetts: The state has appealed our victory over substitution of our stand-in candidate on the petition with the candidate nominated in convention. While the main issue is now moot as Barr/Root was on the Massachusetts ballot, the Secretary of State desires guidance from the court on the details of substitution going forward. Our attorneys in this case and all plaintiffs (LNC, LPMa, Barr/Root) all agree that while we need to keep defending ourselves and preserve this victory, the state is in the wrong venue and really needs to take this question to the legislature.

We continue to be very ably represented by the firm of Foley Hoag in Boston, who were recruited by the Massachusetts ACLU. The LNC is only responsible for minor filing fees.

Louisiana, Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire: In Louisiana we are represented by Mark Brown, while in the three New England cases we continue to be represented by Gary Sinawski. They will be filing motions to begin the declaratory relief phase of each lawsuit this month. We lost on injunctive relief in all four states.

As previously reported, the issues in Maine and Connecticut are over the legal responsibilities of the Secretary of State and the town clerks in receiving and processing our petition signatures, while in New Hampshire the issue is substitution and in Louisiana, the filing of elector paperwork during a period of natural disaster. The relevant state party is a co-plaintiff in each case.

In all four cases, we are seeking the relevant state laws be struck down. (This is a rather extensive request in Maine and Connecticut.) In Connecticut and Maine we will also be requesting the court place us on the ballot for the rest of the current election cycle. In these two states and Louisiana, we will also be asking for significant financial compensation reflecting the costs and ongoing value of ballot access in each state.

Oklahoma: Mentioned here although the LNC is not directly involved in this case, but may wish to be in the future. The Barr/Root campaign's lawsuit is still alive for declaratory relief and will continue into 2009. Our side is represented here by Jim

Linger. This case merits continued monitoring in case, like Washington state, someone needs to step in to ensure the case continues.

Besides these cases, state parties are waging some of their own cases, including Tennessee and North Carolina. Overall, I am cautiously optimistic that most of these cases will eventually be successful, if not all of them. They are all strong cases but you never know what the judges will say.

We have been able to engage in all this legal activity at very little cost. As with our list of petitioners, we have been able to develop a list of good, experienced election law attorneys who will work for reasonable rates plus expenses.

Richard Winger has been an invaluable resource in every aspect of this. He is always ready to offer expert testimony and excellent ideas on how to structure and execute a lawsuit. He is now sending me his notes on laws that deserve a challenge. (I am not without my own ideas on this, as I can think of some ballot access law in every state I would want to strike down.)

One reason to pursue such an aggressive legal strategy is to create openings for our lobbying efforts. State legislators often remain blissfully ignorant of ballot access laws until they have a compelling reason to pay attention to them. Having their laws struck down in court is obviously quite compelling, but even filing a lawsuit will help to get their attention.

I am currently working with several state parties to line up legislators who will introduce positive reform bills for us, as well as identifying bills which we may wish to support or oppose. Once these legislatures begin in January, that work will shift to helping the states maximize their lobbying efforts to get the bills we want passed.

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LESSONS OF 2008 BALLOT ACCESS

The current LNC approach to ballot access uncovered several vulnerabilities which cost us access in some states and nearly did in others in 2008. I would like to change the paradigm so that ballot access is an ongoing concern of the LNC, and not only addressed during the Presidential election.

The main areas which need to be addressed to eliminate these vulnerabilities are:

- 1) Our commitment to 50 state ballot access so we can take advantage of every opportunity;
- 2) Spreading out the work over the course of the whole election cycle until waiting until the end of the cycle;
- 3) Spreading out the costs of ballot access so they don't cripple our resources during the height of the election cycle;
- 4) Taking over as much responsibility as possible for ballot access and the filing of state-level paperwork to secure it;

5) Ensuring the vitality of each state party so it can be an effective partner in ballot access; and,

6) The use of stand-in candidates on petitions begun pre-nomination.

We also made some very positive advancements in how we hire and manage petitioners, which will also be mentioned briefly at the end of this section.

Commitment to 50 state ballot access

The term "50 state ballot access" is a bit of a misnomer since it includes DC and Guam as well. For 2008, we adopted a strategy of 48 state ballot access, deferring the three most difficult drives in OK, WV and DC to a later decision. We found that once we had nominated a candidate who was nationally known, we desired ballot access in these states after all. The Barr/Root campaign took responsibility for all three, but unfortunately we started on each so late that the attempts to get on the ballot via meeting signature requirements and then filing a lawsuit when unsuccessful all failed (although the Oklahoma case is still ongoing, see the Lawsuit Update elsewhere in this report).

Ballot access remains job #1 for the Libertarian Party. Without it, we cannot run candidates and give voters a Libertarian choice, which is the essence of our existence as a political party.

We need to recognize that it is likely once we have nominated our ticket in convention and know who our candidate will be, we will be more motivated to get those people on every ballot. By starting early enough in every state we can meet the signature requirements, no matter how onerous. In the most difficult states, an effective petitioning strategy can be the foundation for any legal or legislative efforts to change the laws and lower the requirements going forward.

Past experiences prove that ballot access even in Oklahoma and West Virginia is achievable with an early start, but out of reach if we only decide to try after the national convention. The Barr/Root campaign's decision to tackle these most difficult states post-convention eventually only resulted in spending vast resources which could have gone into direct campaigning. While these were not LNC resources, we found this year that expecting the Presidential campaign to take responsibility for any ballot access results in an overwhelming obstacle to the campaign.

Spreading out the work of ballot access

Our habit has been to defer most of the effort for ballot access to the end of the cycle, work frantically to meet deadlines, and then ignore it until it becomes critical again towards the end of the next cycle.

This resulted in an incredibly intense 4-5 month period where all of our attention had to be on ballot access exclusively, to the detriment of any support we might give to our other candidates. By the end of that period in September, we are not in much of a position to effectively assist these campaigns. It also meant that we had no margin for error in these ballot drives, and were not in a position to recover if any major obstacles arise.

During this time I came to the conclusion that I would not wish these ballot access requirements on anyone, not even the people who wrote these laws. It was a very miserable period of time which could be avoided by not leaving all the signature gathering to the end.

There are two separate components to this perspective, staff resources and financial costs. Staff resources includes the ability to hire and manage contractors to meet all the deadlines.

The first week of August is the most critical deadline week. In that time we had to turn in our signatures in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and South Dakota. All of these are substantial ballot drives, and as we found this year, having difficulties in one of these states can have a cascading effect on the rest, as well as those which have later deadlines. In 2008, this dynamic resulted in us failing to gain ballot access in Maine and Connecticut and just barely making it in South Dakota.

By spreading out the work over the whole cycle, we can pace ourselves and get everything done in a timely manner. We can also manage our efforts far more effectively by being able to hire fewer petitioners overall, concentrating on hiring those who have a better track record of productivity and avoiding hiring ones who are unproductive and/or cause us other problems. This will in turn allow us to have the resources available to handle any last minute ballot access crisis, as well as resources to continue to assist our candidates during this critical stage of their campaigns.

Spreading out the cost of ballot access

This turns out to be even more critical than the staff resources. The encumbrance system employed in 2008 was a reaction to how ballot access was conducted in 2004, and yet had the same failures as the previous system. Spreading out the costs of ballot access over the course of the four year cycle instead of saving them all to the end will allow us to establish realistic budgets for these efforts with an appropriate level of LNC oversight.

The major problem under the current system was that I was given a choice in every state to either spend beyond what was encumbered and probably succeed, or stay within encumbrances and probably fail. This resulted in the worst of both worlds. We ended up spending our reserves (although that was foreseen by our previous Executive Director) and whatever other money we could raise on ballot access, while being prevented by limited resources and an attempt to honor the will of the Executive Committee to put in all the resources necessary to ensure success.

By starting as soon as possible and by committing to 50 state ballot access in advance, it becomes far easier to plan and manage ballot access funding. Whether it is in the core budget or considered a separate project, or some combination of the two, the first positive result of starting early is that we can afford to stop if the money is not there.

When the deadlines are two or four years away, it is far easier to live within our means. We would know how much will be available for upcoming work and if the money runs out, we can afford to slow down or even suspend our efforts until we have put enough back in the bank to resume at full speed. When the deadlines are two or four weeks away, we do not have that luxury.

