



NEW MEXICO LIBERTY

“Let Freedom Ring”

Editor / Publisher
Print Distribution

Mike Blessing [gunssavelives@comcast.net]
Ron Bjornstad / Bill Koehler

February 2007

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico
www.lpnm.org

v.2.0 #2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Notes From The Editor

by Mike Blessing [gunssavelives@comcast.net]

Page 1

- Notes from the Editor

Page 2

- Field Report
- Calendar

Page 3 – Voice of the Chair

Page 4

- Eminent domain reform a must this session
- Doug Stanhope in Albuquerque

Page 5

- New Mexico Ballot Access Bill Introduced
- The Unanimous Consent Challenge

Page 6 – Werewolves Out, Vampires In

Page 7 – 2007 State Convention

Page 8

- My Heartfelt Appreciation
- The Simon Jester Project

Page 9 – Debit / Credit Donations

Page 10 – Contacts / Internet Resources

Page 11 – Administrivia

Page 12 – LPNM Enrollment / Renewal

First, I met with stand-up comedian and potential LP presidential contender on 21 January at the Guild Cinema. While Doug turned out to be a stand-up libertarian as well as a comedian, I wasn't surprised – I had a feeling that he was OK after reading the Hammer Of Truth interview. It was nice to see my hunch confirmed. I think he'll do OK should he end up with the nomination.

As for the others, we have three (Steve Kubby, George Phillies and Christine Smith) intent on attending our State Convention this coming April. I look forward to meeting all of them. As for my endorsement, I'm maintaining my wait-and-see attitude. I've talked with Phillies and Smith by phone, and Tom Knapp, who I've known since July 1999 to be a stand-up guy, has signed on as Communications Director with the Kubby campaign. Right now, all I'm concerned with are the various candidates' publicity efforts – the behind-the-scenes nuts-and-bolts aren't much of a concern for me. I have made offers to all four candidates listed here to forward on their press releases, articles, etc., to increase the general publicity for the race.

Moving on – the Convention. See page 7 for the schedule, prices, and location. We have a full slate of speakers, which we filled up in rather quickly. I'm particularly looking forward to seeing L. Neil Smith again (it's been a while!), and we have a few newbies to welcome – Penni Adrian, Leslie Cumiford, Lance Klafeta and Dennis Montoya. Paul Gessing of the Rio Grande Foundation will be returning this year (he debuted at last year's con in Rio Rancho). Victor Milán was originally slated to be there, but had to back out due to a prior commitment.

In the business session of this year's Convention, we have officer elections to look forward to, as well as at least one amendment that I know of (redefining Caucus membership). This year's gathering should be an interesting one.

For next year, the date and location of our State Convention hasn't been determined yet – that decision will be made in September or December 2007. We do know, however, that the National Convention will be held in Denver at the Adams Mark Hotel, from 23-26 May. This makes it the easiest National Convention for LPNM members to go to – simply speed up I-25 instead of booking a flight. I'm hoping to go – this will be my first National Convention in 14 years with the Libertarian Party.

The big questions for the upcoming National Convention will concern the presidential nomination and the National Platform, which, like it or not, was thoroughly gutted at the Portland convention last year. What planks will be put in to replace the ones stripped out is already a matter of some controversy amongst the LP's factions. Should be interesting to say the least – I hope it's not in the sense of the Chinese curse.

Finally, on the issue of email forwarding (a partial response to the first part of Jay's column this month): Most of the forwards I get from family are of the “pass-it-along and you'll have good luck” variety. I don't know for sure that they always have tracking spyware embedded in them, but still, they get annoying very quickly. See page 8 for “My Heartfelt Appreciation,” a humorous response to this waste of bandwidth, written by “Julius No.”

Field Reports

From County / Campus Chairs

Bernalillo – The BCLP is hosting two meetings per month, as well as a weekly hour-long TV show (*The Weekly Sedition*) on Albuquerque Comcast Ch.27. Show times are Wednesdays at 8PM. For more information, see the BCLP website – www.lpnm.org/bernalillo. *New Mexico's Consumer Advocate* resumes in April, 2007. *The Weekly Sedition* and *New Mexico's Consumer Advocate* are now available in webcast format. For the viewing links, see Channel 27 [www.quote-unquote.org] or the KCUF Media website [www.myspace.com/kcufmedia].

The Bernalillo County LP is currently seeking one or more persons to represent the BCLP in front of the Albuquerque City Council and / or Bernalillo County Commission in the public-comment sections of those bodies' meeting agendas.

Jay Vandersloot has been active in staffing tables at gun shows at the State Fairgrounds in Albuquerque, and could use some help at those shows.

Paul Gessing and the staff of the Rio Grande Foundation, has been getting columns and letters to the editor printed in the *Albuquerque Journal* on a regular basis. Some of those have been printed here in *New Mexico Liberty*. Others are available at the RGF's website – www.rgrandefoundation.org.

Mike Blessing met with potential Libertarian presidential contender Doug Stanhope at the Guild Cinema on 21 January. More information on page 4.

The next BCLP convention will be concurrent with the State Convention.

Dona Ana – The LPDAC Central Committee has been having monthly meetings, as well as an information table at the Las Cruces Farmer's Market. See the LPDAC website – www.lpnm.org/dona-ana – for details.

We are planning a convention the afternoon of Saturday, February 17th in the Dress Room at the Branigan Library here in Las Cruces.

LPDAC Chair Siebert Ickler has started writing op-ed pieces for the Rio Grande Foundation – see page 4 for an example.

Santa Fe – Former Vice-Chair and Grant County Chair Frank Martin has started a social group in the Santa Fe area that focuses on small-I libertarianism. For more information, contact Frank Martin – frank@fundimensions.com or phone 505-989-3670 or 505-310-5971. The next gathering will be on Tues., 20 February, 6:45 PM at La Posada, located at 330 East Palace Avenue .

