



LIBERTARIAN

PARTY of NEVADA

www.LPNevada.org

Upcoming Events

3 Sunday Football Week 17

Come out for ice cold, discounted beers and some great football at Loose Caboose in Las Vegas, NV. Starts at 1 pm.

5 First Tuesday Libertarian Social

Our monthly 1st Tuesday get together at Jalisco Mexican Cantina in Las Vegas, NV. Free food and great conversation, 6-9 pm.

9 Northern Nevada Meet and Greet

An exciting chance to get together in North Nevada. This month's topic is Government Disfunction. 4 pm at Mi Casa Too in Reno, NV.

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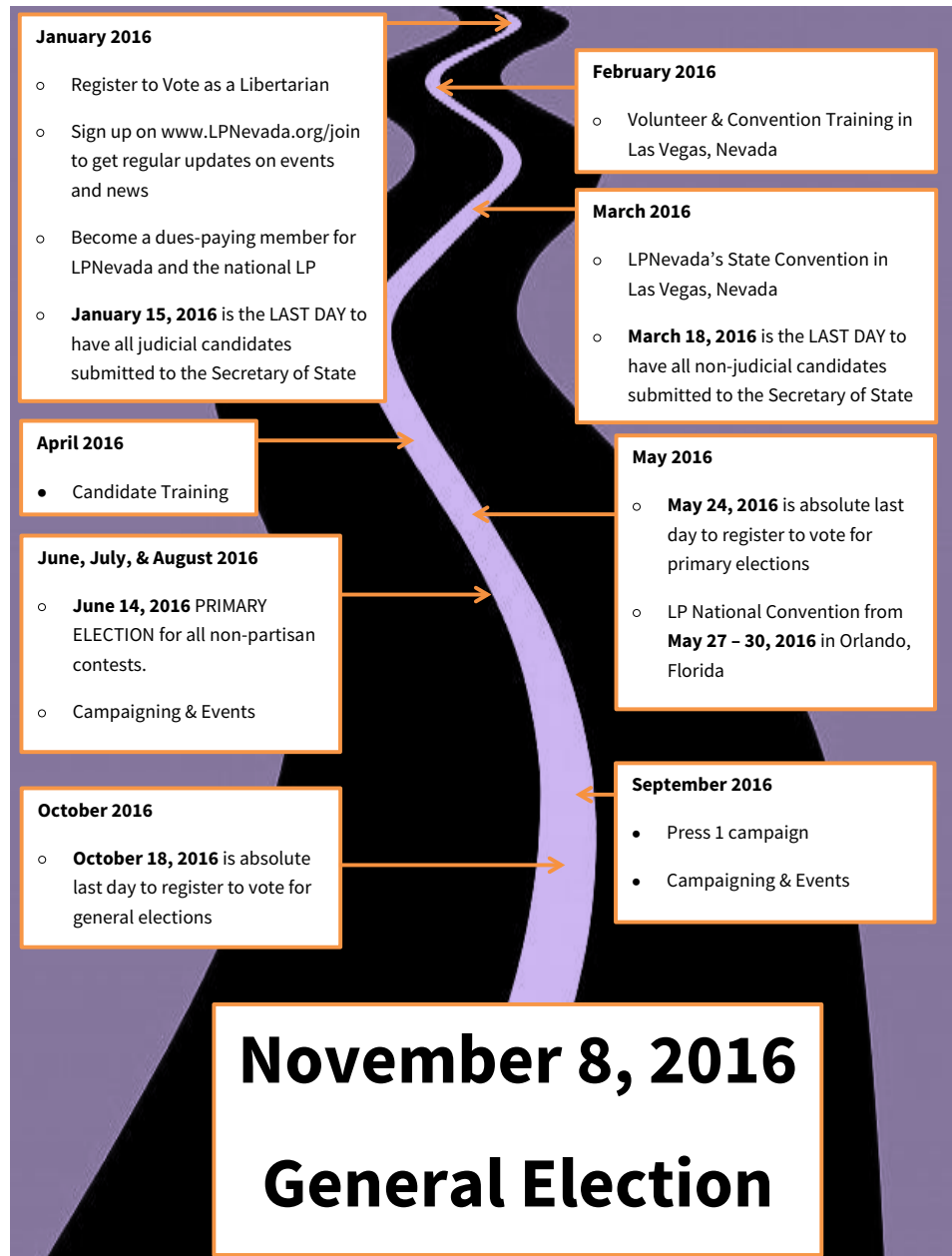
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What's ahead in 2016?

Here's a preview of the road to Election Day this year.



Election Day will be upon us before you know it. Please make sure you have taken the opportunity to see how you can help the Libertarian Party make a difference this year. Some great ideas can be found on the next page, like becoming a **dues-paying member**, helping with a **voter registration drive**, or **inviting your friends** to come to our events.

YOU can HELP the LIBERTARIAN PARTY of NEVADA LOWER BUSINESS TAXES, STOP CORRUPTION, and FIGHT BIG GOVERNMENT

DOUBLE
TheLP.com

INTERNS WANTED:

Need college credit? The Libertarian Party of Nevada is actively seeking interns to help out! Please see our ad on the back cover for more information and visit www.LPNevada.org/interns.