By spreading out the costs, we will also save a very large portion of these funds through travel and lodging expenses for our petitioners. Instead of flying in a larger group of people for a short amount of time, we can hire fewer people who can stay in one place for an extended period. We also gain the ability to lodge petitioners in longer term accommodations instead of paying daily or weekly hotel rates during peak vacation times of the summer. Finally, by working during slower times in the petitioning industry, we take advantage of supply and demand factors in pricing and can more easily resist demands for an increase in per signature rates at critical times.

Taking greater responsibility for state-level paperwork

In most states, the State Chair and/or Executive Committee is the only legal authority able to submit all the necessary papers to ensure our nominees are placed on the ballot. For the first time since 1988, we had a state fail in these duties which cost us ballot access in that state (Louisiana). We also had a near miss in Mississippi, which was only averted thanks to a courtesy call from that state's Secretary of State's office informing us of missing elector paperwork on the morning of the deadline.

We thought we had done our due diligence as a national party on this, but clearly we had not done enough. Mark, an intern in our office made two passes of phone calls to all the states to ensure they had all the paperwork they required, and Jennifer with the Barr/Root campaign also made her own set of calls to every state. We also contacted every State Chair (or their designee) at least once to make sure they were aware of their responsibilities and intended to carry them out. Despite all these communications, these two states still become last minute problems.

The first solution, which goes beyond ballot access and will be addressed below, is to work with the state party organizations to build them up and make them vital enough to be effective partners in ballot access and able to carry out their own responsibilities.

One other measure we can take is to prepare and bring to the national convention as much of this paperwork as possible so that it can be completed on site and filed immediately thereafter. In the case of Presidential electors, we can encourage states to name them in their state conventions, or failing that choose the electors from the delegates in attendance so they will be present to complete the necessary forms.

Instead of simply trusting our state Chairs to understand and carry out these duties, we need to get receipts whenever possible from states confirming all necessary paperwork is filed.

In any case, we need to do what we can to take care of this bureaucracy before we are at a critical juncture in ballot access petitioning so that none of these become problems that must be handled at the last minute.

Ensuring the vitality of state parties

As mentioned, this has much broader implications than just ballot access. Since we are a grassroots party and our authority to determine the composition of our state parties organizations is appropriately limited by our bylaws, there is only so far we

can go with this. However those strictures still allow us a lot of ability we are not currently exercising to shore up our affiliates when necessary.

The first step is simply to work with the State Chairs directly and through the LSLA (the current State Chairs' association) to support them as much as we can in matters of national importance such as ballot access. This includes impressing upon them that the title comes with responsibilities, and making it as easy as possible for them to carry them out. The paperwork issues described above are a great example of how we can step up or support of them without encroaching upon their own authority under state and national bylaws. I hope to discuss these matters in greater detail with the State Chairs at the Charleston conference in February, and am working with Steve Gordon (the current Chair of the LSLA) towards that end.

Another step we should consider is to take a direct hand in organizing state parties which are not functioning. Obviously, if a state party is in compliance with its own bylaws then we cannot make any changes short of disaffiliating the entire state organization, which is a very extreme measure that should be avoided in almost any set of circumstances.

But there are instances when a state party fails to follow its own bylaws, or falls into that condition through lack of people to carry them out. In such cases we should be willing to declare that state party as no longer existing and take direct action to form a new one.

That's one extreme with clear lines of authority. There are more examples of states which have properly followed their own procedures and continue to legally exist, and yet for whatever reason do not have people in place who are able to fulfill all the responsibilities of the state party. In these cases, we should be willing to tactically support the people we have to make sure these responsibilities are carried out.

In any case, any action taken on behalf of the LNC in these matters must be carried out with a deference to the state party leadership where it exists, and with an awareness of state laws, which generally give all authority to a state party and consider the national party pretty much a figment of the state party's imagination with no legal standing.

The use of stand-in candidates

If there is just one thing I could change about how we conduct ballot access, it is who we use as stand-ins on petitions which begin before we know who will be our nominee. These people must be neutral and committed to stepping aside when it is time to submit the names of the real nominees.

In three states (New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts), the name of George Phillies was used as the stand-in for President, with various people chosen by Phillies as the stand in for Vice President. Meanwhile, in other states we used either native sons or daughters, or past national party figures, with little incident and no negative repercussions.

The use of the Phillies name resulted a critical delay in starting petitioning in Connecticut, which is one of the main reasons why both the Connecticut and Maine drives failed. The Barr/Root campaign was adamant in their insistence that work not begin on a petition bearing the Phillies name until we had all legal assurances that

we could substitute the Barr name without complications. While that on the surface was a reasonable request, and we honored it in all cases, if we had been able to resolve this earlier we would not have spent so many resources in a frantic attempt to finish Connecticut. Frankly, if we had been able to start work in Connecticut just two or three days earlier, we would have been able to pull enough people from that state to complete Maine on time.

The use of the Phillies name is also the reason why we had two candidates on the ballot for President in New Hampshire and has undermined our lawsuit there. Phillies persisted in his desire to actively campaign, citing the LPNH's use of his name as the stand-in candidate as his justification for doing so. If we had used someone who was not actively seeking the nomination, we would have had a far more cooperative person in that position who would most likely now be a co-plaintiff in our lawsuit over substitution, instead of someone who is actively attempting to thwart our effort for substitution rights in New Hampshire in order to advance his own personal goals which run counter to the party's.

Again, this is an issue where the states have all the legal authority and the national party cannot take a heavy handed approach. However after this experience, we have the ability to work with state parties from the very beginning of the petitioning process and help them avoid the problems which arose this year.

Ability to hire and manage petitioners

One way we vastly improved our ballot access operations this year was developing and retaining a long list of top quality petitioners (both independent contractors and petitioning companies). This has already been addressed in previous reports, but the highlights merit being included in this document.

Our fundamental problem is that we cannot afford to match the rates offered to petitioners by initiative groups, which often reach \$3 per signature or more. We were able to compete in the marketplace for petitioners through offering superior customer service. The Libertarian Party has developed a reputation among petitioners by our recent conduct that while we may not pay the most, we do pay on time and without hassles, and are able to offer more steady employment. Because of this, when our petitioners received offers to go to California or Nevada for a brief stint at double what we were paying or more, far more of them chose to stick with us.

Through this process we have been able to develop a list of petitioners who have proven their reliability and with whom we have excellent relationships. Expanding this list and maintaining our current relationships will allow us far greater ability to choose who we want to work for us now and in the future.

I am also near completion of a document which goes into greater detail of the successes and problems of each state's petitioning efforts in 2008. It contains a lot of sensitive information and is intended more as an historical record to capture and preserve institutional knowledge. While it will not be a part of this report and will not be intended for broader publication, I will be happy to send a copy to individual LNC members upon request.

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CURRENT STATE-BY-STATE BALLOT STATUS

In hopes that the LNC agrees to change the paradigm to spread out ballot access work over the entire election cycle until saving it to the end, this report begins with the states which merit our attention in the next two years. In some of these states we are already on the ballot but must take some action to maintain that status.

This is also written with the assumption that ballot access will continue to be outside the core budget, meaning dedicated funds will need to be raised for these projects. To that end I would like to have Scott Kohlhaas working for us on ballot access telemarketing. It will also require working closely with other fundraising operations of the national party to ensure they all aren't getting in each other's way. The prime example of this is the ability to use email blasts dedicated to ballot access which fit in with the schedule of other email-based fundraising.

I will have a more detailed funding plan for these states where our action is required in time for the February LNC meeting.

OFF THE BALLOT (or close to it)

LNC action recommended in 2009

Alaska – Full party status with 9,752 registrations (est) as of 6/5/10.

We currently have 6,972 registrations, meaning we need to collect another 2,800 (est). The threshold represents 3% of total votes cast for US Senate. The numbers are estimated because the vote has yet to be certified. There is the possibility of legislative reform that would change this number to a flat 5,000 registrations, but we can't count on that.

Maryland – Full party status with 10,000 valid signatures by 8/2/10.

