



NEW MEXICO LIBERTY

“Giving Freedom A Voice”

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico ~

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June/July 2015 Edition

A note about New Mexico Liberty-

If you are reading the electronic edition, the blue text means that it is a clickable link. I use the text of the link so that if you have a print copy instead, you can type the URL text into your browser's address bar. I hope this is helpful

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transplanted Libertarian from California can assist in growing the party in membership as well as financially. Daunting as the task of State Chair may seem, I am reminded of the words of that firebrand of the Revolution, good ol' Thomas Paine: “Those who wish to reap the blessings of liberty must undergo the fatigue of supporting it.”

I hope to fulfill your trust and expectations in the coming months.

To grow membership, we need to contact those others who have not yet come to understand the vital role of liberty in not only American life, but all human life. It seems obvious, I know, that we need to talk to others in order to get them to join us, but can you imagine the membership growth if each of us would commit to getting just one new caucus member between today and the next publication of this Newsletter? If we all can get just one more member every three months, over the course of a year's time we could multiply our membership exponentially!

With increased membership usually comes increased funds, it is true, but for us to really grow financially we need a continuing monthly pledge program in addition to annual dues. Of course, having a “Sugar Daddy” contributor is always good for a one-time infusion of cash for a specific project, but the Party must ultimately rely on self-sufficiency for bread-and-butter expenses. If you are with me, then I am ready to roll! Let's hear some ideas, discuss them, and act on them! Let's make the Libertarian Party of New Mexico a forceful voice for Liberty in the Southwest.

From Our State Chair



As the newly-elected Chair of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico, I first want to thank all of the LPNM caucus members for your support of this new administration. Many of you have voiced your opinion over the past few months of your conviction that a



Our America Initiative and the Libertarian Party: Allies in the Fight for Freedom

**By Jesse Humpal, Our America Initiative
New Mexico State Director**

Ayn Rand famously said, "Individual rights are not subject to a public vote; a majority has no right to vote away the rights of a minority; the political function of rights is precisely to protect minorities from oppression by majorities (and the smallest minority on earth is the individual)." This statement is incredibly important to think about right now in America. Politicians recently felt it was their duty to decide if the government should be allowed to continue spying on United States citizens even after the Supreme Court, and the 4th Amendment of the Constitution, determined these sections of the Patriot Act were illegal. This is the America we currently live, where 535 people and one president feel they can decide what is best for 320-million individuals. The biggest problem with this...is that we let them do it. By continuing to vote for politicians who support illegal spying, higher taxes, and other attacks on civil liberties, Americans are only perpetuating the problem. The good news is that we can change the course of America.

The increasingly early political season is upon us, and the word liberty seems to be thrown around a lot, almost as a buzzword. Candidates who claim to be running on a liberty first platform are simultaneously opposing gay marriage, advocating increased global military involvement, and pushing for increased NSA spying. Liberty is liberty. One cannot support freedom for one sect of the country while simultaneously oppressing others; it does not work that way. It is the responsibility of truly liberty minded people to filter through the rhetoric and find people who don't just support freedom when it is convenient for them, but because it is the right thing to do. Former two-term Governor of New Mexico, Honorary Chairperson of Our America Initiative, and 2012 Libertarian Candidate for President of the United States Gary Johnson is someone who understands this concept, and has championed the liberty cause for several decades.

Our America Initiative is a political advocacy committee formed by Gary Johnson whose mission is simple; support liberty minded candidates and liberty minded causes. Right now, Our America Initiative nationally is working to: decriminalize marijuana, petition the NSA to stop violating our 4th Amendment rights, and is suing the federal debate commission to open the national debate stage to presidential contenders from all parties, not just the Republicans and Democrats. Additionally, in New Mexico, Our America Initiative is working to legalize Marijuana statewide, ensure marriage equality stays, and is working to repeal common core. While the Libertarian Party and Our America Initiative are not synonymous, they are allies in the fight for freedom in a country which was founded on those principles.

Our America Initiative needs your help. This help can be as simple as voting for truly liberty-minded candidates, donating monetarily to the Our America PAC, petition the IRS, NSA, and the United States Government, volunteer for Our America Initiative as an advocate or in an official capacity, like the Our

America Initiative New Mexico Facebook page, follow Gary Johnson on Twitter, or simply talk about how you support freedom to your friends and coworkers. It is not until we start speaking loud enough that true change will occur. Remember, it is our country, and it is our responsibility to ensure the constitutionally guaranteed freedoms are protected. Live Free.

Whatever Happened to the Hippie Dreams?

Editorial by Sherry Heim

I was born in 1950. The 60's and the 70's were my youth and what amazing times those were. I learned to question authority, I knew that marijuana should be legalized, I wanted to be free to be myself and not be persecuted for it, I wanted equality for all people and I wanted to stop the corrupt government. I didn't want nukes on our land, which was a big deal for us in California where the nukes were sitting on our shore and causing changes to the eco-system in our ocean. I joined the Alliance For Survival and carried my signs, marched my marches and sang songs of freedom and of the perils of nuclear energy. I burned my bra and went to sit-ins to protest our involvement in what I considered to be a no-win war in Vietnam.