Things *you* can do to help grow the Libertarian Party of Nevada

- ✓ Sign up for a FREE account at www.LPNevada.org/join
- ✓ Become a dues paying member of LPNevada, **click here** to view membership levels
- ✓ Register to Vote Libertarian & get your friends to register to vote as well. Visit: www.lpnevada.org/register_to_vote
- ✓ Volunteer because LPNevada needs your help! Visit: www.lpnevada.org/volunteer
- ✓ Connect with us on Social Media:
 - Facebook Page: www.fb.com/lpnevada
 - Facebook Group: www.fb.com/groups/lpnevada
 - Twitter Account: www.twitter.com/lpnevada
- ✓ Once connected, please “**share**” and “**like**” our posts with your friends.
- ✓ Our events are awesome! Start attending our events, visit: www.LPNevada.org/events
- ✓ Become a **contributor** to our blog and newsletter by visiting the **Volunteer** link and selecting “*I would like to write for the blog.*”
- ✓ Get involved with a Caucus and Coalition. See a complete list at www.lpnevada.org/caucuses_coalitions

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HOW DOUBLE THE LP WORKS

Imagine twice as many Libertarian Party Members, Voters, Volunteers, Donors, Candidates & Activists.

You can be a part of history we create!

CONCEPT

“Every Libertarian recruits at least ONE new Libertarian to double the size of the Libertarian Party of Nevada!”

DoubleTheLP.com

How You Can Help

We invested in amazing, cutting-edge technology to enable YOU to use social media and YOUR contacts to spread the word about the Libertarian Party. Once you join, you will get your own campaign page with a recruiter link that you can share.

This can earn you credit for referring others to join. Then, promote your page to your friends, family, and other liberty-minded people via email, social media and more!

You are a key component to the success of this campaign. If you are tired of the Democrats and Republicans trying to tell you how to run your life, your business, your bedroom, and your personal life choices, then you are a Libertarian and you should join us today!

Now is the time to act! Now is the time to come together for our common goal of protecting our natural and individual rights! Help us by getting started today! Anyone referred through your personal tracking link or through the buttons below will be credited to you. Visit www.DoubleTheLP.com and sign up for your free account now!

Double The LP

Introducing the first big push to dramatically grow LPNevada membership!

Imagine twice as many Libertarian Party Members, Voters, Volunteers, Donors, Candidates & Activists. You can be a part of history we create!

Introducing Double The LP, the first big push in over a decade to dramatically grow Libertarian Party of Nevada membership!

Double The LP is a true Libertarian grassroots campaign; as with most grassroots efforts, you get out what you put into it.

The difference between this grassroots campaign and any we've done before is that the party invested in cutting-edge technology to make it very easy for people to participate! You can become a part of the history that we are creating!

Concept: Every Libertarian recruits at least ONE new Libertarian to double the size of the Libertarian Party of Nevada!

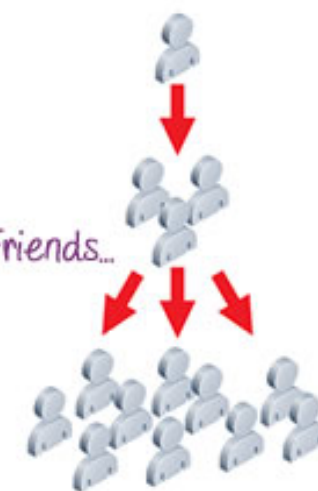
How It Works!

You invite your friends...

They invite their friends...

Your friends' friends invite their friends...

And so on and so on... Until we:



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LOL What? Ted Cruz as the Candidate for Liberty?

There are no libertarians currently running for the Republican or Democratic nomination. Not Paul, not Sanders, and certainly not Ted Cruz. Cruz is a social conservative, yet this eccentric good ol' boy from Canada has somehow managed to paint himself as the "pro-liberty anti-establishment hero." This couldn't be further from the truth.

Ted Cruz is a neo-con hack. He is also a strong religious radical. This makes Ted Cruz the only candidate running for the Republican presidential nomination that could be grouped in with the two largest establishments within the Republican Party. In other words, Ted Cruz is more establishment than anyone else currently seeking the nomination.

Yet the Canadian raised Texas Senator has a large following of libertarian conservatives. Many of these so-called "libertarians" claim that Cruz is our best hope for shrinking the government. Many pro-liberty news outlets, from Reason to Rare, have praised him, painting him as a libertarian fighting against the establishment to secure our rights. How has Ted Cruz accomplished this?

Two main factors need to be considered. Ted Cruz started attracting libertarian conservatives by flip flopping back and forth on privacy rights and foreign policy. Cruz opposed the patriot act before supporting the freedom act. Ted Cruz spoke out against conservative foreign policy in 2014, only to scream biblically at America that he would "carpet bomb ISIS into oblivion." The quote continues: "I don't know if sand can glow in the dark, but we're going to find out," insinuating nuclear war upon civilian populations. Even the mainstream neo-cons aren't that hawkish.

The second and more important factor is that Cruz has the best senior campaign team of any candidate running. Cruz went from severe underdog to trailing just behind Rubio as the candidate most likely to get the nod. He is running one of the most impressive campaigns this country has ever seen. Paul, Cruz's primary liberty rival, has instead run one of the most ineffective campaigns, despite having the most impressive youth effort the GOP has seen since Reagan. While Paul was busy putting his most effective people in charge of his student campaign, Cruz was busy winning over everyone over the age of

30, usurping Paul as the Tea Party candidate.

This highlights the importance of effective strategies. Like Reagan, Cruz has been able to appeal to the entire conservative field. Convincing people who share none of his stances that he is their guy. Like Reagan, the original neo-con and the man who invented the religious right, Cruz has created an illusion of being the small government guy. All of this made possible by utilizing individuals with good judgment. Meanwhile, the actual anti-establishment, conservative Rand Paul has continued to fall behind.