San Juan – The SJCLP held its Bill of Rights Day event on 15 December 2006, concurrent with the rifle and pistol raffle drawing. The winners – Joe Coufal (Taurus 357 Magnum revolver) and Elden Knehaus – (Rock River Arms AR-15). Information about the 2007 raffle will be posted when it becomes available.

The San Juan County affiliate will be hosting this year's State Convention on the weekend of 13-15 April, the weekend closest to Thomas Jefferson's birthday. See page 7 for more information about speakers, schedule, locations, etc.

Sandoval – The LPSC is having its monthly meetings at the J.B.'s on 528, north of Intel, recently having changed from Wednesdays to Tuesdays.

Calendar

Special Events

State Convention – 13 / 14 / 15 April 2007 in San Juan County. See page 7 for more information about speakers, schedule, locations, etc..

Regular Events

Thursday, 1 February and 15 February – Bernalillo County Liberty Forum meets in Albuquerque, 6:00 to 7:00 PM at Fiesta's Restaurant & Lounge (Carlisle & Montgomery NE). Contact Mike Blessing, 505-710-5197, for details.

Saturday, 10 February – San Juan County LP meets at 6PM – contact Bob Ziesmer, 505-327-6681, for details. The San Juan County LP's Central Committee will meet at 5PM.

Saturday, 10 February – The LP of Dona Ana County will host an information table at the Farmer's Market in downtown Las Cruces. Contact Siebert Ickler, 505-541-9079, for details.

Wednesday, 14 February – Interested Dona Ana County Libertarians are invited to attend and to contact Siebert Ickler, 505-541-9079, for information on location and time.

Tuesday, 27 February – The Sandoval County LP meets at JB's restaurant on 528 near Intel. Contact Ron Bjornstad, 505-288-4228, for details.

TV Shows – Channel 27 in Albuquerque (not necessarily endorsed by LPNM)

The Weekly Sedition
Wednesdays at 8PM

www.myspace.com/kcufmedia

Hemp TV – Tuesdays at 7PM

www.myspace.com/nmhemptv

Reeferhead – Saturdays at 6PM

Contact Brian Bakri at hippiegypsy@webtv.net for details



You have many rights as an American citizen today. Pre-Paid Legal can show you how to protect your legal rights at a low cost. With Pre-Paid Legal you can prepay your most common legal needs, much like you prepay your medical needs. It is important to know and exercise your legal rights as an American citizen.

Call Jay Vandersloot, Independent Associate, at 505-362-1733

Identity Theft

According to the FTC, in the last five years 27.3 million people have been victims of identity theft. The number in 2002 alone was 9.9 million. What if it happens to you? The Identity Theft Shield can help lessen your exposure. To learn how, contact Jay Vandersloot, Independent Associate, at 505-362-1733

Voice of the Chair

Jay Vandersloot

jayvandersloot@yahoo.com

“Any fool can make things bigger, more complex and more violent. It takes a touch of genius – and a lot of courage – to move in the opposite direction.”

The Truth About Email Petitions – Please Take Note

Contrary to popular opinion, email petitions are **NOT** acceptable to Congress or any municipality. To be acceptable, petitions must have a *signed* signature and full address. **I know there will be many of you who will disagree with this**, but I have spoken to a number of elected officials, including Libertarian office holders, and they confirm this – **all of them tell me that these types of petitions are ignored.**

"Contact your legislator" sites of organizations like MOAA, AUSA, AMA, NRA, etc. are also rejected by most "legislator" sites. You have to go to the "legislator" site to get the correct email address to send your opinion / petition to.

While not the quickest means of communication, snail mail is still the most effective way to contact your legislators.

While we're on the subject of forwarding emails and petitions, you might like to know that almost all email that asks you to add your name and forward on to others is to get names and "cookie" tracking info for telemarketers and spammers to validate active email accounts for their own purposes. Most email that says forward this on to "10" of your friends, sign this petition, or you'll get good luck or whatever, has either an email tracker program attached that tracks the cookies and emails of those you forward to, or the host sender is getting a copy each time it's forwarded and is then able to get lists of "active" emails to use in spam emails or sell to others that do.

If you **DO** decide to forward things of this nature because it's interesting, be sure to take off all the "front" info and all the forwards and **DON'T** add your name to them. You still run the risk of forwarding the tracking program.

Give everybody a break by not forwarding all those petitions.

Are We Our Own Major Roadblock?

Our own approach to educating the electorate is sometimes one of our biggest impediments.

When people hear Libertarians emphasizing a need to legalize drugs, their perception is that we want to put drugs in the hands of children. **FALSE!** Do we want to attack the symptom, or the cure? What we **REALLY** want is to bring about **FREEDOM** for adults to be able to choose how to live their own lives.

The same holds true on the gun issue. This is again a case of attacking the symptom, rather than the cure. The issue is not guns. The issue is the **FREEDOM** to be able to choose whether we want to own guns [Reference the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights].

Legalizing prostitution or the "bedroom" activities of consenting adults are not the issues. Again, the issue is the **FREEDOM** to be able to decide how to live one's own life.

Of course, along with the **FREEDOM** to decide, there is also some responsibility involved. On my LPNM business cards I include the following statement, which is an excerpt I took from the LP Statement of Principles. I believe that this concise statement summarizes what the LP stands for.

“We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.”

Let's stop attacking the symptoms. Let's start addressing the real cure. Let's start emphasizing **FREEDOM OF CHOICE!**

2007 LPNM Annual State Convention, April 13–15th Need Candidates for LPNM Elections

During the convention we will be electing of our LPNM officers for the next two years. This will include the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, representatives for each of the three districts, and at-large representatives. I strongly encourage each of you to consider running for one of the positions.

