



## 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](http://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](http://www.quote-unquote.org) ] or the KCUF Media website [ [www.myspace.com/kcufmedia](http://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.riograndefoundation.org](http://www.riograndefoundation.org).

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](http://www.lpnm.org/dona-ana) – for details.

LPDAC Chair Siebert Ickler has started writing op-ed pieces for the Rio Grande Foundation – see page 4 of last month's edition 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](mailto:frank@fundimensions.com) or phone 505-989-3670 or 505-310-5971.

**San Juan** – 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 4 for more information about speakers, schedule, locations, etc. In the mean time, Joseph, Bob and others are busy putting the libertarian message before the public.

**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.

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"Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else."  
– Frederic Bastiat [ [www.bastiat.org](http://www.bastiat.org) ]

"Firearms and painkilling drugs are among the principle advancements of modern humanity. A sorry crew of US legislators have understood that it is their job to stand between human beings and these advancements made by humanity - no matter if it kills the human beings."  
– Mary Dolan

"There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket."  
– Major General Smedley Butler, USMC, 1933

## Calendar

### Special Events

**State Convention** – 13 / 14 / 15 April 2007 in San Juan County. See page 4 for more information about speakers, schedule, locations, etc..

### Regular Events

Thursday, 1 March and 15 March – 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 March – 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 March – 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 March – 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 March – 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](http://www.myspace.com/kcufmedia)

Hemp TV – Tuesdays at 7PM  
[www.myspace.com/nmhemptv](http://www.myspace.com/nmhemptv)

Reeferhead – Saturdays at 6PM

Contact Brian Bakri at [hippiegypsy@webtv.net](mailto:hippiegypsy@webtv.net) for details



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



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

"Politicians are rarely so fortunate as when a great tragedy (that can be blamed on foreigners) occurs, since all that is required of them, apparently, is that they not publicly wet their pants."  
– Ryan McMaken

### Who’s in Control of Your Life?

Recently, in talking about birthdays, an acquaintance made the statement, “The bad news is: time flies; the good news is: you’re the pilot.” “You’re the pilot” implies you are in control of what you do with that time that is flying by. This got me thinking, are we really in control of our lives?

As Libertarians we advocate smaller government, back to the limits of the U.S. Constitution, as a lot less control of our lives by the government – at all levels. We want that freedom of choice I wrote about last month.

But, the reality is that with few exceptions politicians continually vote to increase the size of government, increase the government’s control of our lives – determining how we can and cannot live them – and increasing taxes to pay for the ever increasing control and lack of freedom.

During election time we hear various candidates say they are for smaller government, letting us imply in our own minds that this would also mean less control and more freedom. But once they get into office we find that it was all a bunch of empty rhetoric. With the exception of Ron Paul and the few Libertarians who are in lower level offices, no matter whom you elect, from whatever political party they are affiliated with, we continue to get the same result: Larger government, more governmental control, and higher taxes.

So, what are we supposed to do? Do we throw up our hands and quit trying to bring about change?

Although it is still just over one and a half years until the next major election, we already see numerous politicians vying for their party’s candidacy. Some of us will decide to only vote for Libertarian candidates, voting a “blank” for ballot slots where there are no Libertarian candidates running. Others of us will only vote for Libertarians where one is running, and decide whom else to vote for in other races without Libertarians. Still others who suffer from the “disease” we refer to as the “lost vote syndrome” will vote for the “lesser of two evils” from the two major parties. While I advocate voting for the Libertarian, others may not.

Regardless of whatever you ultimately decide, one of the most important factors you need to consider is, who will actually work to make government smaller, back to the limits of the U.S. Constitution? Who will work to lessen the grip the government has over our lives? Who will work to lower taxes?

That’s a seemingly difficult question to answer. Many of the candidates state they will, but then never follow through. How can we determine who will actually keep their promises?

**NOW** is the time we need to start looking at the candidates. But, look at their records. How have they actually voted in the past? Regardless of what they say, their record of past votes tells the true story.