We will soon find out if the second -biggest social conservative fraud can carry his confused libertarian supporters all the way to the primary. The only thing we can clearly know from this election cycle thus far is that the liberty vote is becoming more and more important. Libertarianism is on the rise, and we can't allow conservatives to flip-flop into convincing the liberty-minded vote that they are the last, best chance to protect freedom.

By: Liberty Pug, Contributor to LPNevada

News from the North

It's the end of the year. The sun rises later and sets earlier, the ground is either barren or covered in snow, the temperatures consistently dive below freezing when they can be bothered to stay above freezing at all. Ice covers our windshields, pipes occasionally freeze and crack, the passes out of town occasionally close. Though it all sounds depressing and bleak - and, sometimes, it is - it's also a necessary step toward renewal and new life. Winter brings us fresh snow, without which we don't have water for summer. Winter also kills the bugs, which is welcome once they the few stragglers from autumn stop wandering into our homes.

Winter is an excellent time for reflection.

In Northern Nevada, there's quite a bit to reflect upon, politically speaking. The Washoe County School District, after botching a firing process in violation of Open Meeting law, started a rigorous eight month long interview process. This led to the interview of precisely one person, Traci Davis, who was promptly hired as the new superintendent for the paltry

sum of \$311,000, including a \$11,900 "longevity bonus" for serving the school district for an impressive five months. When her pay package was examined by the local press, the school board replied with the level of professionalism, tact, and decorum we've come to expect around here and sent a press release explaining how the hire saved the school district money. It should be noted that only two members of the Board of Trustees - Nick Smith and Veronica Frenkel - voted against Davis' contract, and both of them will remain in office until 2018; every trustee whose term expires in 2016 voted in favor of her hiring and compensation package.

Meanwhile, Tesla received an ample tax abatement package from the State of Nevada - an abatement package that was then replicated on a smaller scale for Faraday to build a similar production facility near Las Vegas. So far, what Tesla has brought Reno is higher rents and housing costs; whether those will be paid for by new, better paying jobs remains to be seen. Though we're certainly optimistic - Apple, Switch, Koch Industries, eBay, Amazon,

and others have recently set up shop in Reno as well - their promise so far appears much stronger than their performance.

Additionally, the Southeast Corridor - a project that's been planned since at least the early 1980's, if not earlier, as the "Tahoe-Pyramid Link" - has finally faced its final court challenge and is formally under construction. That it took over 30 years of court battles to go from planning to construction came as a surprise to no one - the freeway to Carson City took over 50 years to make the same journey, after all.

Do you have any other examples of government dysfunction that you'd like to share? Then stop by our next event at Mi Casa Too on 4th Street in Reno on Saturday, January 9th, at 4 PM and tell us all about it.

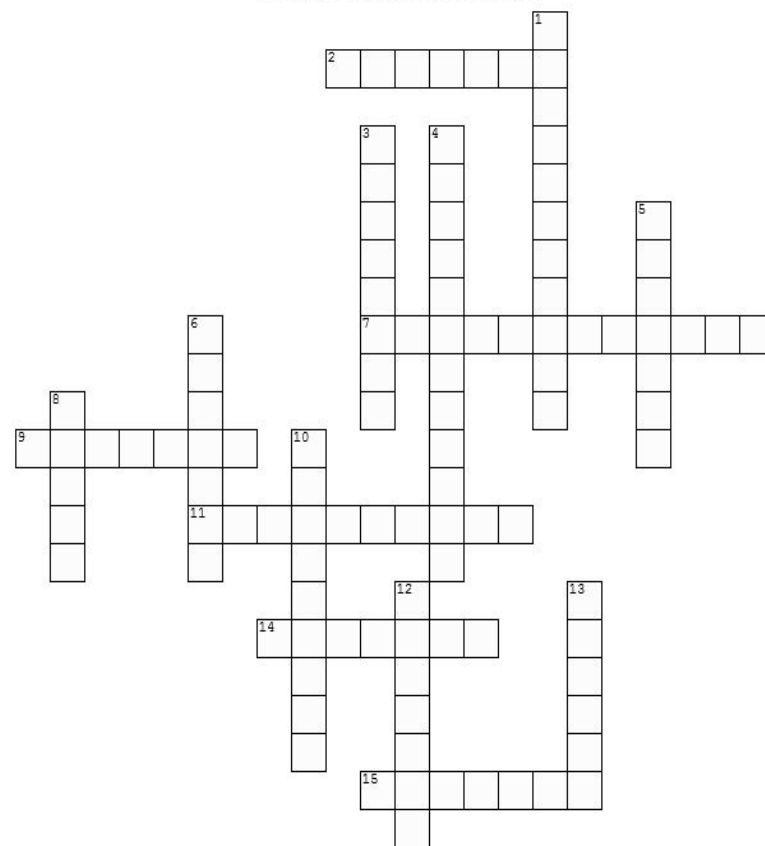
By David Colborne, Northern Nevada Regional Representative, LPNevada

For more info, email me at david.colborne@lpnevada.org

A poster for a Libertarian Party of Nevada event. The background is a green field with a white line. The text "SUNDAY FOOTBALL PARTY!" is in large, bold, white letters. To the right, "join the..." is in small white letters, followed by the Libertarian Party of Nevada logo (a purple circle with a white flame) and "LIBERTARIAN PARTY of NEVADA" in white letters. Below the logo, "& special guests each week!" is in white letters. At the bottom, "1pm @ Loose Caboose | Showing All Games" is in white letters. On the right side, a list of prices is shown: "\$2 DOMESTIC PINTS", "\$3 IMPORTED PINTS", "\$3 WELL DRINKS", and "GREAT FOOD DEALS". A football is visible on the right side of the poster.