We all seem to like to complain about things not getting done, or not being done properly. Well, this is your opportunity. **Step up to the challenge! Make a difference! If not you, then who? If not now, then when?**

If there is even the slightest possibility that you might consider running for any of these offices, please contact me (at jayvandersloot@yahoo.com, or at 505-362-1733), or contact your CenCom representative. Speaking for myself, and I am sure all the present and past officers and CenCom representatives would agree, if you are elected, we are ready to assist you with all the support and guidance we can.

LP Platform Undergoes Major Change

There were major changes to the LP National Platform passed at the National Convention in July, 2006. Mainly, it eliminated the majority of the planks. I envision a flurry of efforts between now and the next LP Convention in 2008 to reinstitute as many of the planks as possible.

Let's take a look at the next of the remaining planks from our LP National Platform.

I.6 – The Right to Keep and Bear Arms

The Issue – Governments at all levels often violate their citizens' right of self defense with laws that restrict, limit or outright prohibit the ownership and use of firearms. These "gun control" laws are often justified by the mistaken premise that they will lead to a reduction in the level of violence in our society.

The Principle – The Bill of Rights recognizes that an armed citizenry is essential to a free society. We affirm the right to keep and bear arms.

Solutions – We oppose all laws at any level of government restricting, regulating or requiring the ownership, manufacture, transfer or sale of firearms or ammunition. We oppose all laws requiring registration of firearms or ammunition. We support repeal of all gun control laws. We demand the immediate abolition of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Transition – We oppose any government efforts to ban or restrict the use of tear gas, "mace" or other self-protection devices. We further oppose all attempts to ban weapons or ammunition on the grounds that they are risky or unsafe. We favor the repeal of laws banning the concealment of weapons or prohibiting pocket weapons. We also oppose the banning of inexpensive handguns ("Saturday night specials") and semi-automatic or so-called assault weapons and their magazines or feeding devices.



Eminent domain reform a must this session

www.lcsun-news.com/opinion/cj_5047550

By Siebert Ickler [lpdac@peoplepc.com]

For the Las Cruces Sun-News – 20 January 2007

Things are finally looking up for New Mexico property owners. As most people are aware, in June of 2005 the United States Supreme Court further weakened the constitutional protection of personal property rights when it ruled in Kelo v. New London that any government could take a person's property and transfer it to another, more connected private interest, in the name of economic development and greater tax revenue.

The court left it up to the states or congress to enact legislation to restore the constitutional protection of property owners. New Mexico's Legislature passed a bill unanimously last session, which Gov. Richardson vetoed. Proponents of property rights, justifiably shocked and dismayed by the governor's veto, look for actions this year to result in stronger protections.

Legislation passed last year was insufficient as it only protected owners from the taking of their property on behalf of another, presumably more well-connected private interest, for three years. Three years and one day later, the government could dispose of it as they wished. To his credit, and with the understanding that a vast majority of New Mexicans want their property rights protected, Gov. Richardson did not simply veto the bill.

Instead, he quickly formed a task force to study the eminent domain issue and make recommendations for the 2007 legislative session. More recently, Richardson has endorsed the task force's recommendations and says that he plans to have them introduced as a package of reforms in the Legislature.

Those recommendations have been released and after careful analysis it is clear that the task force agreed with the Rio Grande Foundation and others that property rights must be protected. Recommendations made by the task force included:

- Repeal of both the Urban Renewal and the Community Development laws. Over time, layers of laws have been enacted in New Mexico pertaining to eminent domain. This unanimous recommendation more clarifies than changes policy.
- On a 10-7 majority vote, the task force recommended removing eminent domain authority from the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act. This is where the task force takes its firm stance against eminent domain for economic development and against the Kelo decision. The task force explicitly states that governmental "police powers" are the appropriate way to remedy "hazardous and unsafe conditions" without resorting to the "extreme powers contained in the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act."
- In another move to protect property owners, 14 of the 17 members of the task force expressed concern that "nearly any property in New Mexico could be found to be a slum or blighted area as currently defined." To remedy this situation, the task force urges clearer language to ensure that "blight" really means what the term implies.
- The task force also unanimously urged several procedural changes including increased hearing and notice requirements prior to eminent domain proceedings and the provision of relocation and transition assistance for those affected by eminent domain. Elsewhere, statutory language would be tightened under the task force's recommendations.

These recommendations are an important contribution to the debate over eminent domain. Despite the overwhelming opposition to abuse of eminent domain as evidenced by the public outcry in the wake of Kelo, special interests – developers and representatives of local governments – have been effective in bottling up legislation in Congress and in some states. In fact, William Fulginiti, executive director of the New Mexico Municipal League, said that organization strongly opposed the task force's recommendations and would work to prevent them from being implemented.

If Gov. Richardson truly has national ambitions, he must ignore Fulginiti and others who want to weaken your property rights and act this year on eminent domain. The task force's recommendations are sound; the time for action is now.

Siebert Ickler, of Las Cruces, is an adjunct scholar with New Mexico's Rio Grande Foundation, an independent, non-partisan, tax-exempt research and educational organization.

Doug Stanhope in Albuquerque

Stand-up comedian and potential Libertarian presidential candidate Doug Stanhope was at the Guild Cinema on 21 January 2007 at 8:00 PM.

The Guild is located at 3405 Central Ave NE in Albuquerque, New Mexico – www.guildcinema.com / www.tinyurl.com/3d3kw9.

I met with Doug tonight after his show in town -- he definitely was worth the 18 bucks at the door. (Shame he didn't have any merch on hand!) After the show, we went for a couple of beers at the nearby Kelly's Brewpub.

Right now, he's in the exploratory-committee phase, and working on refining his message so it will be relevant to the campaign, but won't burn out his comedy audience with old material.

