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Colorado Liberty

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From The Chair Travis Nicks, State Chair

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

As things are winding down from a raucous election season, the Libertarian Party of Colorado's Board of Directors is gearing up to welcome the unprecedented number of new voters who have shown an interest in our party.

We're also preparing for our annual all day strategy session. [Click Here](#) to RSVP for the December 6th Strategic planning session at the [new office](#). The Board of Directors wants your input. We will be discussing the future direction of the Libertarian Party of Colorado and we will be hearing from several organizations about their 2009 goals. Come enjoy the fun...festivities start at 9:00 AM.

The strategy session is also going to be an opportunity for everyone to contribute to the new space. We need:

- A Libertarian Party of Colorado Sign
- Shelves For The Outreach Area
- Chairs For The Call Center
- Old Computers & Laptops For The Call Center
- Wall Decorations
- Portraits
- Vacuum Cleaner
- A Working Refrigerator

and of course we need you to volunteer to manage these things.

Remember to sign up for the 1776 club and help the party continue to make a difference. Every donation is greatly appreciated. [Click here](#) if you want to donate using paypal instead.

That's all for now so Happy Holidays and see you on December 6th, 2008.

Yours in Liberty,
Travis Nicks
Chairman



Bankruptcy Better Than Bailout

After sucking down a \$25 billion loan from taxpayers' money in June, three of the U.S. car companies want another \$25 billion in bailouts. Currently, in America, there are 12 major car companies (Ford, Honda, GM, Hyundai, BMW, Mitsubishi, Chrysler, Mazda, Toyota, Subaru, Nissan and Mercedes-Benz) with plants that employ American workers and buy supplies from other American companies.

With a bailout, GM, Ford and Chrysler will continue to waste resources by inefficiently producing overpriced cars. However, with a bankruptcy or two, the "Big Three" can emulate the airline industry. They can get rid of poor management, re-negotiate bad contracts, and get out from under crushing debt. Like Continental and Delta, they can return as competitive companies ready for the next decade.

Although currently only [the Libertarian Party](#) is opposed to these bailouts, you can [contact your Federal Representative](#) to insist that they don't support this waste. And we can use our tax dollars to raise our children, rather than showering them on managers who act like children.

- Mike Spalding
Chairperson, LPJC

Campaigns Report

By Norm Olsen, Campaigns Director

I am working on strategies to recruit candidates for 2009 and 2010.

If you have ever considered being a candidate, please [click here](#) to contact me and we can discuss a campaign that is the best fit for you and the Libertarian Party of Colorado. Local or State Boards are a great place to start. I can teach you how to seek an appointment to a local or state board so that you can gain "real world" experience.

F.R. Outreach Report

By Jeff Orrok, Front Range Outreach Director

The Last 30 Days - In Review:

I made a couple of pre-election appearances along with Brian Olds of the American Constitution Party. We were guest speakers for classes at Colorado Free University and Smoky Hill High School. I am looking for others who are interested in doing the same. Please [click here](#) if you would like to join me at the next speaking engagement.

On November 15th, 2008, I participated in the [Marijuana Activist Boot Camp](#), and I presented the [Libertarian Party](#) as the best hope for ending the drug war.

The Secretary of State has not posted any new voter registration numbers.

Libertarian Voter Registration Drives:

1. The Arapahoe affiliate is considering having a Voter Registration Drive at the next Crossroads Gun Show. This event is tentatively planned for the [first weekend in January](#), provided enough people volunteer to work at the Gun Show. Please [click a link below](#) to participate in this event. Three shifts per day have been posted on the [January calendar](#).

January 3rd, 2009 (Saturday):

- 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

January 4th, 2009 (Sunday):

- 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

2. The National Western Stock Show told me all the spaces are sold out, and we'll be notified if something opens up.

Future Outreach Goals:

I am exploring a regular bulk purchase of Reason magazine with which to stock outreach booths, and I will be turning my attention to [Libertarian Party Affiliate building](#) during the winter months.

Membership Report

By Clint Jones, Membership Director

1. In November, I stopped calling the 9500 Colorado names on the 8/15/2008 LP Data Dump from Robert Kraus. The breakdown of the names is:
 - 1 - 3373 Members;
 - 1 - 498 active members from Colorado have donated to LP National in the last 12 months.
 - 499 - 538 dropped members (calls)
 - 539 - 3373 lapsed members (calls or emails)
 - 3374 - 9489 Inquiries
 - I will email these with a message asking them to reply if they are voting/have voted Libertarian
 - I will follow up with a second step if they reply
2. I will be attempting to fashion a database from the Data Dump that LP sends and begin again in January, 2009.
3. I will send a letter or two out in December to possible high contributors that have not been contacted before and meet with them personally.