Liberty Crossword

Complete the crossword below!



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

2. The city hosting the 2016 Libertarian Party Convention
7. The Declaration introducing natural rights 'life, liberty, and property.'
9. LPNevada's current state chairperson.
11. The economic system commonly associated with free society.
14. The President who ended American slavery.
15. First candidate for POTUS by the LP.

Down

1. LPNevada's current membership campaign
3. LPNevada's newest caucus.
4. The town known for its Liberty Bell.
5. The Statue of _____.
6. The restaurant hosting the LPNevada 1st Tuesday Monthly event.
8. Famously wrote 'Two Treatises of Government'
10. The Party of _____.
12. 2012 candidate for POTUS by the LP.
13. These amendments are known as the Bill of _____.

First Tuesday Monthly Event
6pm - 9pm
 Jalisco Cantina hosts the Libertarian Party of Nevada's Monthly event. Free food + great drink specials!

EVENTS

JAN 2016

3 SUNDAY FOOTBALL WEEK 17

Come out for ice cold, discounted beers and some great football at Loose Caboose in Las Vegas, NV. Starts at 1 pm.

5 FIRST TUESDAY LIBERTARIAN SOCIAL

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9 NORTHERN NEVADA MEET & GREET

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PLEASE SUPPORT JALISCO MEXICAN CANTINA

Jalisco Mexican Cantina has been supporting us, please support them.
www.jaliscocantina.com | 702.436.5200

2016 Libertarian Party National
 Presidential Nominating Convention

LEGALIZE FREEDOM!

May 27-30, 2016
 Rosen Centre Hotel & Resort • Orlando, FL

Convention 2016: *Legalize Freedom!*

By J.J. McCURRY

The 2016 Libertarian Party National Convention will be May 27-30 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. You, the membership, decided on a theme: *Legalize Freedom*

We at the Convention Oversight Committee are planning to create the best convention yet. Besides the opening reception, banquet,

Take advantage of our pre-earlybird discounts: register by December 31.

and presidential debate, we are planning a masquerade/cos-play event and film screening. Dress up as your favorite Libertarian, presidential candidate, or superhero!

Convention packages, schedule, room reservations, and hospitality suites are all available now at LP.org/convention, and will be updated as we get closer. Take advantage of our

pre-earlybird discounts: *register by Dec. 31!*

We are pleased to be inviting to the 2016 convention some of the most prominent and experienced libertarian leaders and activists to inspire you. Stay tuned as our exciting speaker lineup takes shape.

There is much more work to do! We seek support volunteers for the National Convention. Those interested in volunteering should contact Vicki Kirkland.

We also still have slots for speakers. Those who are interested or have suggestions should contact Daniel Hayes.

For general questions and sponsorship opportunities, contact BetteRose Ryan. See you in Orlando in May!

Contact:

Daniel Hayes: Daniel.Hayes@LP.org
 BetteRose Ryan: 2016Convention@LP.org
 Vicki Kirkland: Vicki.Kirkland@LP.org

Our convention will be in exciting Orlando, Florida. Thrills and attractions such as Sea World, Walt Disney World, and Universal Studios are only minutes away. To encourage you to bring the whole family, the LP's room rates run 3 days before and 3 days after our convention.

Location

Rosen Centre Hotel & Resort
 9840 International Dr., Orlando, FL 32819
 (407) 996-9840; www.RosenCentre.com



Rosen Centre has extended us a very special rate of only \$95 per night (up to four guests per room; regularly \$173.75). To receive the LP's special rate, make your reservation no later than May 4!

Special 2015 discounts!

We have set some very special *pre-earlybird* package discounts, *only through Dec. 31*, to encourage you to register early, and to help us plan the very best convention experience.

On Jan. 1, our standard earlybird rates kick in, good only through March 15, after which our regular prices will go into effect.

Convention Packages

Our convention team has designed several convention package for every need. Package features are shown on our web site, at www.LP.org/convention/register. Book now!

Gold: \$399 in 2015 (\$499 at door)
 Silver: \$349 in 2015 (\$429 at door)
 Bronze: \$259 in 2015 (\$319 at door)
 Basic ticket: \$139 in 2015 (\$179 at door)
 Attendee ticket: \$95 (regular price)

To register by phone, call:
 202-333-0008 x233

Nab our pre-earlybird rates!
REGISTER BY DECEMBER 31!

For online registration, visit:
www.LP.org/convention/register

OUT for Liberty: Why LGBTQ Americans Should Vote Libertarian



In May of 2015, the Libertarian Party of Nevada expressed interest in starting a caucus for LGBT Nevadans. I stepped up immediately, contacting the national chair for the LGBT libertarian group “Outright Libertarians”, Mike Shipley. Mike and I had some great conversations and the pieces of the puzzle came together to get a new group started, titled “OUT For Liberty Nevada”. The name change was due to confusion from some individuals that “Outright” would be a GOP caucus (they understood it to be “OutRIGHT”). We had our first meeting in July at The Center, the largest LGBT community center in Nevada, and our meeting was attended by:

Derek Washington, the head of the Black Democratic Empowerment Project, and an OUT 100 Honoree

Chris Miller, the County Chair of the Clark County Democratic Party, and

Ed Williams, the County Chair of the Clark County Republican Party.