We can maintain ballot access with 1% of the vote for Governor. We can start now and should knock this out of the way as soon as possible.

Nebraska – Full party status with 5,921 valid signatures by 8/1/10.

We can maintain ballot access with 5% of the vote for any statewide office. There are six such offices available in 2010. Note that the signatures must meet a strict distribution requirement of at least 1% of the number of votes for Governor in each of the three Congressional districts. There is also a residency requirement for circulators. The Secretary of State has suggested legislative relief and continues to do so, but we can't count on the legislature following his advice.

New Hampshire – Statewide candidate with 3,000 valid signatures by 8/4/10.

Full party status can be gained with 4% of the vote for US Senate, which is on the ballot in 2010. We should run a strong candidate and attempt to gain full party status in New Hampshire. The alternative is a full party petition, which would require an estimated 21,590 valid signatures.

New Mexico – Full party status with 4,151 valid signatures by 4/1/10.

Ballot status is retained with 5% of the vote for President or Governor. This petition would be good for the following four years.

North Dakota – Full party status with 7,000 valid signatures by 4/9/10.

We can maintain ballot access with 5% of the vote for any statewide office. There are two available in 2010, Attorney General and Secretary of State.

Oklahoma – Full party status with 73,134 valid signatures by 5/1/10.

We should wait until the resolution of lawsuit currently in the US Court of Appeals over the legality of using out of state petitioners, which should be decided in the first half of 2009. If that ruling is favorable, we should start petitioning immediately. The number of signatures is based on the gubernatorial vote and will almost certainly rise after the 2010 elections. The petition would keep us on the ballot for 2012 if completed in time for 2010.

South Dakota – Full party status with 8,389 valid signatures by 3/23/10.

We already have 1,392 raw signatures in hand from our efforts in 2007-08. These are still good although they are getting stale. South Dakota has a residency requirement for petitioners, but it does not apply to party petitions due to a defect in the law. However, quite a number of professional petitioners happen to be South Dakota residents.

LNC action may be recommended sometime in 2009

Alabama – Full party status with 37,513 valid signatures by 6/1/10.

The state party has a plan to raise the funds and conduct this drive on their own. Unfortunately, they have entered into a contract with at least one petitioner we would not hire. This contract has performance metrics which may allow the state party to eventually get out of it. That would allow for national support of this drive.

Arizona – Full party status with 0.67% of voter registrations (20,015 est.) by 11/1/09.

The number is estimated because voter registration counts will change by November. This is also the threshold for ballot access on a county by county basis. (In other words, we need to meet the threshold statewide to run statewide candidates, and in a county to run local candidates.) We have 18,153 registered voters in Arizona as of 11/4/08.

The county and state parties generally take care of this and have funds to do so. I am helping them with leads on petitioners and will continue to monitor their progress.

District of Columbia – Full party ballot access with 7,500 votes for Mayor or City Council at-large.

This is conceivable considering parties may only run one candidate in the general election but you can vote for two. In 2006, that translated to 4.1% of the vote,

which all balloted candidates received. This is a 2010 election. If a good candidate could start soon, they would be worth supporting.

Maine – Full party status with 27,544 valid signatures by 12/11/09.

There are several restrictions on who can sign this petition, most notably that only registered independents and Libertarians are eligible to sign, which makes it much more difficult. If the state party were organized to the point where it could run a full slate, this option might be worthwhile. Otherwise we can continue to place our Presidential ticket on the ballot as an independent with 4,000 valid signatures in 2012. One significant advantage of simply notifying the state that we intend to conduct the full party petition is we would then be able to register to vote as Libertarians in Maine, ostensibly so that we could increase the pool of eligible petition signers.

Virginia – Statewide candidate with 10,000 valid signatures by 8/21/09.

Elections for Governor and state legislature are in 2009, with separate petitioning requirements for each office. If the LPVa can be induced to run a larger slate then it may be in our interest to assist them.

LNC action not recommended in 2009

Arkansas – Full party status with 10,000 valid signatures by 6/1/10.

Retention can be had with 3% of the vote for Governor. This is only worth doing if we have a strong candidate for Governor and/or an organized state party. Until either happens, our other option is a petition of 1,000 valid signatures for our Presidential ticket.

Connecticut – No full party status available, petitioning per candidate only.

Retention for each office can be maintained with 1% of the vote in the previous election. Otherwise each candidate must petition separately. We can start petitioning for Governor on 4/28/10. Our current court case may have great bearing on these procedures, as we are asking the whole petitioning process be struck down.

Illinois – Statewide slate with 25,000 valid signatures by 6/21/10.

Illinois has a 90 day window to collect signatures, which in 2010 will begin on 3/23/10. Full party ballot access can be won with 5% of the vote for any statewide office. In 2010 there will be seven statewide offices, including US Senate. We need to run a full slate in 2010 and attempt to avoid a petition drive in 2012.

Iowa – Candidate for Governor with 1,500 valid signatures by 8/13/10.

We can gain full party status with a 2% vote for President or Governor. We will need to run a strong candidate for Governor in 2010 who can get us 2%. In 2006, Kevin Litton received 0.5% for Governor.

Kentucky – Statewide slate with 5,000 valid signatures in 2011.

The next gubernatorial election is in 2011. Full party status can only be gained by 2% of the vote for President.

Minnesota – Each statewide candidate needs 2,000 valid signatures by 9/7/10.

Full party status can be gained with 5% of the vote for any statewide office, of which there are five available in 2010. A petition for full party ballot access is a ridiculous number of signatures (110,150 valid in 2008). We should run a full slate and attempt to gain ballot access in 2010 for 2012.

New York – Each statewide candidate needs 15,000 valid signatures by 8/17/10.

Full party status can be gained with 50,000 votes for Governor. Although that is a taller order in New York than most states, we should try to run a strong candidate and meet that threshold. Petitioning only takes place in a six week period which will begin on 7/6/10.

Pennsylvania – Statewide slate with 24,666 valid signatures (estimated) by 8/1/10.

In 2010, the statewide offices are Governor, Lt. Governor and US Senate. The number is from 2008. The new signature requirement will be calculated in December 2009. Full party status requires 15% of the registered voters.

Rhode Island – Full party status with 23,489 valid signatures by 5/28/10.

Retention can be had with 5% of the vote for Governor. This is only worth doing if we have a strong candidate for Governor and/or a stronger state party. Until either happens, our other option is a petition of 1,000 valid signatures for our Presidential ticket.

Tennessee – Full party status with 45,254 valid signatures (estimated).

The deadline is currently up in the air due to an ongoing lawsuit, with plaintiffs including the LP of Tennessee and represented by Jim Linger. Considering how high the petitioning barrier is and the strength of our case there, this is one instance where I would recommend we simply wait to see what we can get from the courts.

Washington – Each statewide candidate needs 1000 valid signatures by 8/17/10.

Full party status can be gained with 5% in any statewide election. The only statewide office on the ballot in 2010 is US Senate.

West Virginia – Statewide candidate with 15,118 valid signatures (estimated) by 8/1/12.

Retention is won with 1% of the vote for Governor. The next gubernatorial election is in 2012.

ON THE BALLOT

California – Full party status with 1% of last vote or 2% in any statewide election.

We had several candidates who received over 2% of the vote in statewide races in 2006, and this is achievable again with a full slate. If we somehow fail to meet the vote test in 2010, to maintain ballot status via party registration requires 88,991 registrations (est) by 1/27/12. We currently have 83,574. The state party generally takes care of registrations although I would be willing to offer them assistance if needed.

Colorado – Full party status with 1% in any statewide election or 1,000 vote registrations.

There are five statewide offices in 2010. In 2006, we ran in three of these and won 1.5% for Governor/Lt. Governor, 4.2% in a three way race for Attorney General, and 3.5% for University of Colorado Regent at-large. We have 10,950 registered Libertarians in Colorado as of 10/22/08.

Delaware – Full party status with 0.05% of registered voters.

The current number needed to maintain ballot access is 310 registered Libertarian voters. As of 11/4/08 we had 756.

Florida – Full party status by remaining organized.

They make up for it by having high filing fees.