Will you help the Libertarian Party of Colorado achieve our membership goals?

[Click Here To Contribute To The LPCO.](#)

[Click Here To Become An Activist For The LPCO.](#)

Publications Report

By Jaime Brown, Publications Director

There have been several minor changes to our website this month since the recent redesign. More still to come.

Safer and Sensible Colorado sponsored a [marijuana activist training](#) on November 15th, 2008 at Regis University. It was an excellent event with speakers from the Independence Institute, ACLU, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, University of Colorado, Rocky Mountain News, Representatives in Colorado, among others. Even people who don't do drugs of any sort recognize that marijuana is safer than alcohol and it should be treated that way.

More than 30,000 American deaths were attributed directly to the use of alcohol last year, whereas not a single death was attributed to the use of marijuana. The Drug War affects everyone, just as alcohol prohibition did. Gangs are financed almost exclusively by the distribution of illegal drugs. The Colorado prison population has grown 604% since 1980, while the population of the state grew 59%. Each prisoner costs about \$30,000 per year. The Drug War is simply an unsustainable counterproductive bipartisan policy that needs to be repealed.

Records Report

By Steven Gallant, Records Director

I compiled and filed the minutes and reports for the [previous Board meeting](#).

Jim Frye and I are reviewing a new database candidate called DonorPerfect.

Notice from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee:

Affiliate Chairs:

Please let your affiliate members know that the C&B Committee is seeking proposed changes to the LPCO's Constitution and Bylaws. We would like to receive all proposals by January 5, 2009, in order to get them into the proper format for the state convention. Please email proposals to Committee Chair Steve Gallant at RecordsDirector@LPColorado.org.

Treasurer Report

By Leah Kelley, Treasurer

I have several 1776 Club members whose credit cards are not processing. I am following up, along with Clint, trying to get them back online.

Our FEC status is still pending. The FEC requested that we obtain a letter from the Office of General Council stating that we qualify as a state party. They have our request, and I am sure we will qualify.

Campaign Summaries

Campaign In Review

By Jack Woehr, 2008 HD 25 Candidate



In 2008, running for Colorado House District 25 was my fifth run for public office, the third time I'd run as Libertarian. I ran a no-money campaign, taking no funds, spending no funds. If the candidate is not going to go all-out to win, it's much easier that way. Why waste money that might otherwise go to more strategic campaigns? Libertarian campaigns for city and county offices are really more important at this time: that's where the state representatives will "graduate" from as Libertarians move up the electoral ladder.

Instead of raising money and convincing myself I had a chance of winning, I spent the time meeting people and talking about the good-cop, bad-cop game the Demopublicans and Republicrats run every election. My main message was, "The Dems and Repubs together gave you the War on Drugs, the War in Iraq, the horribly misnamed USA-PATRIOT Act, the FISA immunity, and the Big Bailout. Haven't you had enough yet? The Two Party system is failure mode and democracy hangs in the balance."

While many Democratic and Republican voters told me that they were going to vote, I was most moved by one Republican woman who told me she was thinking of voting for me. She was troubled by what I had said; it struck her as true and visibly shook her in the core of her Republican faith. That's the kind of voter we need!

I had a very courteous and happy time with my opponents and with other candidates on the election circuit. Something amusing usually happened at each event: my favorite was an exchange with District 1 DA incumbent candidate Scott Storey at Lake House in Evergreen.

In the course of that event, if I didn't prove I was the better candidate, I certainly proved I was the more dynamic public speaker. Several of the speakers expressed mock dismay at having to follow my riveting comments and presentation of my candidacy as reform knocking at the door of the corrupt and failing two-party system. In the course of one comment, I pointed out the explosive growth in imprisonment in Colorado as a drain on Education money and laid the blame partly on the War on Drugs.

As I took my seat again after this comment, Scott Storey leaned over and told me, "It's really not like you think. We're not putting people in prison for a bag of pot, or even for a pound. You have to go through the judicial system maybe seven times before you end up in prison for drugs these days."

I smiled and put my arm around his shoulder. "Despite my veneer as a reformer, Mr. D.A., I too am a politician, and I too, like you guys, oversimplify the issues!" He laughed heartily at that!