**Decide now! Determine that you will only vote for candidates who will actually work towards smaller government, less government control, more freedom, and less taxes! Anything else will only continue with the same unacceptable results with which we continue to be burdened!**

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

As I’ve said before, 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](mailto: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. 7 – Conscription

**The Issue** – Any form of coerced national service program is a type of involuntary servitude. Examples include conscription into the military and compulsory youth labor programs.

**The Principle** – Coerced national service programs presume the government can claim ownership of the lives of individuals. Such programs are a form of involuntary servitude and are a clear violation of the US Constitution 13th Amendment.

**Solutions** – All forms of national service will be staffed by willing participants without the need for conscription or other means of mandating such service. When people perceive a just cause, history has shown that they willingly volunteer to serve.

**Transitional Action** – All schemes for automatic registration through government invasions of the privacy of school, motor vehicle or other records should be immediately eliminated. The still-functioning elements of the Selective Service System should be abolished and all associated records should be destroyed. The President should immediately pardon, providing unconditional exoneration, for all who have been accused or convicted of draft evasion, desertion from the military in cases of conscription or fraud and other acts of civil resistance.

**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](http://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](http://www.kubby2008.com) / [www.phillies2008.org](http://www.phillies2008.org) / [www.christinesmithforpresident.com](http://www.christinesmithforpresident.com)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14 – FARMINGTON CIVIC CENTER, 200 W. Arrington – Mapquest: [www.tinyurl.com/yxy84m](http://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](http://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 Obergfell
- 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](http://www.family-justice.org)
- 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM      Dennis W. Montoya, civil rights attorney, *The Saga of Juan Mata*  
[www.montoyalaw.com](http://www.montoyalaw.com)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14 – K.B. DILLON'S, 101 W. Broadway – Mapquest: [www.tinyurl.com/srlf9](http://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](http://www.lneilsmith.org) / [www.ncc-1776.org](http://www.ncc-1776.org)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15 – GOLDEN CORRAL, 1715 E. Main – Mapquest: [www.tinyurl.com/tct8m](http://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](http://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**



Rio Grande Foundation Uncovers Ugly Reality of  
New Mexico's Gross Receipts Tax

[www.tinyurl.com/2aw4f9](http://www.tinyurl.com/2aw4f9)

By Paul Gessing [ [pgessing@riograndefoundation.org](mailto:pgessing@riograndefoundation.org) ]  
5 February 2007

(Albuquerque, New Mexico) – New Mexico's gross receipts tax is the dominant and defining feature of tax policy in the state. No other state in the country levies such a broad tax at such high rates while also taxing personal income.

In their new study, "New Mexico's Harmful Gross Receipts Tax: A Warning to Other States," Dr. Harry Messenheimer and Paul Gessing expose the ways in which services are often taxed multiple times for a single transaction. The authors also explain why gross receipts taxes like New Mexico's are a boon to special interests, but killers for economic growth.

Noting the ongoing changes made to New Mexico's gross receipts tax in recent years and the fact that states all over the country are considering such taxes (Texas and Ohio have adopted such taxes in recent years) the Rio Grande Foundation's study of the issue is particularly timely.

As Gessing points out, "With rates exceeding 7.8 percent in some cities, New Mexico's gross receipts tax clearly violates the economic principle that tax rates should be low and applied broadly. Our relatively high rates and lack of transparency relative to a sales tax," Gessing explained, "creates incentives for special interests to demand their own exemptions from the tax before moving to New Mexico."

"Exemptions have helped make the gross receipts tax unfair by treating entrepreneurs engaged in similar activities very differently," Dr. Messenheimer points out. "An example of this," he writes, "is the fact that managed care organizations have been exempted from New Mexico's gross receipts tax, but fee-for-service providers have not. Thus, a fee-for-service provider for whom income amounts to 20 percent of gross receipts in a given year will face a combined state and federal tax rate of 78 percent, while a similar managed care organization will be taxed at an effective rate of 'only 44 percent.'"