Georgia – Can run statewide candidates if one received 1% in the previous election.

Allen Buckley got 3.4% in this election. There are nine statewide races in Georgia in 2010, including Governor and US Senate. District candidates have to complete a petition equal to 5% of the registered voters in the district as of the last election. The only way to gain full party ballot access in Georgia is to get 20% of the vote for President or Governor.

Hawaii – Full party status for 10 years by completing the petition three times in a row.

The petition requirement is 0.1% of registered voters, which currently would be an estimated 692 signatures. There are a number of ways to meet thresholds for retention, which would require either a strong statewide candidate or a full slate for state legislature. Hawaii law allows for a 10 year grace period after a party has completed the petition requirements for three elections and continues to run candidates. Our current grace period runs through 2012.

Idaho – Full party status is maintained by running at least three candidates for state or federal office every election.

We ran five candidates in 2008.

Indiana – Full party status with 2% of the vote for Secretary of State.

The state party will be concentrating heavily on this race in 2010, as they did with Mike Kole in 2006.

Kansas – Full party status with 1% in any statewide election.

There are six statewide offices, including US Senate, on the ballot in 2010. The state party regularly runs a full slate and meets this threshold.

Louisiana – Full party status with 1,000 registered voters.

As of 11/4/08 we had 2669 registered Libertarians.

Massachusetts – Full party status with 3% in any statewide election.

Robert Underwood received 3.2% for US Senate in 2008. There are six statewide offices on the ballot in 2010. With major party status comes new signature requirements to get individual candidates on the ballot. I am working with new Massachusetts LP Chair David Blau on a lobbying strategy to change this law. Our successful lawsuit over substitution in Massachusetts is helpful to start the conversation about ballot access reform, as the legislature will most likely have to act on that matter to comply with the court ruling.

Michigan – Full party status with votes equal to 1% of the Secretary of State winner's vote by any statewide candidate.

The state party regularly runs a full slate and easily achieves this threshold.

Missouri – Full party status with 2% in any statewide election in either of the last two elections.

The state party did not achieve this in 2008 so it is critical we do so in 2010. There are two statewide offices available in 2010, US Senate and State Auditor. Candidates for both offices in 2006 exceeded the 2% threshold.

Mississippi – Full party status by remaining organized.

We do need to make sure we stay organized in this state, although the state's rules on this are extremely flexible.

Montana – Full party status with votes equal to 5% of the Governor winner's vote by any statewide candidate in either of the last two elections.

Stan Jones kept us on through 2012 with 3% of the vote for Governor in 2008.

North Carolina – Full party status with 2% for President or Governor.

Mike Munger kept us on the ballot through 2012 with 2.9% for Governor in 2008.

Nevada – Full party status with votes equal to 1% of the total votes for US House.

Nathan Santucci kept us on the ballot with 22.3% in a two-way State Assembly race. That's a pretty strong incentive to run a full slate in Nevada.

Ohio – There is no law.

We have ballot status in Ohio thanks to our legal victory in 2008. The state legislature must replace ballot access laws which were previously struck down in

court. The impact of our win in court is that the Secretary of State may not make up new rules to replace these laws. The LPO is very active in lobbying and will be working with state legislators to replace the laws, but until they do all we need to do is nominate our candidates in convention.

Oregon – Full party status with votes equal to 1% of the total votes for US House in any statewide office.

There are four statewide offices available in 2010, including US Senate. This is a bit of a concern because we had no statewide candidates in Oregon in 2008. We will need to make sure we run a full statewide slate in 2010.

South Carolina – Full party status by remaining organized.

There are very specific laws in SC mandating how to organize the state party, which the LPSC follows.

Texas – Full party status with 5% in any statewide election or 2% for Governor.

There are many statewide offices available in Texas and our state party there is renowned for filling the slate to take advantage of it. There is already one very active candidate for Governor, Jeff Daiell.

Utah – Full party status with votes equal to 2% of the total votes for US House in any statewide office.

Mike Stoddard kept us on the ballot with 6.1% for State Auditor in 2008.

Vermont – Full party status by remaining organized.

We need to remain organized in 10 towns to stay on the ballot.

Wisconsin – Full party status with 1% for any statewide office in either of the last two elections.

There are seven statewide offices available in 2010, including US Senate. There were no statewide offices available in 2008, so it is imperative we run a full slate in 2010.

Wyoming – Full party status with 2% for US House, Governor or Secretary of State.

David Herbert kept us on the ballot with 5% for US House in 2008.

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CANDIDATE RESULTS 2008

These are quite extensively covered in the most recent LP News, but I did want to highlight a few of these results.

We had 21 winners on November 4, bringing our total for the year to 29 election victories:

NOVEMBER WINNERS

Arizona

Peter Schmerl, Green Valley Continental School Board
John Buttrick, Maricopa County Superior Court Judge

California

Tom Tryon, Calaveras County Supervisor, District 4
Frank Manske, Mount Diablo Healthcare District
John Inks, Mountain View City Council
Norm Westwell, Ocean View School District Board of Trustees
Brian Holtz, Purissima Hills Water District
Kate O'Brien, Simi Valley Recreation and Parks District Supervisor
Jonathan Hall, Tehachapi Cummings County Water District Supervisor

Florida

Bruce Reichert, Collier County Soil & Water Board, Seat 1
J Adam Mitchell, Collier County Soil & Water Board, Seat 4
Jeff Hunt, Duval County Soil & Water Board, Group 2
Jack Tanner, Lee County Soil & Water Board, Seat 4
Scott McPherson, New Port Richey Mayor
Howard Horowitz, Palm Beach County Soil & Water Board, Group 4
Tracy Lundquist, West Volusia County Hospital Authority, Group A, Seat 1

Kansas

Frederick Campbell, Anderson County Attorney (partisan)

Maine

Bob Mills, Biddeford City Council, at-large

North Carolina

Mike Helms, Cabarrus County Board of Education

This brings our total number of elected Libertarians in office to 207. That number will slightly decrease in January as some terms end and the list undergoes an annual audit. With Operation ELECT-US, we hope to increase this number significantly.

We also had candidates in 10 states who secured statewide ballot access with their results:

BALLOT ACCESS WINNERS

Georgia – Allen Buckley, US Senate

Kansas – Randall Hodgkinson, US Senate

Massachusetts – Robert Underwood, US Senate

Michigan – Scotty Boman, US Senate

Montana – Stan Jones, Governor

North Carolina – Mike Munger, Governor

Nevada – Nathan Santucci, State Assembly, District 22

Texas – William Bryan Strange, Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9

Utah – Mike Stoddard, State Auditor

Wyoming – David Herbert, US House

It sure is nice to see North Carolina on that list. Mike Munger's example is one I hope to follow in a number of other states where we can gain statewide ballot access with 2% of the gubernatorial vote.

Overall we know of 679 Libertarian candidates on the ballot in 2008, not including those who ran write-in campaigns or lost in primaries.

OPERATION ELECT-US

We are already starting to recruit candidates for 2009 and 2010. Beyond this pool of 679 candidates in 2008, as well as people who have run in prior elections, we have been running web ads which ask people to run for office. As of 11/30/08, this has generated 734 good leads (after weeding out the jokes and the candidates for President).

Every person who has filled out this form or contacted us some other way with an interest in running for office has received a personal reply from me, with a copy to the relevant state Chair or designee. This response is designed to make introductions and get the prospective candidate to become active in their local party as a way to get started running for office.

Elections in 2009 are much more of a moving target. Filing has already begun in Maryland for local offices, and starts on Monday, December 8th, in Illinois. We already have a number of candidates who have started running, including a few incumbents in Illinois.

Most filing periods however take place in the early spring with elections later in the year. There are also partisan state level races in a few states in 2009. I'll be spending the vast majority of my time for the next few months working these leads, matching prospective candidates with races and getting them started, working with state parties to vet these candidates and get them active in state and local party building, and developing candidate support materials for local and district elections.

I will also be sending out this month Thank You letters to our candidates as well as our Presidential electors.

It continues to be an honor to serve the Libertarian Party in this role.