Dear fellow Libertarians:



1. We can increase our Colorado vote totals ten-fold or more in 2010, by having more good candidates (and I believe all of our candidates this year were good). If we recruit and run a good candidate in each of seven Congressional districts (instead of just one), plus one or two statewide candidates (governor and U.S. Senate come up in 2010), we will have ten times as many LP votes even if we pull just 2-6% in each of those races. Similarly we want to have 50 legislative candidates, not just a few.
2. It does not take much money to run a basic, credible campaign. My campaign spent under \$2,000 and I'm not sure that my biggest expenditure, \$900 for a joint email blast with the Republican, helped us. The phone blast was a godsend, and cost my campaign nothing (thanks Roger!). I spent about \$1,000 of my own money, not counting another \$1,200 for long overdue wardrobe upgrades. About \$700 was raised from contributors. Thank you once again!
3. Not having a campaign manager or staff of any sort was difficult. I was running a one-man operation; doing the web site, sending out all the press kits, and following up on media contacts, etc. The help I did get from contributors and from activists like Mykl and Claire handing out info at events, was much appreciated. Part of the reason I didn't push harder to recruit volunteers and raise money from within the party is that I'm fairly new to LPCO, and felt I was still establishing my credibility during this election.
4. One of the strengths of my campaign was having a coherent platform and the ability to communicate libertarian answers to the major questions in my race. As a Congressional candidate I received dozens of surveys, often Internet based. I answered almost all of them. People called me or emailed me and said they decided to vote for me because of the answers they saw published in places like the Denver Post web site.

So my recommendations for the next election cycle are:

- A. Make recruiting and preparing numerous good candidates THE TOP PRIORITY.
- B. Create coherent campaign platforms (as distinct from the party platform) for federal, state, and local candidates.
- C. In the Internet age we can accomplish a lot without a lot of money. Yes, we should raise more money, but meager financial resources should not stop us.
- D. Without spending a lot of money we could create a unified support operation for our campaigns that deal with unified databases, web, media, press relations and phone contact, etc., so each candidate is not reinventing the wheel.

Looking Ahead To 2009

~ ~ ~ Now is the time to apply for next year's Constitution & Bylaws / Platform Committees ~ ~ ~

Now is the time to apply for next year's Constitution & Bylaws / Platform Committees

Thanks to the foresight of Rick Randall, our Media Director, at the monthly LPCO

Board meeting on April 14, the board adopted a resolution to issue the solicitation required in the LPCO Bylaws for applications for membership to the two committees. For each of the committees, there will be five at-large representatives selected by the board from the state membership, plus an additional representative per chartered affiliate. The deadline for applications has not been officially set, but it is expected to be the date of the monthly LPCO Board meeting in July (which is currently planned for 7pm Monday the 14th), to give the affiliates time to organize their selection process and certify their appointments.

While there are no official qualifications (beyond being a registered Libertarian in Colorado), prospective applicants should be prepared to commit to attend all the committee meetings and participate fully in the process of drafting, reviewing, and discussing the proposed amendments. You don't have to be an expert, but you do have to be willing to learn.

For the Constitution and Bylaws committee, in addition to reading and becoming familiar with the LPCO Constitution and LPCO Bylaws, it is a good idea to acquire a copy of Robert's Rules Of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition (available for purchase from several bookstores, or from used book websites for as little as a few dollars, or at any library) and become familiar with the basics of parliamentary procedure and its recommendations for running organizations.

For the Platform committee, familiarization with the LPCO Platform (especially the values statement, which is the basis for the rest of it) is desirable, along with some acquaintance with one or more of the current issues in Colorado.

Each county affiliate should begin the process of selecting its representatives to these two important bodies as soon as possible. Ideally a process to do that would be specified in the affiliate's bylaws, but if there isn't one, the affiliate can adopt a rule. Typically there would be notice given at one meeting and the actual selections would be made at the following meeting. The affiliate must have an Affiliate Representative (AR) on record with the state board who will certify the selected representatives to the state board, so if the affiliate does not have an AR, it needs to elect or appoint one (again, according to its bylaws, otherwise by giving notice at one meeting and then having the actual election or appointment at the following meeting). So some affiliates may be issuing notices for three positions in the coming month. If there are any questions about this, please contact State Chair Travis Nicks (StateChair@LPColorado.org) or Front Range Outreach Director Jeff Orrok (OutreachDirector@LPColorado.org).

To apply for an at-large position on the Constitution & Bylaws and/or Platform committees, please submit your name, residential address where you are registered to vote, mailing address if different than residence, and a phone number and/or email address to Board@LPColorado.org or to:

Libertarian Party of Colorado
6989 S. Jordan Rd.
Suite 5
Centennial, CO 80112

- - - Now is the time to apply for next year's Constitution & Bylaws/Platform Committees - - -

RSVP Now For The December 17th, 2008 Liberty On The Rocks Meetup.

The Colorado Liberty Newsletter was sent by

• The Libertarian Party of Colorado • • 6989 S. Jordan Road, Suite 5 • • Centennial, CO 80112 •

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Contact the LPCO **Online**

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