As Messenheimer concludes, "Policymakers in Ohio and Texas (and wherever gross receipts taxes are being considered), should keep New Mexico's example in mind. After all, our gross receipts tax originated at a relatively benign rate of 3 percent. Now, it is a job-killing, lobbyist-employing monstrosity. Other states need to learn from our mistakes."

In the meantime, both Messenheimer and Gessing conclude, "New Mexico gross receipts tax is at a crossroads. The Legislature needs to dramatically drop the rates and eliminate some of the most egregious exemptions, or it needs to abandon the tax entirely and simply shift to an old-fashioned sales tax."

The study can be found online at [riograndefoundation.org/papers/combined\\_grt.pdf](http://riograndefoundation.org/papers/combined_grt.pdf). Hard copies can be obtained by emailing your name and street address to [info@riograndefoundation.org](mailto:info@riograndefoundation.org).

**Don't Let Mayor Waste Taxpayer Money on New Arena**

[www.tinyurl.com/ywzehm](http://www.tinyurl.com/ywzehm)

by Paul Gessing [ [pgessing@riograndefoundation.org](mailto:pgessing@riograndefoundation.org) ]  
19 February 2007

Mayor Martin Chávez is at it again. A few months ago he wanted to put taxpayers on the hook for a \$300 million tourist trolley along Central. Now he wants a 16,000 seat arena and hotel complex with much of the expected \$350 million price tag to be footed by taxpayers.

As much as we all desire Albuquerque's Downtown to be a vibrant place to visit, spending megabucks on an arena is a costly and uncertain way to spur development. Like the streetcar, a taxpayer-subsidized arena and hotel complex will not generate new investment, but will suck money from other areas of the city and send it Downtown.

Economists have repeatedly found that there is no net increase in economic activity derived from stadium and arena projects. Dennis Coates and Brad R. Humphreys, for example, have explained that "As sport- and stadium-related activities increase, other spending declines because people substitute spending on sports for other spending." In other words, fan money spent at a new arena would likely have gone to other entertainment absent the arena. Thus, net economic benefits are zero.

Of course, that is assuming that Albuquerque even finds a regular tenant for the arena that can draw a crowd. Given the track record of the area's minor league hockey and basketball teams, even a permanent minor league tenant for the proposed arena may not mean success and would likely result in massive losses to taxpayers as the building sits empty much of the time. After all, the Scorpions are selling a disappointing average of just over 3,000 tickets per game in a brand new 6,200 seat arena in Rio Rancho and attendance at Thunderbirds games at Tingley averages in the hundreds.

These points are not meant to disparage the Albuquerque sports fan, but a team from any of the "major league" NBA, NHL, or Arena Football leagues is not on the horizon. More importantly, given the relative population and income levels found in the Albuquerque metropolitan area (our population ranks 65th in the country), there are a number of cities in line to get big-time professional franchises before us.

If a group of private investors were considering whether or not to invest their own money in a sports arena, they would undoubtedly look for signs that additional capacity was needed or that a market niche was being left unfulfilled. Clearly, that is not the case here in Albuquerque. With Rio Rancho struggling to fill an arena less than half the size of that being proposed for Albuquerque and Tingley Coliseum having experienced "an inconsistent event demand over the last few years," according to the consulting firm that was paid by the city to evaluate the need for the new arena, it would appear that Albuquerque has a surplus of arena space, not a deficit.

So, why is Mayor Chávez pushing for a 16,000-seat arena despite the obvious lack of need? First and foremost, unlike a private investor attempting to turn a profit, Chávez can leave his legacy using our tax money. The wise use of resources is clearly not his first (or even second) concern. Secondly, although private arenas have been constructed in Columbus, Ohio, Detroit, Chicago, outside of Detroit, and in Washington, D.C., just to name a few, again, there would have to be some reason besides blind optimism for an investor to take interest.