As a candidate, I think he'll do fine – take a look at his online interview with Hammer of Truth – HoT is STILL down at this point (what's going on, Van Dyke?), but not a problem, Doug has republished that interview on his sites –

www.stanhope2008.com / www.tinyurl.com/36k379

I've set up a Yahoo group for the Stanhope campaign, but have yet to see any activity on it – the link is below with the others.

Stanhope's Official Site
www.dougstanhope.com

Stanhope's Myspace page
www.myspace.com/dougstanhope

The Stanhope 2008 Campaign site
www.stanhope2008.com

The Stanhope 2008 Campaign Myspace page
www.myspace.com/stanhope08

The Stanhope 2008 Yahoo group
groups.yahoo.com/group/stanhope2008

New Mexico Ballot Access Bill Introduced

By Richard Winger [ban@richardwinger.com]

23 January 2007

www.tinyurl.com/2trgnf

On January 22, New Mexico State Representative Brian K. Moore introduced HB 331. It eliminates the need for qualified minor parties to submit a petition for each person its nominates at its conventions.

New Mexico is the only state that requires a new or minor party to submit one petition to qualify itself...lets that new party nominate by convention . . . and then expects that new qualified party to submit another petition for each person nominated. The logical equivalent would be a state law requiring a person nominated in a party primary to then submit a petition to get himself or herself on the November ballot. Such a law would be laughed at.

Or consider another analogy: can one imagine a state requiring President Bush to submit a petition to get himself on the November ballot after he has won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's national convention? Yet that is what New Mexico does, to qualified parties that do not nominate by primary.

Information about HB 331

2007 Regular Session

HB331 – Minority Party Petition Requirements

HTML – www.tinyurl.com/yskbrp

PDF – www.tinyurl.com/yucnjr

The bill is, at press time, in the House Consumer & Public Affairs Committee. HB 331 still has to pass the House Voters & Elections Committee before going to the House floor for a vote, then to the Senate, and finally to the Governor's Office.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, Lea County Contact Christina Groth sent copies of a letter from State Representative Brian K. Moore to Richard Winger, editor and publisher of *Ballot Access News*, to myself and Bruce Bush, among others. Here's the text –

Dear Richard,

Thanks for the note about easing access to the ballot for minor parties. I have been puzzled by this problem for a couple of years, but, not being a voting expert . . . was not sure how to fix it.

Do you have some specific ideas about possible legislation that would make this process better? While I'm not optimistic that we could pass (or the Governor sign) minor party legislation, I would be willing to have something drafted and see how we fared in the next legislative session.

I look forward to your ideas.

*Sincerely,
Brian Moore*



NM State Representative Brian K. Moore
www.tinyurl.com/23swon

House District 67 – Republican representing Curry, Harding, Quay, Roosevelt, San Miguel, & Union counties since 2001

Committee Memberships

Member, Appropriations & Finance
Member, Capital Outlay Subcommittee (Interim)
Member, Funding Formul Task Force (Interim)
Member, Legislative Finance Committee (Interim)
Member, Transportation and Public Works

Occupation – Grocer
Address – Box 56, Clayton, NM 88415
Capitol Office Phone – 505-986-4467
Office Phone – 505-374-9681
Home Phone – 505-374-2312
E-mail – brian@ranchmkt.com

THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT CHALLENGE

CASH Ø10,000 PRIZE

To the first person to write a logical and documented essay showing one of the following to be compatible with the Declaration of Independence:

Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890
Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906
Federal Communications Act of 1934
National Firearms Act of 1934
Banking Act of 1935
The Internal Revenue Code
Controlled Substances Act of 1970
RICO Act of 1970
Federal Elections Act of 1970
Plumbing Products Efficiency Act of 1992
Anti-Money Laundering Act of 1992
USA PATRIOT Act of 2001
Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002

To claim your prize, contact
Mike Blessing at 505-710-5197
or gunssavelives@comcast.net.

The Unanimous Consent Challenge is available online at the
KCUF Media site – www.tinyurl.com/hn982

Werewolves Out, Vampires In

by L. Neil Smith [lneil@neilsmith.org]

www.tinyurl.com/yds3pe

7 January 2007

From *The Libertarian Enterprise* [www.ncc-1776.org]

From the beginning, I was a big fan of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. I also appreciated *Forever Knight*, and *Blade*. Lately, I've enjoyed *Underworld* and *Underworld: Evolution*. So I'm a little chagrined to admit that it took me this long to recognize the situation we're in.

Think about it.

On the one hand, we have this enormous pack of mindless, snarling, hairy monsters that can never be satisfied no matter how many lives they destroy and devour, beasts that howl in delight at the vision of defenseless victims being ripped from limb from limb and head to toe, animals who slaver at the scent of shredded flesh, interminable gouts of hot, steaming blood, of entrails tumbling loose from riven body cavities.

They torture their prey and never saw an execution they didn't love.

On the other hand, we have a legion of low, cunning, underhanded half-corpses, whose pale flesh gleams foully in the darkness they wrap about themselves and all their deeds, cloaked in the lie that what they do is good for those they do it to. Using strange, inexplicable powers, they lure each unsuspecting innocent into their grasp so that they can sink their fangs into her hot, pulsing jugular, and feed on her essence until she collapses, lifeless, only to rise and become one of them, herself. The creatures shrivel, turn to dust in bright, clean sunlight.

See anything familiar? Then I'll give you a hint: U.S. Congressman Ron Paul is sort of the hairy canine equivalent of Angel, a flawed but salvaged soul fighting on the side of humanity in the hope of eventual redemption.

How about another hint: the instant I laid eyes on Nancy Pelosi, I knew exactly what she was, and that I'd never see her reflection in a mirror.

Think about it.

It may even be that we can account for the enormous popularity of movies and TV shows about entities like these because it represents recognition, at a subconscious level, of what I've just recognized consciously – that the only choice that modern democracy offers the Productive Class is between being murdered and eaten by werewolves or vampires.