To my knowledge, Clark County is the only county in the United States in which the three major political parties are all chaired by openly gay men. We sat in a room and discussed issues, even when we disagreed adamantly. If this dialogue was happening across the nation, the Libertarian Party would have much more impact, and we would be able to put party politics aside to accomplish great things. A few weeks later, Ed, Chris, and I participated in a de-

bate sponsored by the LAMBDA Business Foundation. Again, the entire debate was respectful, intelligent, and most importantly, gave the Libertarian Party a place at the table. I’m very proud of my participation in this group, and in the Nevada Libertarian Party in general, and I think that we will be the start of a revolution that finally gets Libertarians the attention we need to affect change.

In 1972, John Hospers became the first Libertarian and first openly gay candidate for President of the United States. In 1975, the “Libertarian For Gay Rights” caucus was founded. Libertarians were ahead of the pack in LGBT rights, including: repealing laws against consensual gay sex, loitering laws targeting gay men, eliminating regulations specifying homosexuality as a justification for revoking state licenses, parental custody rights, decriminalizing cross-dressing, ending adoption discrimination (still a work-in-progress), and ending Don’t Ask Don’t Tell. Libertarians have supported full marriage equality since 1972, about 41 years before mainstream Democrats joined in the fight. The gay marriage decision by the Supreme Court in June was a HUGE victory for LGBT rights. The official Libertarian position is and has always been that government should have nothing to do with marriage, but if they are involved, they must represent ALL of the people and not deny marriage rights from gay couples, thereby creating a protected class (heterosexuals).

We still have a long way to go on LGBT issues. In many states, same-sex couples are prohibited from adopting. Mandatory State IDs enforce a gender binary. Gay men are still prohibited from donating blood, plasma, and semen, unless that can prove they’ve been celibate for an arbitrary amount of time. The FDA still limits access to life-saving HIV treatments, and regulates medical marijuana to an extent that makes it difficult for people suffering from

HIV and AIDS to have access. Immigration quotas prevent LGBT individuals from fleeing persecution. Zoning laws aggressively limit the types of LGBT businesses allowed in certain areas. Victimless crimes like sex work, homelessness and drug use disproportionately fall on our community. Gay bashing targets are jailed for self-defense during an attack (“the gay panic defense”). We are confident we will make progress on all of these issues.

All that being said, I’m proud, as a gay American, to be part of a party that has fought for equal rights and personal freedom for ALL people since its inception. I’m proud that we have been on the right side of history, even when it wasn’t politically viable to do so. I’m glad that we stood up for what was right, even when Hillary Clinton, Michelle Bachmann, and Ted Cruz were speaking adamantly about their intent to codify discrimination against LGBT people into law. We are happy that Democrats have joined us in supporting personal liberty (at least on this issue), and we will openly embrace Republicans when they inevitably do the same. We have a long way to go, but we are making huge leaps forward, and will continue to do so. If you are at the Libertarian Party National Convention in Orlando in May, please vote for me for national chair of Outright Libertarians, so I can continue to keep our party and community moving forward.

By: Brandon Ellyson
State Chair, OUT For Liberty Nevada
Acting County Chair, Clark County Libertarian Party
Host, “Seeing Purple With Brandon Ellyson and Jason Weinman” podcast

For more info, email me at:
Brandon.ellyson@lpnevada.org

Join our caucus at
www.FB.com/groups/OutrightNV/

Join our Events Division!



The Libertarian Party WANTS YOU!

- *Volunteers
- *Leaders
- *Activists



LIBERTARIAN
PARTY of NEVADA

Get involved today!

 **LPNevada.org/volunteer**

The events division plans, coordinates, and oversees all LPNevada events. This includes the capital event of the year--the LPNevada convention! If you like dealing with people and parties, this is the division for you!

Events Director

Job Description: The Events Director manages and oversees the Events Division. Their primary function is event planning and production for all Libertarian Party of Nevada events. The Events Director will also work with other event organizers to negotiate sponsorship and joint events. Additionally, they will provide leadership, training, and mentoring to county parties.

Principle Accountabilities:

Responsible for establishing and populating all necessary committees as well as recruit and appoint all leaders within the Events Division. Mentor and lead all other members of the Events Division. Develop, implement, and evaluate an annual events plan. Oversee all administrative functions of events. Maintain efficient record-keeping systems, including databases, budget, etc. Maintain and publish a calendar of events happening in Nevada. Oversee the drafting and publishing of the Events Division field manual.

Qualifications:

Experience in event planning and production. Previous management/leadership experience, preferably running a multifaceted team of specialized individuals. Sincere commitment to work with all constituent groups including all other staff, board members, and volunteers. Self-starter, able to work independently, and entrepreneurial.

State Convention Chairperson

Job Description: The State Convention Chairperson will manage and oversee all aspects of the production and the setup of the State’s annual convention and assisting the affiliates in hosting their own. Shall use institutional knowledge and experience with cooperative venues to ensure professional and consistent conventions. Shall follow instructions from the Executive Committee regarding approved date(s) for the state convention.

Principle Accountabilities:

Appoint a Credentials Committee. Recruit other members to participate in the Convention Committee. Must operate within state party bylaws restrictions, if applicable, regarding the scheduling of a convention. Shall secure a reliable venue well in advance of the convention to ensure proper notification to the membership. Negotiate and secure a venue for the state convention. Manage all aspects from securing speakers to working with vendors. Oversee all administrative functions of the convention. Maintain efficient record-keeping systems, including databases, budget, etc. Maintain and publish a calendar of events happening in Nevada. Oversee the drafting and publishing of the Convention field manual.