Appendix 1: Current State-by-State Ballot Status

OFF THE BALLOT (or close to it)

LNC action recommended in 2009:

Alaska – Full party status with 9,752 registrations (est) as of 6/5/09.

We currently have 6,972 registrations, meaning we need to collect another 2,800 (est). The threshold represents 3% of total votes cast for US Senate. The numbers are estimated because the vote has yet to be certified.

Hawaii – Full party status with 692 valid signatures (est) by 4/2/10.

The petition requirement is 0.1% of registered voters. The estimate is based on the number as of 11/4/08. There are a number of ways to meet thresholds for retention, which would require either a strong statewide candidate or a full slate for state legislature.

******Maine** – Full party status with 27,544 valid signatures (est) by 12/14/09.

This is under the old statute which has been repealed.

Maryland – Full party status with 10,000 valid signatures by 8/2/10.

We can maintain ballot access with 1% of the vote for Governor. We can start now and should knock this out of the way as soon as possible.

Nebraska – Full party status with 5,921 valid signatures by 8/1/10.

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New Hampshire – Statewide candidate with 3,000 valid signatures by 8/4/10.

Full party status can be gained with 4% of the vote for US Senate, which is on the ballot in 2010. We should run a strong candidate and attempt to gain full party status in New Hampshire. The alternative is a full party petition, which would require an estimated 21,590 valid signatures.

New Mexico – Full party status with 2,794 valid signatures by 4/1/10.

Ballot status is retained with 5% of the vote for President or Governor. This petition would be good for the following four years.

North Dakota – Full party status with 7,000 valid signatures by 4/9/10.

We can maintain ballot access with 5% of the vote for any statewide office. There are two available in 2010, Attorney General and Secretary of State.

Oklahoma – Full party status with 46,324 valid signatures by 5/1/10.

We should wait until the resolution of lawsuit currently in the US Court of Appeals over the legality of using out of state petitioners, which should be decided in the first half of 2009. If that ruling is favorable, we should start petitioning immediately. The number of signatures is based on the gubernatorial vote and will almost certainly rise after the 2010 elections. The petition would keep us on the ballot for 2012 if completed in time for 2010.

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LNC action may be recommended sometime in 2009:

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Connecticut – No full party status available, petitioning per candidate only.

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Illinois has a 90 day window to collect signatures, which in 2010 will begin on 3/23/10. Full party ballot access can be won with 5% of the vote for any statewide office. In 2010 there will be seven statewide offices, including US Senate. We need to run a full slate in 2010 and attempt to avoid a petition drive in 2012.

Iowa – Candidate for Governor with 1,500 valid signatures by 8/13/10.

We can gain full party status with a 2% vote for President or Governor. We will need to run a strong candidate for Governor in 2010 who can get us 2%. In 2006, Kevin Litton received 0.5% for Governor.

Kentucky – Statewide slate with 5,000 valid signatures in 2011.

The next gubernatorial election is in 2011. Full party status can only be gained by 2% of the vote for President.

Minnesota – Each statewide candidate needs 2,000 valid signatures by 9/7/10.

Full party status can be gained with 5% of the vote for any statewide office, of which there are five available in 2010. A petition for full party ballot access is a ridiculous

number of signatures (110,150 valid in 2008). We should run a full slate and attempt to gain ballot access in 2010 for 2012.

New York – Each statewide candidate needs 15,000 valid signatures by 8/17/10.

Full party status can be gained with 50,000 votes for Governor. Although that is a taller order in New York than most states, we should try to run a strong candidate and meet that threshold. Petitioning only takes place in a six week period which will begin on 7/6/10.

Pennsylvania – Statewide slate with 24,666 valid signatures (estimated) by 8/1/10.

In 2010, the statewide offices are Governor, Lt. Governor and US Senate. The number is from 2008. The new signature requirement will be calculated in December 2009. Full party status requires 15% of the registered voters.

Rhode Island – Full party status with 18,557 valid signatures (estimated) by 5/28/10.

Retention can be had with 5% of the vote for Governor. This is only worth doing if we have a strong candidate for Governor and/or a stronger state party. Until either happens, our other option is a petition of 1,000 valid signatures for our Presidential ticket.

******Tennessee** – Full party status with 45,254 valid signatures (estimated).

The deadline is currently up in the air due to an ongoing lawsuit, with plaintiffs including the LP of Tennessee.

Washington – Each statewide candidate needs 1000 valid signatures by 8/17/10.

Full party status can be gained with 5% in any statewide election. The only statewide office on the ballot in 2010 is US Senate.

West Virginia – Statewide candidate with 15,118 valid signatures (estimated) by 8/1/12.

Retention is won with 1% of the vote for Governor. The next gubernatorial election is in 2012.

ON THE BALLOT

California – Full party status with 1% of last vote or 2% in any statewide election.

We had several candidates who received over 2% of the vote in statewide races in 2006, and this is achievable again with a full slate. To maintain ballot status via party registration requires 88,991 registrations (est) by 1/22/10. We currently have 83,574. The state party generally takes care of registrations although I will be willing to offer them assistance if needed.

Colorado – Full party status with 1% in any statewide election or 1,000 vote registrations.

There are five statewide offices in 2010. In 2006, we ran in three of these and won 1.5% for Governor/Lt. Governor, 4.2% in a three way race for Attorney General, and 3.5% for University fo Colorado Regent at-large. We have 10,950 regsitered Libertarians in Colorado as of 10/22/08.

Delaware – Full party status with 0.05% of registered voters.

The current number needed to maintain ballot access is 302 registered Libertarian voters. As of 3/1/08 we had 792. New numbers should be available in December.

Florida – Full party status by remaining organized

They make up for it by having high filing fees.

Georgia – Can run statewide candidates if one received 1% in the previous election.

Allen Buckley got 3.4% in this election. There are nine statewide races in Georgia in 2010, including Governor and US Senate. District candidates have to complete a petition equal to 5% of the registered voters in the district as of the last election. The only way to gain full party ballot access in Georgia is to get 20% of the vote for President or Governor.

Idaho – Full party status is maintained by running at least three candidates for state or federal office every election.

We ran five candidates in 2008.

Indiana – Full party status with 2% of the vote for Secretary of State.

The state party will be concentrating heavily on this race in 2010, as they did with Mike Kole in 2006.

Kansas – Full party status with 1% in any statewide election.

There are six statewide offices, including US Senate, on the ballot in 2010. The state party regularly runs a full slate and meets this threshold.

Louisiana – Full party status with 1,000 registered voters.

As of 3/1/08 we had 1975 registered Libertarians. New numbers should be made pblic in early December.

Massachusetts – Full party status with 3% in any statewide election.

Robert Underwood received 3.2% for US Senate in 2008. There are six statewide offices on the ballot in 2010. With major party status comes new signature requirements to get individual candidates on the ballot. I am working with new Massachusetts LP Chair David Blau on a lobbying strategy to change this law. Our successful lawsuit over substitution in Massachusetts is helpful to start the conversation about ballot access reform, as the legislature will most likely have to act on that matter to comply with the court ruling.

Michigan – Full party status with votes equal to 1% of the Secretary of State winner's vote by any statewide candidate.

The state party regularly runs a full slate and easily achieves this threshold.

Missouri – Full party status with 2% in any statewide election in either of the last two elections.

The state party did not achieve this in 2008 so it is critical we do so in 2010. There are two statewide offices available in 2010, US Senate and State Auditor. Candidates for both offices in 2006 exceeded the 2% threshold.

******Mississippi** – Full party status by remaining organized.

We do need to make sure we stay organized in this state.

Montana – Full party status with votes equal to 5% of the Governor winner's vote by any statewide candidate in either of the last two elections.

Stan Jones kept us on through 2012 with 3% of the vote for Governor in 2008.

North Carolina – Full party status with 2% for President or Governor.

Mike Munger kept us on the ballot through 2012 with 2.9% for Governor in 2008.

Nevada – Full party status with votes equal to 1% of the total votes for US House.

Nathan Santucci kept us on the ballot with 22.3% in a two-way State Assembly race. That's a pretty strong incentive to run a full slate in Nevada.

Ohio – There is no law.