Vietnam was a tough subject for me because I had so many friends who were soldiers. Boys plucked from the stage of their high school graduation to be sent to boot camp, then handed their WestPac orders. I lost a lot of friends to that war, some were mortally wounded, others came back home tortured by the ravages of guerrilla warfare, shells of the person I had known before. Most of those are gone now, lost to suicide or substance abuse that finally took its toll. I supported my friends, I wrote them letters I wanted them to come home and I wanted them to know that they were appreciated and not forgotten. It was a thankless war, one that would never be won, one that even if it were won, would not bring any more freedom to us at home. I didn't understand it, it made no sense to me. My friends who were soldiers believed that it was their honor or duty to give back to the country that had given them so much. I understood this, but how did sending these soldiers to some jungle, far away, defend our freedoms here in the United States? I was just a kid and already I was asking the question that so many fail to even ask today. Isn't it the job of our government to provide for the common defense? How does going to Vietnam, Somalia, Grenada, Iraq, Syria or Afghanistan to fight wars against different factions of those governments provide for our common defense? Are any of these countries really a military threat to our citizens? How many more will have to die before we rise up and say we have had enough? How much blood will stain our flag before we insist that we only become involved in a conflict when our people are in danger of a military invasion, on our soil?

I look back at the Hippie Dreams I had growing up. I think about how I believed I was so involved because I was protesting and making demands on my government. Therein lies the rub. We were all making demands on the intangible "Them" to make the changes to the world that we wanted to see. We were not making things change, we were demanding that someone else

do it and we had no way, desire or belief that we needed to follow through to make it happen. We were essentially nothing more than noisemakers. We had already lost track of the concept that “We the People” were the ones instilled with the power, not our government. We had, in essence, already given up, we just hadn't stopped shouting about it yet.

Today, all of we “Boomers” are AARP eligible and we are still waiting for “Them” to fix the problems that all that shouting and marching did nothing to change.

All of this leads up to my point which is, if we want change, we have to be willing to make it happen. We cannot sit back and wave a magic freedom wand at our government and expect them to simply give us back our liberty. We need to raise our voices in defense of those liberties and we need to be prepared to press forward to make it happen. There is no more time for Hippie Dreams, we must stop pointing our fingers at someone else and expecting them to make the changes we want to see. We must exercise our liberties, we must question authority and we must right the wrongs that have allowed our rights to be eroded.

It is time for liberty minded people to stop fighting amongst themselves and join forces to bring back the Constitution as the highest law of our land. We need to stop electing leaders who do not represent our views and who are happy to overstep their authority. We need to take away the ability of the government to spy on its citizens by making sure that we elect people who support our views and our Constitution.

I know that there are a lot of liberty minded people and groups that are trying to make the changes needed to give the power back to the people. I think most people are both believers in personal liberty and believers in fiscal conservancy. The problem I see is that there are so many different groups that are looking to defend our liberties that we are stretched thin. Liberty is important and many have tried to form groups to discuss and attempt to enforce this very issue. It is time for us to start working together if we want liberty to have a chance. We need to join forces so that together we can get things done. We need to form an alliance so that all of the groups can help one another. By joining forces we can have a louder voice, we can bring the discussion of liberty to the table and return it to its rightful position. We can return the power back to the people. It is time for us to understand that we don't need to appeal to the “Them” anymore, it is us who have the power to change our future. And change we must because 50 years later, it is obvious that our demanding that “They” change the way the government does business has not worked for us at all.

In this newsletter, I will be trying to include articles from as many liberty minded groups as are willing to post here. I am going to send requests for articles to all the groups I learn about. We are the Libertarian Party of New Mexico and I think that we are the ones who need to embrace liberty from all of the groups who are pursuing it, be they “Big L” or “Little l” liberty seekers. We need to become the ambassadors of the liberty movement if we wish to be successful in our defense of freedom and of the Constitution of the United States. Together, liberty and freedom can and will endure.

Attention Members

This is your newsletter. If you would like to submit an article for consideration in this publication, if you have local events you would like for us to include or if you have suggestions for articles you would like to see added this publication, we want to hear from you. We would also like to spotlight a different county in each quarterly newsletter. If you have events or projects that you are working on, and you would be interested in being our spotlight county, please contact us at: secretary@lpnm.us Below is a list of your Central Committee Members. Please feel free to contact them if you have any suggestions or concerns regarding your Libertarian Party of New Mexico.

Roster: LPNM Central Committee Members

Central committee

Chair	Marty Swinney	575-648-4240
Vice Chair	Elizabeth Honce	505-410-3861
Treasurer	Allen Cogbill	505-216-1611
Secretary	Sherry Heim	505-312-4891
District 1 Representative	Mike Blessing	505-448-9976
District 2 Representative	Kat Hodgkinson	

At-Large Rep – Seat A	Elisheva Levin	575-773-4209
At-Large Rep – Seat B	Bruce Levin	575-773-4209
At-Large Rep - Seat C	Vacant	

Or go to: <http://lpnm.us/contact.html>



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

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Employer _____ Occupation _____

I am registered to vote as "Libertarian" in the State of New Mexico and wish to join or renew as a caucus member. I am paying \$25 annual dues. I will receive a one year (4 issues) subscription to the LPNM state newsletter "New Mexico Liberty" (the national "LP NEWS" IS NOT included) and I will have delegate status at state conventions. **I certify that I do not advocate the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.**

Signed _____

I am not registered to vote as "Libertarian" in the State of New Mexico **and/or** I do not wish to sign the statement opposing the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals. I am paying \$25.00 for a one year (4 issues) subscription to the LPNM state newsletter *New Mexico Liberty* (the national *LP News* is **NOT** included). I understand that I will receive no other benefits.

I am making a DONATION to the LPNM in the amount of \$ _____ to be applied as follows:

\$ _____ General Fund \$ _____ Chairman's Fund \$ _____ Major Player Fund

TOTAL of DUES or SUBSCRIPTION plus DONATION \$ _____ to be paid as follows:

by enclosed CHECK payable to "LPNM" (Sorry, we cannot accept corporate checks)

by CREDIT CARD (circle one): VISA / MASTERCARD

Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expires: ____/____

Signature: _____

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:

LPNM c/o Ron Bjornstad
918 IVORY RD SE
RIO RANCHO NM 87124