Now that we can see both of these flesh-consuming parasitic collectives more clearly, does it really make any sense to choose between them? Is it really "wasting your vote" to reject both kinds of death?

Happily, there exist the equivalents of wolfbane, silver bullets, garlic, crucifixes, holy water, and wooden stakes. Most are ideas that can also be seen as the sunlight that werewolves and vampires loathe. And get this: in many instances, you don't have to actually apply them. Simply mentioning them often enough, loudly enough – and getting as many others to do so as possible – can produce the desired effect.

Here's an example: my father was a professional military man who nonetheless detested the fact that a war of some kind or another seemed to be arranged for each successive generation of Americans. He'd risked everything in a war he believed was morally imperative – although I don't think he believed that to the end of his days – while vile specimens like Lyndon Baines Johnson did their six-month show tours well behind the front lines, before being conveniently recalled by the President to their "higher duty" as congressman and senators.

It may have been from my dad that I first heard the idea – long considered a fantasy or a joke – that whenever the government decides on a war, the "deciders" get to be the very first ones to fight it. Instead of a fantasy or a joke, why not make it into a Constitutional amendment?

These days, it would have to work like this:

First, no American troops could be sent overseas without a good, old-fashioned declaration of war by Congress, requested, presumably, by the President. Criminal penalties would attend any evasion of this law.

Second, if the declaration of war passed, the instant it did, those representatives who voted for it would be required to exit the chamber, where they would find uniforms and weapons being handed out from big piles in the corridor by the military. Then, regardless of age, sex, or physical condition – if need be, we'd organize the very first wheelchair corps and call it the "Franklin Roosevelt Brigade" – those who voted for a declaration of war would be sent straight to the front.

The President, in his own brand new uniform, would lead them.

Think about it.

Now here's the part that's almost magical: no such amendment would ever actually have to be passed, in order to break this seemingly endless cycle of American wars. Simply imagine the effect, when the pollsters reported (publically or not, it doesn't matter) that, say, ten percent of the American people thought this amendment was a good idea.

Now imagine the effect when ten percent became twenty.

Or forty.

Or seventy-five.

My guess, based on about half a century of history-reading and people-watching, is that things would begin to change a lot sooner than might otherwise be expected. I don't believe we'd need more than about six percent, before both werewolves and vampires saw the writing on the wall. Things would begin to change, and the really nifty part is that we wouldn't have to choose between the damn werewolves and vampires.

Or even try to get our own hogs to the trough.

I have long thought, and the last election only backs me up, that it may be a waste of libertarian resources to keep running candidates for office. The werewolves and the vampires have learned how to stop us – to any degree that we haven't just been stopping ourselves, all along.

They make the rules we're obliged to follow, so we're playing in their park, with their ball and bat (no, not that kind of bat). During the campaign, they have their Renfields in the mass media (look him up) to limit our public contact and make us look silly and unimportant. And when all else fails, when one of us wins something significant, they can always dump the ballot boxes in the desert – or these days, simply let their phony electronic voting machines do the dumping.

But nobody can stop an idea, once it gets rolling. The Nazis couldn't, and the Commies couldn't. George W. Bush may be eating from a tin plate in a dining room with steel bars someday, because he couldn't.

And this idea – if you vote for a war, you'll be among the first to fight in it – is just one of dozens it might be more useful to offer as Constitutional amendments or statutes or ordinances than continually sending our lambs to be slaughtered by werewolves and vampires.

Think about it.

**Libertarian Party of New Mexico
2007 State Convention
Farmington, New Mexico**

All events FREE except Banquet Program and Diehard Breakfast Program
PUBLIC WELCOME but only members can participate in the Business Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 13 – K.B. DILLON'S, 101 W. Broadway – Mapquest: www.tinyurl.com/srlf9

- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Registration / No-host cash bar, appetizers and short order from bar menu
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Presidential debate, candidates for 2008 LP nomination
Steve Kubby, George Phillies, Christine Smith
www.kubby2008.com / www.phillies2008.org / www.christinesmithforpresident.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 14 – FARMINGTON CIVIC CENTER, 200 W. Arrington – Mapquest: www.tinyurl.com/yxy84m

- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Penni Adrian, independent candidate for 2nd Judicial District, *The Dumb-Dumb Button*
www.penniforjudge.com
Margaret Mathers, LPSJC founding member, *Upon My Oath*
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Former state chairman panel, *Future of the Libertarian Party*
Including Ron Bjornstad, Joseph Knight, Richard Oberfell
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM State of the Party, LPNM Annual Business Meeting
Jay Vandersloot, State Chair
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Leslie D. Cumiford, President, and Lance Klafeta, Center for Family Justice, *The State as Parent*
www.family-justice.org
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Dennis W. Montoya, civil rights attorney, *The Saga of Juan Mata*
www.montoyalaw.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 14 – K.B. DILLON'S, 101 W. Broadway – Mapquest: www.tinyurl.com/srlf9

- 7:00 PM Banquet Program (see below), Key Note Address, Fundraiser Auction and Concert
L. Neil Smith, science fiction author and columnist, four-time Prometheus Award winner,
publisher of The Libertarian Enterprise, *Back to Basics*
www.lneilsmith.org / www.ncc-1776.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 – GOLDEN CORRAL, 1715 E. Main – Mapquest: www.tinyurl.com/tct8m

- 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM Die Hard Breakfast Program
Paul Gessing, President of the Rio Grande Foundation, *Liberty: on the March or Retreating?*
www.riograndefoundation.org