We have ballot status in Ohio thanks to our legal victory in 2008. The state legislature must replace ballot access laws which were previously struck down in court. The impact of our win in court is that the Secretary of State may not make up new rules to replace these laws. The LPO is very active in lobbying and will be working with state legislators

to replace the laws, but until they do all we need to do is nominate our candidates in convention.

Oregon – Full party status with votes equal to 1% of the total votes for US House in any statewide office.

There are four statewide offices available in 2010, including US Senate. This is a bit of a concern because we had no statewide candidates in Oregon in 2008. We will need to make sure we run a full statewide slate in 2010.

South Carolina – Full party status by remaining organized.

There are very specific laws in SC mandating how to organize the state party, which the LPSC follows.

Texas – Full party status with 5% in any statewide election or 2% for Governor.

There are many statewide offices available in Texas and our state party there is renowned for filling the slate to take advantage of it. There is already one very active candidate for Governor, Jeff Daiell.

Utah – Full party status with votes equal to 2% of the total votes for US House in any statewide office.

Mike Stoddard kept us on the ballot with 6.1% for State Auditor in 2008.

Vermont – Full party status by remaining organized.

We need to remain organized in 10 towns to stay on the ballot.

Wisconsin – Full party status with 1% for any statewide office in either of the last two elections.

There are seven statewide offices available in 2010, including US Senate. There were no statewide offices available in 2008, so it is imperative we run a full slate in 2010.

Wyoming – Full party status with 2% for US House, Governor or Secretary of State.

David Herbert kept us on the ballot with 5% for US House in 2008.

Appendix 2: State-by-State Ballot Access

<u>state</u>	<u>status</u>	<u>full party requirements (estimated)</u>	<u>deadline</u>	<u>notes</u>	<u>other retention</u>	
Alabama	off	yes	37513 signatures	6/1/2010	state plan	full party with 10% for Pres or Gov
Alaska	on	yes	9468 registered	8/6/2009	have 6972 as of 11/18/08	3% Senate vote
Arkansas	off	yes	10000 signatures	6/1/2010	1000 per statewide candidate	
Arizona	on	yes	20015 registered	11/1/2009	have 18153 as of 11/4/08	.67% total reg
California	on	yes	88991 registered	1/22/2010	have 83574 as of 10/20/08	1% last Gov vote reg or 2% any statewide
Colorado	on	yes	1000 registered	safe	have 10950 as of 10/22/08	
Connecticut	off	no	7500 sigs/candidate	8/4/2010		
District of Columbia	off	no	3900 signatures (est)	8/17/2010	ballot access is per candidate	7500 votes for Mayor or City Council at-large
Delaware	on	yes	302 registered	8/12/2010	have 729 as of 3/1/08	
Florida	on	yes	be organized	safe	high filing fees	
Georgia	on	no	1% any statewide	7/8/2010	ballot access is per candidate	full party with 20% for Pres or Gov
Hawaii	off	yes	692 signatures (est)	4/2/2010		several options wth full slate
Idaho	on	yes	run 3 candidates	safe		
Illinois	off	no	25000 signatures	6/21/2010	petition is for statewide slate	5% any statewide
Indiana	on	yes	2% for Sec State	safe		
Iowa	off	yes	1500 signatures	8/13/2010	petition is for statewide office	2% for Pres or Gov
Kansas	on	yes	1% any statewide	safe		
Kentucky	off	no	5000 signatures	8/28/2012		2% for Pres
Louisiana	on	yes	1000 registered	safe	have 1975 as of 3/1/08	
Massachusetts	on	yes	3% statewide	safe		
Maryland	off	yes	10000 signatures	8/2/2010		1% Gov
Maine	off	yes	27544 signatures	12/14/2009		law repealed, replaced with ????
Michigan	on	yes	1% Sec State winner's vote	safe		
Missouri	on	yes	2% any statewide	safe		
Minnesota	off	no	2000 signatures	9/7/2010	sigs per statewide candidate	5% any statewide
Mississippi	on	yes	be organized	safe		law repealed, replaced with ????
Montana	on	yes	5% Gov winner's vote	safe		
North Carolina	on	yes	2% for Pres or Gov	safe		
North Dakota	off	yes	7000 signatures	4/9/2010		5% any statewide
Nebraska	off	yes	5921 signatures	8/1/2010		5% any statewide
New Hampshire	off	yes	21590 signatures (est)	8/6/2010	3000 per statewide candidate	4% Gov or US Senate
New Jersey	off	no	800 signatures	7/30/2010	petition is for statewide office	10% statewide for State House
New Mexico	off	yes	2794 signatures	4/1/2010		5% Gov or Pres
New York	off	no	15,000 signatures	8/17/2010	per candidate	50K votes for Gov

Appendix 2: State-by-State Ballot Access

state	status	full party requirements (estimated)	deadline	notes	other retention
Nevada	on	yes 1% US House vote	safe		
Ohio	on	yes court ruling			
Oklahoma	off	yes 46,324 signatures	5/1/2010		
Oregon	on	yes 1% US House vote	safe		
Pennsylvania	off	no 24,666 signatures (est)	8/1/2010	petition is for statewide office	
Rhode Island	off	no 18,557 signatures	5/28/2010	1000 per statewide candidate	5% for Gov
South Carolina	on	yes be organized	safe		
South Dakota	off	yes 8,389 signatures	3/23/2010	1392 in hand	2.5% for Gov
Tennessee	off	no 45,254 signatures (est)	in court		5% statewide
Texas	on	yes 43991	safe		5% statewide or 2% Gov
Utah	on	yes 2,000 signatures	safe		2% US House vote
Virginia	off	no 10,000 signatures	8/21/2009	petition is for statewide office	
Vermont	on	yes be organized	safe		
Washington	off	no 1,000 signatures	7/24/2010	petition is for statewide office	5% statewide
Wisconsin	on	yes 10000	safe	1% statewide	
West Virginia	off	no 15,118 signatures (est)	8/1/2012	petition is for statewide office	1% Gov
Wyoming	on	yes 2% US House, Gov or Sec St	safe		

Direct Marketing Manager's Report

By Louise Calise

Overview

In 2007 I revitalized the direct mail and telemarketing programs. The best result of the revitalizing is that now procedures are in place and schedules maintained. This allowed 2008 to be good for our direct mail and telemarketing programs.

Since national elections are over we now need to write about and raise funds based on campaigns won, local and state campaigns that will happen in 2009 and the costs of our legal battles with some states over ballot access. I am ready for the challenge.

House Appeals

So far this year (as of 11/6/08) we netted almost \$250,000 from house solicitations alone. Going forward I am going to test a segment of our house file of 0-3 month donors. In other words, when doing the file pull for house mailings I am going to pull donors who have contributed within the last 3 months out separately from the other donors so we can get a true picture of how many (if any) of our donors give to direct mail appeals within a three month time. If our donors do not contribute more than once within three months, then when doing a file pull for house appeals I will omit donors of the past three months. This will save money and be more cost-effective. However, these donors will still be receiving LP News with a wallet BRE inserted.

Speaking of LP News with the wallet BRE inserted – this is proving to be effective for fundraising. I began this in September 2008 and so far to date we have received a total of almost \$10,000.00. Although this does not put the newsletter in the black at this time, I believe it will continue to be successful and be more cost-effective as we move forward and continue to insert the BRE.

In analyzing the results of our 2008 house appeals, I can see that our members respond best to petitions enclosed in the package, or some kind of interactive reply device. Because of this I will be constantly looking for issues to have petitions signed for (i.e. petition regarding economy and/or another regarding Afghanistan).

I recognized that members, who have expired 2 months before mailing a renewal notice to them, do not rejoin at a response rate for the mailing to be cost-effective; yet, members respond better to mail than telephone calls. Therefore, I am presently working on a new package for members who have expired 1 month before a renewal mailing so that I can bring up the number of these respondents and not have to mail to those who have expired 2 months before.

Prospecting

In 2007 we mailed six prospect appeals. While the percent of return (0.33%) for these were very poor the average gift (\$51.64) was good. In reviewing gifts that followed from the members who first responded to any one of our prospecting appeals, we have an additional 117 gifts, representing \$15,466 (in addition to the contributions for the first gift). So in the long run our prospecting appeals for 2007 have grossed \$30,084, with an average gift of \$41.97. More importantly we have added additional members to the file.