Chávez, like most politicians, would rather spend taxpayer dollars on luxury items like trolleys and arenas than on maintaining streets and bridges and keeping the roads clear of snow. Ironically, despite what many would call Chávez's "progressive" political bent, this arena project would do nothing more than take \$350 million from middle and low-income Albuquerque taxpayers and give it to the wealthy developers and patrons of the proposed sports arena and high-end hotel, both of whom are likely to be wealthier than the average Duke City resident.

The case against a taxpayer-financed arena is rather damning, but in the mayor's head it all boils down to the simple fact that he thinks he knows how to spend the taxpayers' (our) money better than we possibly could. It happened before with the trolley; again it is up to the citizens of Albuquerque to tell their big-spending politicians "no!"

*The Rio Grande Foundation is a research and educational organization dedicated to promoting prosperity for New Mexico based on principles of limited government, economic freedom and individual responsibility.*

# North American Union Has Been in the Works All Along

JPFO ALERT  
22 February 2007  
<http://www.jpfo.org/alert20070222.htm>

In August of 2006, we warned our readership about the coming North American Union, a plan to merge Canada, Mexico and the US into a single economic and political entity a la the European Union. You can read our alert, "Another Back Door for Gun Control" here: [www.jpfo.org/alert20060815.htm](http://www.jpfo.org/alert20060815.htm)

At that time, the planned NAU was (supposedly) still a theory, one new harebrained scheme among so many others proposed by the government elite safely ensconced in their ivory towers. Disturbingly, that no longer appears to be the case.

According to a recent article in the New American ([www.tinyurl.com/2vlzt3](http://www.tinyurl.com/2vlzt3)), in 1998, four "North American" business schools teamed up to create the PanAmerican Partnership, a business-training program sponsoring training and research emphasizing North American economic integration, and dedicated to building "the next generation of North American managers."

1998. That's seven YEARS before the Security & Prosperity Partnership – a precursor to the NAU proposal – or the Council on Foreign Relations's report "Building a North American Community" appeared.

Read the article. Then go to [www.tinyurl.com/kbtbg](http://www.tinyurl.com/kbtbg), where you will find a timeline of the progress to a full North American Union. This plan has been in the works for a while.

Why be concerned? Because neither Mexico nor Canada recognizes inherent, natural rights. All of their "rights" are actually privileges, granted by the government, and subject to removal at the government's whim. A North American Union would effectively eliminate the Bill of Rights. Since neither Mexico nor Canada recognizes the right to keep and bear arms, it's a virtual certainty that the Second Amendment would be the first right to be eliminated.

Supporting a North American Union is both foolish and dangerous. Read the links above. Educate yourself. Then educate others about this real threat.

NOW are you ready to help bring back a Bill of Rights culture in America?

– The Liberty Crew

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"If you want government to intervene domestically, you're a liberal. If you want government to intervene overseas, you're a conservative. If you want government to intervene everywhere, you're a moderate. If you dont want government to intervene anywhere, you're an extremist."

– Joseph Sobran



## Exit Strategy

by Russmo [ [www.russmo.com](http://www.russmo.com) ]



## Immigrants

by Darien Worden [ [darianworden.tripod.com](http://darianworden.tripod.com) ]



## Lazy White People

by John Bergstrom [ [www.attackcartoons.com](http://www.attackcartoons.com) ]



## The Terrorist Threat Is Grossly Overblown

by Doug Newman [ [dougnewman@juno.com](mailto:dougnewman@juno.com) ]

25 February 2007

[www.ncc-1776.org/tle2007/tle407-20070225-07.html](http://www.ncc-1776.org/tle2007/tle407-20070225-07.html)

Special to *The Libertarian Enterprise* [ [www.ncc-1776.org](http://www.ncc-1776.org) ]

In response to a recent piece I wrote regarding the decline and fall of the American Empire, CL writes:

*"Commentators keep complaining about our 'empire'. I don't pay too much attention to the word empire, but rather watch what is actually happening. I think it's very appropriate we fight vigorously against Islam today just as we did the evil that came from Germany and Japan in the past. There is really no difference in these expressions of evil – different names I guess, but that's about all."*

I replied:

The differences between Islam since 2000 and Japan and Germany in the 1930s and 1940s are huge. Let me explain.