The Libertarian Lean

We have all seen and heard the term “libertarian” in the news, either out of the mouth of a politician trying to pander to a certain group, or maybe said by a news pundit to deride or snidely call someone “not viable”; but it is now almost a daily occurrence to hear “libertarian” as a description. But what does it mean? Is it a code word for insiders? Is it a password to get into an exclusive club? How does one “lean” libertarian? Clearly, the root is “liberty”, of which nobody is against. We all love liberty, it means we set off fireworks in July, we get to brag that we are living in the land of the free, and best of all we get to say “It’s a free country” as a retort to an authority figure warning us of our possibly risky behavior. But is that what it means to lean libertarian?

Anyone who follows politics has heard some “conservative” members of Congress describing themselves as the “Libertarian wing” of the GOP. But then, why are they not in the Libertarian Party? Would the Libertarian Party have them? If you have watched the news, you’ve probably heard someone describe a small-government politi-

cian who wants to cut welfare or reform medicare as an “unfeeling monster who wants old people and children to die starving in the street.” The main problem with conservative politicians and media pundits is they either don’t know what a Libertarian is; or they are willfully misrepresenting what it means in order to further their own agenda...both are unacceptable, and need to be corrected.

The tenets of the Libertarian philosophy are simple. 1) Do not initiate force on another individual if he or she is not infringing on the rights of another. Couldn’t be simpler. Or could it? It is not easy to mind your own business as a politician. At every turn there is a sad story that pulls at the heartstrings...a sick child, or a family losing their house. And contrary to what many think, a Libertarian is as likely as a Democrat to feel emotionally moved and reach into their own pocket to help. The difference is that the libertarian knows there are people who are not having children, not buying a house and living parsimoniously in order to make sure they can save up for their future. It would be unfair to

coerce these people into bailing out AIG, the Jones’ or anyone else. What they will do, is donate clothing and help out with charity; and they don’t need the force of law over their heads to do

But then why is there a “wing” of the GOP that “leans libertarian”? What is the motivation for a Republican to try and be apart from the “establishment”? I believe it is the same reason my arguments get so heated with my friends in the GOP. It is fundamental to the libertarian that the government understand its proper role, and the use of force be limited. This goes fine for many in the GOP, until it comes to what people “ought to do”. Personal choices that make certain people angry, afraid for society, disgusted or downright sad. Abortion, marriage equality, drug use. There are many sides to these issues. As long as you are not infringing on the rights of others...well... Live Free. And stand up for Liberty...be proud of it. You don’t need to lean.

By: Jason G Smith, Vice-Chairperson, LPNevada

Nazi Germany’s War On Terrorism

What’s the Danger of new reactive laws stemming from overwhelming public reaction and politicians power grab from terror: we must learn from history as it repeats, read this article composed by a historian about Hitler and how he used terror to gain an iron fist over the people.

Hitler used the 1933 burning of the Reichstag (Parliament) building by a deranged Dutchman to declare a “war on terrorism,” establish his legitimacy as a leader (even though he hadn’t won a majority in the previous election).

“You are now witnessing the beginning of

a great epoch in history,” he proclaimed, standing in front of the burned-out building, surrounded by national media. “This fire,” he said, his voice trembling with emotion, “is the beginning.” He used the occasion – “a sign from God,” he called it – to declare an all-out war on terrorism and its ideological sponsors, a people, he said, who traced their origins to the Middle East and found motivation for their “evil” deeds in their religion.

Two weeks later, the first prison for terrorists was built in Oranienberg, holding the first suspected allies of the infamous terrorist. In a national outburst of patriotism, the nation’s flag was everywhere, even

printed in newspapers suitable for display.

Within four weeks of the terrorist attack, the nation’s now-popular leader had pushed through legislation, in the name of combating terrorism and fighting the philosophy he said spawned it, that suspended constitutional guarantees of free speech, privacy, and habeas corpus. Police could now intercept mail and wiretap phones; suspected terrorists could be imprisoned without specific charges and without access to their lawyers; police could sneak into people’s homes without warrants if the cases involved terrorism.

(continued on page 13)

Faraday Tax Incentives: A Case Study in Failed Economics

The central lesson of economics is that the economy consists of real things. You can’t meet additional marginal needs and wants without additional marginal production. Therefore, we should be wary of any claims that someone can provide something without an explanation of whether this new provision will come from someone else’s explicit reduced consumption (as opposed to reduced savings or investment), or from increased productivity. In almost all cases, government attempts to address scarcity reduce over-

all consumption, though not from the people whom the government claims will pay, and in almost no cases do they increase productivity. In fact, in most cases they either directly reduce productivity or they redirect production from the things people want and need into industries that the government favors. This is demonstrated on production possibility curves in 100-level economics courses and is accepted by all economists (even Paul Krugman), yet, government policy is almost always based on the idea that we can magically overcome the laws of economics. Consider the case of Faraday put before the Nevada Legislature just this past month.

Tax exemptions for specific sectors, industries, companies, and individuals are functionally transfers of wealth from the poor to the rich and impediments to economic growth. Ultimately, they have the same distorting impact as direct subsidies. In particular, the process of creative destruction, which is the engine of innovation and efficiency, is significantly hindered when certain actors are exempt from taxes. In order to out compete a beneficiary of this kind of subsidy, a firm must not only produce a cheaper or higher quality product, but must be able to do it by a wide enough margin that they can overcome their tax

disadvantage. These barriers to entry slow innovation, increase prices, distort incentives, and (by protecting incumbents) lead to concentrations of wealth. They also create perverse incentives, driving exempt industries to lobby in favor of punitive tax hikes to further impede potential competition. The mining tax cap has demonstrably had exactly that effect.