So far in 2008 we mailed thirteen prospect appeals. Only three appeals were to donors of other organizations. While the percent of return (1.40%) is higher than 2007 and the average gift is down (\$38.85 from \$51.64), the last appeal is still coming back. So I believe the average gift will rise. Additional gifts from these new members are 175, representing an additional \$3,295. So in the long run our 2008 prospecting appeals to date have grossed \$12,778, with an average gift of \$30.28. Again, please remember that the average gift will rise as more money comes in from the last appeal. Also, a new prospect package is going to mail on or about January 14, 2009.

For 2009 I anticipate mailing at least a total quantity of 180,000 names with an estimate return of just under 1%. This will give us an estimated 1,400 new members.

Telemarketing

In 2007 we used telemarketing efforts for renewals, ballot access and tested it for prospecting. We realized that doing telemarketing for prospecting does not work.

Therefore, in 2008 we used telemarketing only for renewals and "additional gift" (ballot access). For 2009 we will continue doing the same in a limited way plus try two trials on getting current members to join our pledge club.

Internet Fundraising

So far this year we have raised a total of \$385,812 over the internet (\$272,227 since the launch of the new site in June); whereas, in 2007 we raised a total of \$186,570. Andrew Davis has been putting out internet blasts that give people information and updates on issues and within the blast always asks for a donation. So this process of doing email blasts is working well – thanks to Andrew for writing and thanks to Robert for pressing Andrew to write. When I speak with a member and when I mail appeals I always ask for an email address so they can be updated and added as we move forward.

LNC "Give or Get Program"

As of November 20, 2008 the Give or Get Program numbers are:

Sum of Gift Amount	Give/Get			
Board Member	Get	Give	Grand Total	Goal
Aaron Starr	1,240	6,060	7,300	10,000
Angela Keaton		0	0	0
Berlie R. Etzel		25	25	0
Bob Jackson		0	0	0
Daniel M. Karlan		500	500	2,500
George Squires		0	0	0
Hardy A. Macia		5,668	5,668	10,000
Heather Scott		686	686	0
Jake Porter	35	0	35	0
James W. Lark		6,000	6,000	10,000
Julia Fox		200	200	2,000
Lee Wrights		0	0	0
Mark W. Hinkle		150	150	5,000
Mary Ruwart	50	100	150	0
Michael C. Colley		1,642	1,642	5,000
Michael P. Jingoian		1,818	1,818	5,000
Patrick J. Dixon	225	770	995	5,000
R. A. Ryan		1,530	1,530	2,500
Rachel Hawkridge	50	68	118	1,000
Rebecca Sink-Burris	449	678	1,127	1,000
Robert Sullentrup	220	245	465	2,000
Scott Lieberman		400	400	1,000
Steve LaBianca		0	0	0
Stewart Flood	175		175	10,000
William B. Redpath		26,857	26,857	10,000
(blank)			0	
Grand Total	2,444	53,395	55,839	82,000

2009 Proposed Mail Schedule

Please see attached.

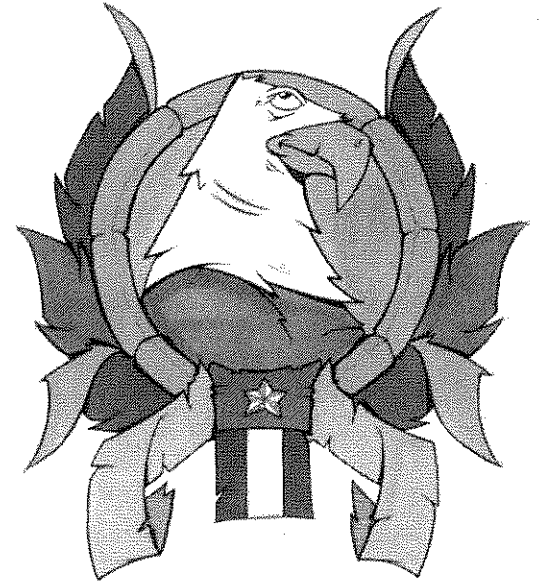
Conclusion

Without at least the \$500,000 for the 2009 direct mail marketing budget Aaron has proposed, I cannot promise to make all of the above happen. I do wish to achieve all that I have put forward, but need the help of the board in approving the budget and raising funds themselves through the Give or Get program.

Thank you all, Louise

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Volunteer Coordinator

Staff Report for the Libertarian National
Committee

11/25/08

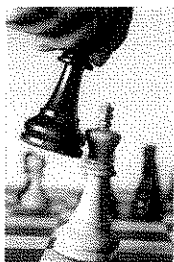
Victory in defeat

In 2002 I authored a play on the subject of 9/11 titled, "Phoenix Down," which was in reference to the mythical bird of Egyptian Folklore. The Phoenix of legend burns brightly as it famously dies in a flash of flames and turns to ash. The title was descriptive of the phase of the birds' life cycle where it was destroyed. But, as I will point out and those who are well aware know, we are not finished. In fact, from looking at the volunteer numbers, we've just begun.

Obviously I am disappointed in the election results of the 2008 election, but I feel that with better planning, and stronger state organization/participation in key areas, we can achieve greater results. Also, I will propose risk-taking strategies that I feel would be useful for long term sustained growth in the party. (more activism)

"Pieces on the chessboard"

Fall 2008 -- *Continued Ambassadorship*



Since the previous report was issued in September, I have been very active in representing the Libertarian Party at formal and informal events. The European Union sent legislators and ambassadors to the United States to observe our electoral process, and I was asked to present a report to them detailing the challenges faced by our party in the current cycle. After it was over I was given invitations to dine with senators from Holland. I actively maintain my connections with several of these politicians.

By representing the party at events, I have made friends with many well-placed conservatives such as Michael Ostrolenk and constituents from the NTU. Also I am actively working with Alex McCobin, Executive Director of the Students For Liberty. McCobin heads Students for Liberty from the Cato Institute, and I am currently producing a television commercial for his group as a gesture of goodwill and to further integrate our efforts to accomplish common goals. I feel that this will be a very beneficial relationship for the future of the party.

Recently in Washington D.C. the heads of state from 20 nations held a World Financial Summit to discuss the financial crisis. Concerned that they would institute un-libertarian monetary policies I began to privately piece together a plan to counter-act this by forming a delegation of like-minded economists and politicians to attend the summit and speak on behalf of our issues. Initial interest in the now defunct project code-named, "Project Midas," was high. Initially I sought the appointment to the delegation of Dr. Ron Paul. Although I knew that I had a high probability of failure, my alternative motive succeeded. I was able to patch up relations with Jesse Benton, as I know that it will be important to the future of our movement to have good relations with the Paul camp. Also on this panel I sought out scholars from Cato, and reached out to Lew Rockwell at Mises and had a nice conversation with him about the project. Although he did not want to be directly involved he did say he would ask his scholars if they would be interested in participating. At present I now have my foot in the door with respectable libertarian organizations and personalities as well as conservative orgs like NTU, and the Leadership Institute. Although the Federal Government rejected my petitions to accept a panel of hard money scholars, the effort I believe, was worth it.

Operation, "*Unite the Clans*," a ten-year plan to create flexible relationship based alliances with major Libertarian organizations is in the works (though not ready to be unveiled), and could provide future growth by creating networks that unite Reason, Cato, Mises, CFL, and the LP behind common banners for common goals. Although there are legitimate divides and personality based conflicts between these groups, I am of the opinion that sowing the seeds of personal relationships now, will pay off in dividends for the future.

It is in this way that I continue to build my network of friends and allies that will be handy for future projects and activism.