To be sure, Islam is evil. I have heard Islam described as "Communism masquerading as religion." Mosque and state are one and they demand total control over the lives of their subjects. Islam rules by the sword and wins converts by the sword. Wherever Muslims get the upper hand, death and devastation follow. Contrary to the words of our theologian-in-chief, Islam is not "a religion of peace" and Christians and Muslims do not "worship the same god."

However, there are key differences between Islam and the fascism of the Germans and the Japanese. Foremost among them is that Islam has no center of power. It has no Tokyo, Berlin or, for that matter, Moscow. As a religion, it has no Vatican. There is no Fuhrer or Duce dispatching the armies of Islam on missions of conquest.

9/11 was an attack, not an invasion. There were no ships from the Navy of Islam waiting in New York Harbor or Chesapeake Bay to provide backup to the terrorists. No aerial bombing raids followed. No Islamic marines laid waste to New York or Washington.

9/11 was a one-time event. (1) There have been no terrorist attacks on American soil since. We do not have thousands of terrorists in our midst. There are all kinds of things terrorists could have done in the five-plus years since 9/11 that they have not done. Widespread suicide bombings and school shootings come to mind. Anyone serious about planning them could have done so while evading the notice of authorities.

I know, I know. The 18-year-old punkazoid who shot and killed five people in that Salt Lake City mall last week was a Bosnian Muslim. Some called this an act of terrorism. However, Uncle Sam's post-9/11 expanded police state powers did not stop this. Moreover, this was the act of a lone malcontent, and not part of a larger plan to "take away our freedom and undermine our very way of life."

While terrorists wreak enormous damage to make their points, they do not intend to take over our government and our country. The 9/11 terrorists had no political wing in their movement scheming to take over our FEDGOV; the London bus bombers had no political sidekicks intent on taking over the British government; the Madrid subway bombers had no intention of taking over the Spanish government.

Not only is Islam highly decentralized, but Islamic governments do not have the money to pose any kind of imperialist threat. I did an informal study of GDP and military expenditures which yielded some fascinating results. I took numbers from 17 Arab countries, as well as Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and the four countries with the largest Muslim populations – Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India – and found the following:

- Their GDPs combined equal 21 percent of the United States GDP.
- Their military expenditures combined equal 26 percent of the United States military budget.

The idea that Osama bin Laden is going to take over the world is absurd. He has not even taken over Afghanistan. Afghanistan has a GDP of \$6 billion, about one-quarter that of the state of Vermont. He holds no office and commands no armies. He has, perhaps, 10,000

followers. While al-Qaeda can do all manner of nasty things, they simply are no threat to take over the world. They are criminals, not imperialists.

Saddam never posed any kind of threat to the United States. Iraq had one percent of our economy and less than one percent of our military budget. No one ever found the purported weapons of mass destruction. In 1990, Iraq invaded a sandbox called Kuwait, which is as large as New Jersey. Iraq had no navy or air force to speak of. In the 12 years between Desert Storm and the Iraq War, American planes flew thousands of missions over Iraq. Iraq did not even shoot down a single American airplane.

To call Iraq an "Islamofascist" state is a misnomer. Saddam's regime, while undoubtedly evil, was a secular regime. Iraqi Christians enjoyed a greater measure of religious freedom than most Christians in the Arab world. There were probably 40 dictators in the world worse than Saddam.

When America invaded Iraq in March 2003, we invaded a country that had done nothing to us and which Dubya himself admits had no connection with the 9/11 attacks. We have been fighting this war longer than we fought World War II. The troops will not be coming home any time soon. On the low end, tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis have died as a result of this invasion.

Millions of professing Christians hail this shedding of innocent blood. God hates this. (Proverbs 6:17) I know a lot of these people think we have good intentions and seek good ends in Iraq. However, Scripture condemns doing evil even if good is intended. (Romans 3:5-8)

Islam has been around since about the year 610. While it has an extremely bloody history, it is simply no threat to take over the world.