===== **REGISTRATION DEADLINE – MUST be received by TUESDAY, APRIL 10** =====

___ BANQUET: \$25 CIRCLE CHOICE: 8oz Top Sirloin Steak Hawaiian Stuffed Pork Fettucine Alfredo

___ DIEHARD BREAKFAST: \$25 – All-you-can-eat buffet

___ **BOTH** Banquet *and* Diehard Breakfast , **\$40 – save \$10** CIRCLE BANQUET CHOICE ABOVE

___ Check here if you are a member and plan to attend the business meeting

NAME & PHONE _____

ADDRESS & E-MAIL _____

Return to:
Joseph Knight, Convention Coordinator, Box 698, Flora Vista, NM 87415-0698
checks payable to LPNM

My Heartfelt Appreciation

From "Julius No" [www.simmeringfrogs.com]

----- Original Message -----

Subject: My heartfelt appreciation

Date: Fri, 16 Dec 2005 06:31:53 -0000

From: Julius No

My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all of you who have taken the time and trouble to send me "forwards" over the past 12 months. Thank you for making me feel safe, secure, blessed, and wealthy.

Extra thanks to whoever sent me the one about rat crap in the glue on envelopes cause I now have to go get a wet towel every time I need to seal an envelope.

Also, I scrub the top of every can I open for the same reason.

Because of your concern I no longer drink Coca Cola because it can remove toilet stains.

I no longer drink Pepsi or Dr Pepper since the people who make these products are atheists who refuse to put "Under God" on their cans.

I no longer use Saran wrap in the microwave because it causes cancer.

I no longer check the coin return on pay phones because I could be pricked with a needle infected with AIDS.

I no longer use cancer-causing deodorants even though I smell like a water buffalo on a hot day.

I no longer go to shopping malls because someone might drug me with a perfume sample and rob me.

I no longer receive packages from nor send packages by UPS or FedEx since they are actually Al Qaeda in disguise.

I no longer answer the phone because someone will ask me to dial a number for which I will get a phone bill with calls to Jamaica, Uganda, Singapore, and Uzbekistan.

I no longer eat KFC because their "chickens" are actually horrible mutant freaks with no eyes or feathers.

I no longer have any sneakers – but that will change once I receive my free replacement pair from Nike.

I no longer have to buy expensive cookies from Neiman Marcus since I now have their recipe.

I no longer worry about my soul because at last count I have 363,214 angels looking out for me. Thanks to you, I have learned that God only answers my prayers if I forward an e-mail to seven of my friends and make a wish within five minutes.

I no longer have any savings because I gave it to a sick girl who is about to die in the hospital (for the 1,387,258th time).

I no longer have any money at all, but that will change once I receive the \$15,000 that Microsoft and AOL are sending me for participating in their special email program.

Yes, I want to thank you so much for looking out for me that I will now return the favor!

If you don't send this e-mail to at least 144,000 people in the next 7 minutes, a large pigeon with a wicked case of diarrhea will land on your head at 5:00 PM (CDT) this afternoon. I know this will occur because it actually happened to a friend of my next door neighbor's ex-mother-in-law's second husband's cousin's beautician.

The Simon Jester Project

www.simonjester.org

What *is* the Simon Jester Project?

If you haven't read the classic SF novel, [The Moon is a Harsh Mistress](#), by Robert A. Heinlein, the whole Simon Jester thing may be confusing you. Simon Jester was the "imaginary" creation of a group of Loonies fomenting rebellion. He was a little devil who tormented the Lunar government with catchy little jokes, ditties, poems, slogans, and cartoons. Later, Simon expanded into the poltergeist business by playing practical jokes on gov-goons and bureaucrats. He always signed his work with a little cartoon image of a grinning devil.

"Simon" was a game everyone could play, anyone who wanted to bug the ruling authoritarians, that is. Any pissed-off miner could scribble a bit of seditious graffiti on a wall and attribute it to "Simon" with the easily scrawled logo. To the Authority, it seemed that Simon Jester was everywhere, all the time.

We need Simon Jester now.



A "meme" is an idea, a thought; hopefully a seed that will germinate in the recipient's mind and grow into a whole garden of worthwhile ideas. In theory, one exposes people to short, memorable phrases or images which stick with them; rather like the tune you can't get out of your head. In this case, the "tune" is akin to Yankee Doodle Dandy and is meant to generate thoughts on liberty.

Planting those mental seeds is what the Simon Jester Project is all about. To get you started, we've provided a few basic files.

Surely this is enough to get us started.

Enough plotting; let's get out and do something!

What to Do With This Stuff

Okay. We've told you who Simon Jester is. We've given you a bunch of files for posters, stickers, flyers, et cetera.

So what the devil (pun intended <grin>) are you supposed to do with this stuff?

Assuming you read [The Moon is a Harsh Mistress](#), you should already have a pretty good idea. But here some specifics you might try:

- Flyers can go on bulletin boards, car windshields in parking lots, or simply be handed out.
- The same goes for folded pamphlets, or you might put some in the form slots on bank tables and the counters at the post office.
- Stickers can go anywhere: Service counters at DMV, the post office, post drop boxes, windows and doors. But if you're considering putting them on private property, also consider whether the owner might not appreciate it.
- Business cards can be handed out, left on magazine piles in waiting rooms, set on counters, stuck under windshield wipers, or even flung out high windows. Try including one in all your bill payment envelopes.
- The Cthulhu election posters can go up anywhere you see other campaign signs posted. Try putting them up in your car windows, too. If you stake out a polling station like the other campaign aides, come election time, the Cthulhu posters go great with the Democracy Explained flyers to get voters' attention.
- Stickers can also go on packages and envelopes. Kinda like Easter Seals, but a lot more fun.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOMATED TRANSFERS
(DEBITS AND CREDITS)**

Charter Bank:

I authorize Charter Bank to initiate an electronic transfer via the Automated Clearing House (ACH) as noted below:

Customer Name (on account, please print): _____

DEBIT (charge) Financial Institution

Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Routing Number / ABA: _____ / _____ / _____ Account Number: _____
(Please include a deposit slip or voided check)

CREDIT (deposit) Charter Bank, to the account of LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW MEXICO, account number 0092040302

\$ _____ LPNM General Fund \$ _____ Chair's Contingency Fund
\$ _____ Major Player Fund \$ _____ Win One Fund

TOTAL AMOUNT of electronic transfer \$ _____ MONTHLY on the ____ day of each month starting ____/____/____

I understand this authority is to remain in full force and effect until Charter Bank has received notification from me regarding termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Charter Bank a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I also understand this transfer is not immediate and could take up to two business days.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Social Security Number: _____

BANK USE ONLY Bank Employee: _____ Date: _____

Authorization processed by: _____ Date: _____

Alternately, if you prefer not to have our bank initiate an electronic transfer, you may have your bank initiate the transfer to Charter Bank, Routing Number 307072427, to the account of LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW MEXICO, account number 0092040302. Also, please fill out the info section below, allocate your contribution on the "Funds" line above, and mail this form to LPNM.

MONTHLY CREDIT CARD PLEDGE

SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE, BUT LPNM NO LONGER ACCEPTS CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS DUE TO EXCESSIVE FEES INCURRED WITH OUR FORMER CREDIT CARD PROCESSOR. WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT PROCESSOR OR BANK THAT WE CAN AFFORD. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE KNOW ANYTHING.

FEDERAL INFO REQUIREMENTS, DISCLAIMERS, ETC.

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation and employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible. Your contribution may be used to fund federal election activity.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (h): _____ (w): _____ E-mail: _____

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

This form is for monthly pledges only. Please pay dues separately. Complete the AUTOMATED TRANSFER section and the INFO section. Mail the entire form to the address below. Thank You !!

LPNM, 918 IVORY RD SE, RIO RANCHO NM 87124

LPNM CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Chair

Jay Vandersloot, 505-362-1733 / jayvandersloot@yahoo.com

Vice Chair

Bruce Bush – 505-256-0810 / bruce1776@msn.com

Secretary

Mike Blessing – 505-710-5197 / gunssavelives@comcast.net

Treasurer

Richard Obergfell – 505-378-8025 / lpncm@valornet.com

At-Large Representative, Seat A

Ron Bjornstad – 505-891-4541 / rbjornstad@earthlink.net

At-Large Representative, Seat B

VACANT

District 1 Representative, Seat A

VACANT

District 1 Representative, Seat B

VACANT

District 2 Representative, Seat A

VACANT

District 2 Representative, Seat B

VACANT

District 3 Representative, Seat A

Bob Ziesmer – 505-327-6681 / nm_bob@hotmail.com

District 3 Representative, Seat B

Joseph Knight – 505-330-7713 / nm_libertarian@yahoo.com

Press Secretary

Bill Koehler – 505-264-0835 / bkoehler8@comcast.net

CAMPUS GROUPS

New Mexico Tech

Lucas Uecker – 505-301-7980 / luecker@nmt.edu

University of New Mexico

John Pfersich (Acting) – 505-301-2601 / neoconssuck@att.net

INTERNET RESOURCES

Official Website – www.lpnm.org

Mailing lists on lpnm.org – www.tinyurl.com/hogsn

LPNM Discussion – groups.yahoo.com/lpnm-discuss

New Mexico Liberty – groups.yahoo.com/group/nmliberty

LPNM Activists – www.tinyurl.com/z7ug5

LPNM Business List – groups.yahoo.com/group/lpnm-biz
(Caucus membership required)

Myspace.com – groups.myspace.com/lpnm

The SW Region LNC list – www.tinyurl.com/e8khh

= + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + =

COUNTY CHAIRS

Bernalillo – www.lpnm.org/bernalillo

Mike Blessing – 505-710-5197 / gunssavelives@comcast.net

Dona Ana – www.lpnm.org/dona-ana

Siebert Ickler – 505-541-9079 / lpdacnm@peoplepc.com

San Juan – www.zianet.com/bobziesmer/sjclp.htm

Bob Ziesmer – 505-327-6681 / nm_bob@hotmail.com

Sandoval

Ron Bjornstad – 505-288-4228 / rbjornstad@earthlink.net

Valencia

Abran Gabaldon – 505-864-6870 / abran_d@yahoo.com

COUNTY CONTACTS (Unorganized Counties)

Colfax

Richard Moore – 505-377-6849 / myliberty@mail.com

Lea

Christina Groth – 505-397-9366

Lincoln

Richard Obergfell – 505-378-8025 / lpncm@valornet.com

Los Alamos

Allen Cogbill – 505-662-7833 / acogbill@geopotential.com

Otero

Kathleen Hodgkinson
505-437-6042 / hodgkinson@cybermesa.com

Roosevelt

Ken Sanders – 505-749-2085

Santa Fe

Susan Ruch – 505-466-4706 / suelib1@hotmail.com

LPNM VACANCIES

Central Committee (5)

At-Large Representative, Seat B
District 1 Representative, Seat A
District 1 Representative, Seat B
District 2 Representative, Seat A
District 2 Representative, Seat B

County Chairs / Contacts (20)

Catron / Chaves / Cibola / Curry
De Baca / Eddy / Grant / Guadalupe
Harding / Hidalgo / McKinley / Mora
Luna / Quay / Rio Arriba / San Miguel
Sierra / Socorro / Taos Torrance / Union

College Contacts (3)

Eastern New Mexico University (Portales)
New Mexico State University (Las Cruces)
Western New Mexico University (Silver City)

**Contact the state chair if you're
interested in filling a slot.**

If you don't, who will?