The Barr Campaign

Eighteen days before the November Elections, I was called upon to lead the phone banking efforts that were to take place a week before the election. During the time I was there, I was called to serve the campaign in other ways as well. Three separate college campuses had scheduled Barr events in Georgia, and my intern Mikael Sandstrom and I were dispatched to draw crowds. Two of the events were extremely successful, the Kennesaw event, and the Georgia Tech event. The University of Georgia event was plagued with problems in that we were unable to spread the word soon enough about Barr's appearance, the event was in an auditorium to the extreme rear of campus and difficult to locate, also a mazelike science exhibit was constructed in the galleria outside of the event. It was nearly impossible to find. However, in these mistakes, I was able to learn proper techniques for packing out events. On Georgia Tech, Mikael and I observed Democrats with their table conversing with one another and other supporters on their own. Determined not to slack, Mikael and I directly engaged with students walking by. We used quick, planned out phrases that were specifically targeted to reach the students general demographic. Things like:

- Bring the troops home, end the war on drugs, and abolish the income tax.
- We think the government is taking way too much of our money, and way too much of our freedoms
- Ever hear of the Libertarians?
- The most useful phrase... "Do you have an open mind?"

Asking passers by if they had an open mind while smiling and handing them a flyer for the event was the most successful phrase we used. Most people said that they did, and were their interest was immediately piqued as to why someone would ask them that, and many of those people stopped to ask questions. On the other hand, there were many people who flat out said "No." This was good, because we wouldn't want to waste our time on those who don't care anyway. I found myself many times replying, "At least you're honest."

Like any other sales business, politics is a numbers game. Recruitment for events was higher the more people we spoke to. Regardless of the high amounts of disinterest, the smaller numbers of new Libertarian volunteers were worth the effort expanded on reaching out to large numbers of crowds.

The Phone Bank operation was hindered in that we were required to purchase very expensive lists. In that way we were unable to target the seven states that we initially wanted. Finally after much back and forth at the campaign, it was decided that we would focus solely on Georgia. Mikael and I immediately set about the task of finding volunteers, but it was too late. Many wrote back that they were already committed to other projects. If we had contacted them earlier they might have had time to make calls for us. I believe that in the future, advance planning will make the difference between success and failure in these phone bank projects. To his credit, my intern was the highest volume caller for the Barr campaign, with myself coming in as second. The county where we concentrated our phone calls with our tight knit group of volunteers were able to affect the outcome positively in regards to other counties where we did not call.

Also, during the campaign I was able to learn valuable knowledge of how to organize professional canvassing efforts. From my recent training at the Leadership Institute, I was able to work with Mikael to create walking lists with detailed maps of registered voters for canvassers to walk. In this way I was able to lay the groundwork for future national plans to target select precincts, and to train grassroots coordinators on how to make these operations successful. Volunteers who walked the precincts recorded valuable information that they returned to HQ about what people were voting for, and who in some cases.

Voters were very friendly to Libertarian canvassers, and those who participated were pleased with the fact that they were able to convert some voters who were looking for nothing more than a face to face contact from us to change their minds.

Volunteer Progress

I have now been employed with the Libertarian Party for almost a year now. In the past year, I have seen substantial progress in the amount of volunteers who have joined the party, and the conversion of those volunteers dues paying members. Working with my intern, Mark Meranta, I have been able to boost productivity, and increase volunteer sign ups substantially. Obviously in an election year, volunteer sign ups are bound to increase with even little to no effort on my part. However, 2007 was a hot election year, and our progress was possibly held up by Ron Pauls campaign. I have worked hard to bring these people into our party. Here's a summary of my results this past year.

	New to the LP Volunteers 2008			New to the LP Non Vol Inquiries				
	"VOL" New to LP	Converted to Active MEM	Conv %	Total \$ Raised	Non VOL Inquires	Converted to Active MEM	Conv %	Total \$ Raised
1-07 to 12-07	745	83	11%	\$3,608.84	2309	15	1%	\$538.95
01-08	101	24	24%					
02-08	68	28	41%					
03-08	56	19	34%					
04-08	109	25	23%					
05-08	182	45	25%					
06-08	195	51	26%					
07-08	248	42	17%					
08-08	236	36	15%					
09-08	318	58	18%					
10-08	<u>589</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>10%</u>					
1-08 to 10-08	2102	385	18%	\$18,299.05	3216	36	1%	\$1,262.52

As these charts show, I have more than doubled the amount of volunteers that have joined the Libertarian Party. Looking at the difference in the months of February and March, the surge in amounts is related to a craigslist based guerrilla advertisement campaign for new recruits. This continued until September, when our ballot access had been secured, and we were moving on to other projects.

Also, the conversion rate for Volunteers to active members was over three times higher in 2008 than it was in 2007. The total amount raised from these volunteers is also very marked in contrast to previous years. \$18,299 was the total brought in from volunteers as opposed to those who were non-volunteers (general inquiries). I believe that these results show positive progress towards our goals, but that there is always room for improvement.

In order to build on these results, I would like to bring in more unpaid volunteers to increase the size and scope of my guerrilla ad campaigns. The targets will be to again write highly charged political advertisements that bring traffic to our website, attention to our issues, volunteers to our affiliates, and money to our campaigns and party. With my increased contacts, and heightened knowledge and training after the previous year, I believe this can be done.

Activism

Volunteerism and activism go hand in hand. The people who volunteer their time and effort for the Libertarian Party are increasingly interested in forming new alliances with left/right groups that stand on the same side of the ideological divide as we do. Naomi Wolf is a good example of a prominent left-winger who has become sympathetic to Libertarian ideals.

It is my opinion that we should more actively support volunteer outreach efforts through events, and protests. We should be more open to engaging our activists in things like referendums and initiatives. Having the Libertarian Party openly

sponsor issue based referendums on state ballots, and offering help with petitioning to piggy back with our volunteers would be something that places trust in the National Organization and increase goodwill across the nation for all tax paying citizens.

More side projects, plans, ideas.

- Also, I plan on expanding my Youtube video series to include weekly or bi-weekly webcasts featuring interviews with prominent politicians and luminaries of the movement, as well as providing useful training tips for how to organize grassroots campaigns. These videos will be a permanent part of the LP's repertoire and will be functional and useful regardless of my future participation or ability to lead.
- Unpaid Interns are starting to work at the LP after the holiday season from American University in DC. I have offered them to come and work in the office to train them on how to organize their college Libertarian clubs. This will be a valuable program that I am planning to put together. Interns who would like first hand training on how to organize their college and local clubs will be working directly with me in the office to learn cutting edge techniques, and this will also be helpful in growing our base.
- I am currently seeking investors for a gold mine in Colorado. At the Libertarian National Convention in Denver Colorado, I was introduced to a mining company that was seeking venture capital for production of several mills. At this time I am currently negotiating the sale of these mines to investors, and am the chief political consultant on the project. I am documenting this entire transaction and creating a small book that will track the progress of the sale and future valuations of the metals from these mines. Should the sale be finalized, I will eventually publish a book that details the Libertarian argument for gold ownership, the performance of these metals, and the financial consequences of government intervention in free markets compared to other commodities and stocks. Here's an excerpt from that book.

In his run for the White House, Republican Congressman Ron Paul repeatedly invoked the Federal Reserve as the primary culprit for the economic woes that Americans are currently experiencing. Indeed, current Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, speaking about the Great Depression in a speech to Milton Friedman (author of Monetary history of the US) famously said, "We did it, we caused it, and we're sorry."

Unfortunately, it looks like they are "doing it" again.

In this paper I draw the corollary that increased government intervention into free markets will likely further destabilize the dollar, signaling sustained high prices for gold and other precious metals in the near future (3-5 years). These projections are based on Free Market business cycle theory derived from studying economics in the tradition of the Austrian School."

- The Libertarian National Convention 2012

It is my intention that the next Libertarian National Convention include panels, workshops, lectures, debates, and classes provided to delegates and candidates. I intend to cultivate my relationships with the CATO institute so that we may invite their speakers to address our delegation on policy issues. It is my hope that some of these scholars will take some of their time to register as delegates themselves, cast a vote, and join the party. Also, I believe we should bring in teachers from the Leadership institute to give grassroots training classes to our party members. This would be extremely helpful, and at a minimum of cost, would pay off in spades with our candidates receiving valuable training for their campaigns. Several of the teachers I have worked with there are very sympathetic to our cause, and would most likely become delegates as well. As I continue to insinuate myself into this organization, I believe they will be a very strong ally of our party should we play our politics correctly.