Terrorism has been around since at least the French Revolution in 1789. It is not an ideology of government, but a tactic for venting political grievances. Rather than being a form of imperialism, it is a means of protest against imperialism.

The terrorists do not "hate us for our freedom." Rather, they hate us for our incessant meddling in the Middle East. If you whack a hornets' nest with a baseball bat, prepare to be stung. And if you whack it repeatedly, do not be surprised when you are stung repeatedly. You reap what you sow, and if you live by the sword you die by the sword.

I leave you with two quotes. The first is from Pat Buchanan:

"The dynamiting of the King David Hotel convinced the British to accelerate their departure from Palestine. Zionist terror ended. Mau Mau terror ended when the Brits left Kenya. When DeGaulle cut Algeria loose, FLN terror ended. When Reagan withdrew his Marines from Beirut, anti-American terror ended in Lebanon.

"Lesson? The price of empire is terror. The price of occupation is terror. The price of interventionism is terror."

Finally, the War on Terror, along with the acceptance by so many Americans of a police state in response to 9/11 brings to mind a quote by H.L. Mencken:

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed – and thus clamorous to be led to safety – by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."

The left has the hobgoblin of global warming. The right has the hobgoblin of global terror. Both campaigns are carefully calculated to keep the American people alarmed and clamorous for a the state to come to the rescue.

Notes

(1) For the record, I am one of those 9/11 "truthers". I do not buy the official story on 9/11. However, even if you frame this in the government's terms, you still realize that their contentions about the threat of terrorism are absurd.

**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](mailto:jayvandersloot@yahoo.com)

### Vice Chair

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### Secretary

Mike Blessing – 505-710-5197 / [gunssavelives@comcast.net](mailto:gunssavelives@comcast.net)

### Treasurer

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### At-Large Representative, Seat A

Ron Bjornstad – 505-891-4541 / [rbjornstad@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:nm_bob@hotmail.com)

### District 3 Representative, Seat B

Joseph Knight – 505-330-7713 / [nm\\_libertarian@yahoo.com](mailto:nm_libertarian@yahoo.com)

### Press Secretary

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## CAMPUS GROUPS

### New Mexico Tech

Lucas Uecker – 505-301-7980 / [luecker@nmt.edu](mailto:luecker@nmt.edu)

### University of New Mexico

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

## INTERNET RESOURCES

Official Website – [www.lpnm.org](http://www.lpnm.org)

Mailing lists on lpnm.org – [www.tinyurl.com/hogsn](http://www.tinyurl.com/hogsn)

LPNM Discussion – [groups.yahoo.com/lpnm-discuss](http://groups.yahoo.com/lpnm-discuss)

New Mexico Liberty – [groups.yahoo.com/group/nmliberty](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nmliberty)

LPNM Activists – [www.tinyurl.com/z7ug5](http://www.tinyurl.com/z7ug5)

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

Myspace.com – [groups.myspace.com/lpnm](http://groups.myspace.com/lpnm)

The SW Region LNC list – [www.tinyurl.com/e8khh](http://www.tinyurl.com/e8khh)

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"I would like a legislature composed of a Jefferson, a Washington, a Henry, a Hamilton, an Adams, etc., all arguing about the correct course for our country. Not one a gang member. But when I look at the requirements to even be on a ballot in 2003 or beyond, membership in some gang is required. It appears that Libertarians have a hard time creating a successful gang, and when they try, they often meet the same problems which affect other gangs, like dissention among gang members, and members who want to use the gang for their own economic advantage.