ADMINISTRIVIA

Mike Blessing, Editor [gunssavelives@comcast.net]

If you have news, interesting stories, op-ed pieces, a letter to the editor, or timely information that you think belongs in the newsletter, please send it along. I can be contacted at 505-710-5197, or just send it to email address gunssavelives@comcast.net.

When sending your submission as an MS Word (or Open Office Text) file, send it single-spaced in 9-pt Arial – like this is. Margins should be half-inch (0.5”) around, with no headers or footers. If you send it in a text-only format, make it clear to me if you want anything in **bold type**, underlined, *in italics*, ~~struck-through~~, **different colors**, etc. I'm not telepathic here, so help me out. And **NO** Wordperfect files – I can't open those.

Graphics (pictures, cartoons, etc.) – send the highest quality graphics you can – email them to me at the address above, and I'll do what I can to get them in the next issue. In particular, what I want are pictures of YOU the LPNM members, either at LPNM-sponsored events or at other peoples' events.

Submission deadline for each issue – midnight, third Tuesday of the month.

Articles

As for writing your article, It should be concise (no longer than a full page) and topical. A bit of humor helps, especially for op-ed pieces.

What I'm really looking for in the way of articles is what's going on in the LPNM – what YOU the membership are up to in spreading the message. For example, an article about the stupidity, insanity and evil of the UN might get put in, depending on available space and the quality of the article. A group of LPNM members counter-protesting the raising of a UN flag by the city council WILL get put in, and probably will get first priority.

Editorial Viewpoint

The basis for libertarian thought is the Zero Aggression Principle [ZAP] –

A libertarian is someone who believes that *no* human being has the right – under *any* circumstances – to *initiate* force against *another* human being, nor to threaten, incite or delegate its initiation.

New Mexico Liberty holds that Libertarian candidates, officeholders or appointed spokespersons at all levels of government or the Party should refrain from advocating new or more restrictive laws, new or more expensive spending programs, or new or higher taxes. To paraphrase from the medical profession, “First, do no harm.”

Copyright

Copyright © 2007 Libertarian Party of New Mexico. All rights reserved.

Permission is explicitly granted for subscribers to recopy *New Mexico Liberty* for non-commercial purposes, specifically as use as an outreach tool, provided that *New Mexico Liberty* is copied in its entirety. Use your imagination here.

Subscriptions and Correspondence

www.lpnm.org/newsletter
www.myspace.com/nmliberty
groups.yahoo.com/group/nmliberty/join

To subscribe, send a blank email to
nmliberty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To UNsubscribe: send a blank email message to:
nmliberty-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

For a print subscription, contact Ron Bjornstad for details.

Finally, *New Mexico Liberty* will be posted to the web, in PDF format, both to the Archives section of the page on lpnm.org, and to the Files section of the Yahoo group I've set up for it:

groups.yahoo.com/group/nmliberty

If you are moving or change your mailing address, please use the enclosed envelope to let us know, so we can keep your *New Mexico Liberty* coming to you.

Advertising in *New Mexico Liberty*

Current rates for year-long spots

Full page	Ø60.00
Half page	Ø30.00
Quarter page	Ø15.00
Business card	Ø 8.00

Rates are subject to change at the discretion of the editor. The editor will do his best to make any such changes only when absolutely necessary.

Inserts – For an insert into the PDF version that goes out over the internet, contact the editor at email address nmliberty-owner@yahoogroups.com. For an insert into the print edition, contact Ron Bjornstad at email address rbjornstad@earthlink.net or phone number 505-288-4228.

Ø – The symbol for Federal Reserve Note(s), as used by Boston T. Party in his books. In plain-text message traffic (such as email), the acronym “FRN” will be used by the editor. See www.javelinpress.com for more information. Also see the Wikipedia page for “Federal Reserve Note” – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve_Note.

Submissions Policy

The editor reserves the right to refuse service to anyone for any reason. The editor will most often be willing to explain any such reasons. Appeals of the editor's refusal to post an advertisement, article, letter to editor, or anything else can be made to the LPNM's State Chair, Central Committee and/or Judicial Council.

THE LPNM OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.lpnm.org

LPNM OFFICIAL MAILING ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

918 Ivory Road SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
505-288-4228

If the date on your mailing label reads before 03/01/07, it's time to renew your LPNM membership.

Libertarian Party of New Mexico Enrollment / Renewal Coupon
Please print in all areas

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Employer _____ Occupation _____

I am registered to vote as a Libertarian and wish to join renew as a caucus member. Enclosed is \$25 annual dues payable to “**LPNM.**” (Sorry, we cannot accept corporate checks.) I will get the state newsletter “*New Mexico Liberty*” and will have delegate status at state conventions. I understand that the *LP News* is **NOT** at this time included in my membership.

I am not registered as Libertarian in the State of New Mexico or I do not wish to sign the statement opposing the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals at this time. Enclosed is \$25.00 annual-dues payable to “**Libertarian Party.**” (Sorry, we cannot accept corporate checks.) I will get the state newsletter “*New Mexico Liberty*” and will have no other benefits. I understand that the *LP News* is **NOT** at this time included in my membership.

I oppose the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals.

Signed _____

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ for use as indicated:

LPNM General Fund Chair’s Contingency Fund Major Player Fund Win One Fund

Please make donation check payable to “**LPNM.**” (Sorry, we cannot accept corporate checks.)

Government mandated notices:

- The US Postal Service requires us to notify you that the annual *New Mexico Liberty* subscription cost is included in your LPNM membership dues of \$25.00.
- The Internal Revenue Service requires us to print “political contributions are not tax deductible” on all fundraising appeals.
- The Federal Election Commission requires us to ask for the employer and occupation of each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

The preceding notices alone should be enough reason to join the Libertarian Party, the only political party working to increase your freedom.

COPY OR PRINT, FILL OUT, AND SEND TO:

**918 IVORY RD SE
RIO RANCHO NM 87124**