Tax exemptions for specific sectors, industries, companies, and individuals are functionally transfers of wealth from the poor to the rich and impediments to economic growth.

Unless there is some reason to imagine that all of the involved resources—including labor—are unused as a result of something other than regulatory impediments, all of the imagined economic gains from the Faraday deal must necessarily be diverted from other segments of the economy. So far, I have heard no claims regarding why these resources would be left unused. If they can be profitably employed, we would expect someone to employ them. Instead, the Nevada Legislature and media relied on reports from Applied Analytics and Brookings to sell the Faraday deal to themselves and the public. These reports use static, input/output modeling, which as a rule count all of the benefits and none of the costs of any particular program. In essence, no adjustments are made for opportunity costs, and the estimates, assumptions and multiplier are all back fit on the basis of unrelated economic observations. IMPLAN (IMpact analysis for PLANning), is software into which you put these assumptions, which runs them through an algorithm, and reports how much economic activity would be created if the alternative were to leave all involved resources entirely unused. The available evidence indicates that this form of modeling fails badly, almost always by dramatically overestimating the economic benefits. A meta-

analysis by Groothuis and Rotthoff in 2014 analyzed the ultimate impact of stadium subsidies, which were generally promoted with static input/output modeling, and usually IMPLAN. This analysis found that of thirty-three studies, thirty-two found either slight-negative, or strong-negative effects. Eight of the studies were unable to detect any positive effect on employment and income even before the subsidy--only a shift in consumption from one sector to another, such that the entire subsidy amounted to deadweight loss, and was not even partially offset by new economic activity.

For a while, it looked as if we had left mercantilism and central planning behind. Even in government schools, mercantilism is taught as a defect of history, like slavery, feudalism, and religious persecution. Yet somehow, these ideas are creeping all too quickly back into our government. The only path to a brighter future, with less poverty, is the one in which barriers to entry are as low as possible, and resources are directed by the wants and needs of the people.

**By Jason Weinman
Outreach Director, LPNevada
If you’re also outraged at the constant bad economics, email me at
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Libertarian Skeptics Network: New LP National Caucus Formed

The new year brings with it a new effort inside America's third-largest political party. Seeking to connect the principles of liberty to their Enlightenment heritage, and defend the Libertarian Party from entanglement in disreputable fringe issues, dozens of activists and candidates from around the nation have come together to form a new caucus: the Libertarian Skeptics Network. Taking their cue from Voltaire, L.S.N. has adopted as its motto: "Those who can make you believe absurdities, can make you commit atrocities."

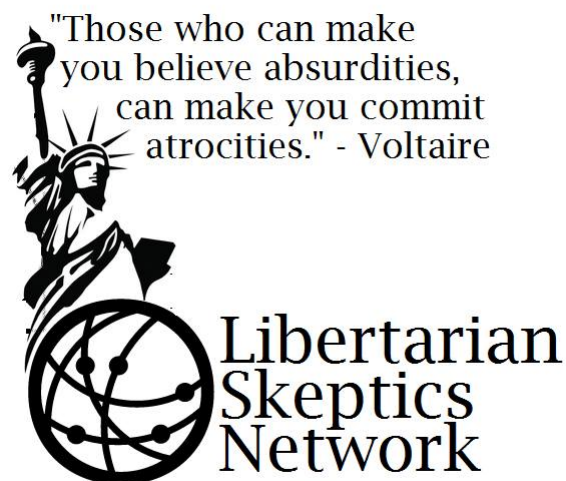
A five-member provisional board has been constituted, consisting of Andy Craig (LP-WI); Andrew Lea (LP-NV); Pearce Holland Barnum (LP-TX); Mike Warren (LP-IN); and Jason Weinman (LP-NV). State chapters are also being chartered, with a rapidly growing list of a dozen states already represented in the organization.

"Our provisional board will lay the groundwork for our first real meeting and election of officers, to be held at the Libertarian National Convention in Orlando, May 26-30," says provisional chair Andy Craig, "We intend to make L.S.N. a regular presence at every national convention going forward, and in all 50 state parties."

Joshua Katz, an elected Libertarian officeholder in Connecticut and member of the party's national committee, says skepticism is integral to being a Libertarian, and that he defines the term as "one who seeks freedom from aggression, undue control, ignorance, and misinformation." According to Andrew Lea, Youth Director for the Libertarian Party of Ne-

vada, "The Libertarian Party has always been the party of innovation and market driven technological advancement. We are the party of science."

Chuck Schilling, a member of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin, agrees, "We're for Libertarians who believe in science, not science-fiction. Who want to shrink government, without buying into every conspiracy theory under the sun." Clayton Hunt, a Libertarian from Texas, insists "the champions of freedom should reject the fear and ignorance peddled by snake oil salesmen."



To coincide with the formal launch of the organization on Jan. 1, 2016 the LSN released the following mission statement:

The mission of the Libertarian Skeptics Network, is to promote and defend libertarianism and the Libertarian Party within the Enlightenment traditions from which they arose, which value evidence, facts, science, reason, skepticism, progress, toleration, and objective truth.

We oppose pseudoscience, scare tactics, pop-culture conspiracy theories, medical fraud and quackery, scam artists,

charlatans, false claims, and all other sorts of flim-flam and fakery, as being consistent with neither the purpose of, nor the desired future for, the Libertarian Party.