– Jack W. Boone

[www.creativefootdragger.com/archives/000131.html](http://www.creativefootdragger.com/archives/000131.html)

## COUNTY CHAIRS

**Bernalillo** – [www.lpnm.org/bernalillo](http://www.lpnm.org/bernalillo)

Mike Blessing – 505-710-5197 / [gunssavelives@comcast.net](mailto:gunssavelives@comcast.net)

**Dona Ana** – [www.lpnm.org/dona-ana](http://www.lpnm.org/dona-ana)

Siebert Ickler – 505-541-9079 / [lpdacnm@peoplepc.com](mailto:lpdacnm@peoplepc.com)

**San Juan** – [www.zianet.com/bobziesmer/sjclp.htm](http://www.zianet.com/bobziesmer/sjclp.htm)

Bob Ziesmer – 505-327-6681 / [nm\\_bob@hotmail.com](mailto:nm_bob@hotmail.com)

**Sandoval**

Ron Bjornstad – 505-288-4228 / [rbjornstad@earthlink.net](mailto:rbjornstad@earthlink.net)

**Valencia**

Abrañ Gabaldon – 505-864-6870 / [abran\\_d@yahoo.com](mailto:abran_d@yahoo.com)

## COUNTY CONTACTS (Unorganized Counties)

**Colfax**

Richard Moore – 505-377-6849 / [myliberty@mail.com](mailto:myliberty@mail.com)

**Lea**

Christina Groth – 505-397-9366

**Lincoln**

Richard Obergfell – 505-378-8025 / [lpncnm@valornet.com](mailto:lpncnm@valornet.com)

**Los Alamos**

Allen Cogbill – 505-662-7833 / [acogbill@geopotential.com](mailto:acogbill@geopotential.com)

**Otero**

Kathleen Hodgkinson

505-437-6042 / [hodgkinson@cybermesa.com](mailto:hodgkinson@cybermesa.com)

**Roosevelt**

Ken Sanders – 505-749-2085

**Santa Fe**

Susan Ruch – 505-466-4706 / [suelib1@hotmail.com](mailto: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?**

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"Millions are fascinated by the plan to transform the whole world into a bureau, to make everybody a bureaucrat, and to wipe out any private initiative. The paradise of the future is visualized as an all-embracing bureaucratic apparatus . . . Streams of blood have been shed for the realization of this ideal."

– Ludwig Edler von Mises, *Bureaucracy*, 1944

## ADMINISTRIVIA

Mike Blessing, Editor [ [gunssavelives@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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.”

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"Moreover, even if the wrongs against which these safeguards afford protection are of a sort now extinct in this country, there is more than an antiquarian interest in the prohibitions thus established. A state in which such tyrannous practices are banned is, and continues to be, a different kind of state from one in which they are permitted to exist. The characteristics of America today are therefore what they are because of what the Bill of Rights abolished forever. A dike or seal-wall constructed generations ago is still important to the dry land which has not been inundated for centuries. The land would not be dry land if the protecting wall had not been there, or it it were to be removed."

– Edward Dumbauld, "The Bill of Rights and What It Means Today" University of Oklahoma Press, Norman OK, 1957

## Subscriptions and Correspondence

[www.lpnm.org/newsletter](http://www.lpnm.org/newsletter)  
[www.myspace.com/nmliberty](http://www.myspace.com/nmliberty)  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/nmliberty/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nmliberty/join)

To subscribe, send a blank email to [nmliberty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nmliberty-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

To UNsubscribe: send a blank email message to: [nmliberty-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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](http://lpnm.org), and to the Files section of the Yahoo group I've set up for it:

[groups.yahoo.com/group/nmliberty](http://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](mailto:nmliberty-owner@yahoogroups.com). For an insert into the print edition, contact Ron Bjornstad at email address [rbjornstad@earthlink.net](mailto: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](http://www.javelinpress.com) for more information. Also see the Wikipedia page for “Federal Reserve Note” – [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal\\_Reserve\\_Note](http://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](http://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.**

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"What is ominous is the ease with which some people go from saying that they don't like something to saying that the government should forbid it. When you go down that road, don't expect freedom to survive very long."

– Thomas Sowell [ [www.tsowell.com](http://www.tsowell.com) ]

**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:**

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RIO RANCHO NM 87124**