We oppose those who conflate these things with libertarianism, as unfit to be candidates or officers of the Libertarian Party.

We seek to cast a harsh light into the shadows of self-imposed obscurity, and reveal these tactics for what they are: damaging, disruptive, and counter-productive.

We believe libertarianism and the Libertarian Party can, at their best, offer a positive, hopeful vision for society, and that demagoguery based on fear and ignorance is best left to our opponents.

We act to protect and defend the reputation of a party and platform, which we hope to present to the nation as a credible, legitimate, viable alternative to the Republicans and Democrats.

We do so, because we desire a Libertarian Party that lives up to the true meaning of its purpose: "nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetimes."

To that end, the Libertarian Skeptics Network shall act as our caucus within the Libertarian Party, consisting of a national organization and state chapters, to support and give voice to Libertarian Skeptics, all of whom are welcome to join in our efforts.

By: Jason Weinman, Founding Member of the Libertarian Skeptics Network, A Caucus of the Libertarian Party

Join us!
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To get his patriotic "Decree on the Protection of People and State" passed over the objections of concerned legislators and civil libertarians, he agreed to put a 4-year sunset provision on it: if the national emergency provoked by the terrorist attack on the Reichstag building was over by then, the freedoms and rights would be returned to the people, and the police agencies would be re-restrained.

Within the first months after that terrorist attack, at the suggestion of a political advisor, he brought a formerly obscure word into common usage. Instead of referring to the nation by its name, he began to refer to it as The Fatherland. As hoped, people's hearts swelled with pride, and the begin-

Casting a Ballot by Smartphone

ning of an us-versus-them mentality was sewn. Our land was "the" homeland, citizens thought: all others were simply foreign lands.

So at a time when we can see video shot by a robot on Mars, when there are cars that can drive themselves, and when we can deposit checks on our smartphones without going to a bank, why do most people still have to go to a polling place to vote?

That's because, security experts say, letting people vote through their phones or computers could have disastrous consequences.

"I think it's a terrible idea," said Barbara Simons, a former I.B.M. researcher and co-author of the book "Broken Ballots: Will Your Vote Count?"

"It's a national security issue," Ms. Simons said. "We really don't want our enemies to be able to determine our government for us — or even our friends for that matter."

Of course, many of those concerns make sense. None of us want some evil autocrat picking the next president.

But other countries allow citizens to vote via the Internet, or are experimenting with the idea. In 2005, Estonia started testing an online voting system and has since registered more than a million voters who now cast their ballots online. Italy plans to test an online voting system this year.

Not the United States, the land of the free and the home of the smartphone.

Ronald L. Rivest, a computer scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

Within a year of the terrorist attack, Hitler's advisors determined that the various local police and federal agencies around the nation were lacking the clear communication and overall coordinated administration necessary to deal with the terrorist threat facing the nation, including those citizens who were of Middle Eastern ancestry and thus probably terrorist sympathizers. He proposed a single new national agency to protect the security of the Fatherland, consolidating the actions of dozens of previously independent police, border, and investigative agencies under a single powerful leader.

said that for now, the best technology out there is the one we've been using.

"Winston Churchill had a famous saying that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried before," Mr. Rivest said. "You can apply the same statement to paper ballots, which are the worst form of voting, but better than all the others that have been tried before."

Mr. Rivest, who is the R in the name of the RSA encryption system, which is used by government institutions and banks, said that if things went wrong on Election Day, chaos could ensue, because doubts about the results would rattle the foundations of our democracy.

"One of the main goals of the election is to produce credible evidence to the loser that he's really lost," he said. "When you have complicated technology, you really do have to worry about election fraud."

So what's the solution? Ms. Simons and Mr. Rivest both seemed certain that the best alternative was to stick with a technology that's a couple of thousand years old. "Paper," they both said, as if reading from the same script. "Paper ballots."

Voting by mail, which some cite as an option, lets people avoid the lines, but it is not so easy on the vote counters. In states where this is allowed, envelopes have to be opened and ballots sorted into precincts.

Most Americans remember his Office of Fatherland Security, known as the Reichssicherheitshauptamt and Schutzstaffel, simply by its most famous agency's initials: the SS.

And, perhaps most important, he invited his supporters in industry into the halls of government to help build his new detention camps, his new military, and his new empire which was to herald a thousand years of peace. Industry and government worked hand-in-glove, in a new type of pseudo-democracy first proposed by Mussolini and sustained by war."

By: Author unknown, reproduced here at the request of contributor Scott LaFata.

Then the signature needs to be matched with that on the voter registration card. None of this is terribly efficient.

So in 10, 20 or 100 years, when our cars have been replaced with self-flying spaceships, robots take our children to school, and our smartphones are chips in our heads, will we still be using a pen and paper to choose our president? I sure hope not.

After Hurricane Sandy disabled power and transportation for many in New Jersey, the state announced that some people would be allowed to vote by e-mail. The entire operation was pulled together in three days. Although there were problems, the system worked for most.

Digital voting could drive more Americans to the polls. According to a report released by the Census Bureau this year, nearly 50 million Americans didn't vote in the 2008 election. Millions of people said this was because they were out of town, had transportation problems or were too busy to get to the polls. Internet voting could let millions more people take part.

There are, as the security experts point out, a litany of issues to confront before this happens, but it's not impossible.

By: Nick Bilton, and reproduced here (in part) at the request of Michael S. Pratter. Originally published by the New York Times on November 11th, 2012.



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