



NEW MEXICO LIBERTY

“Giving Freedom A Voice”

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico ~

lpnm.us lpofnm.blogspot.com

September 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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Table of Contents

- Page 1 [From Our State Chair – Marty Swinney](#)
- Page 2 [Is Offensive Speech Free Speech? - Kerry Adams](#)
- Page 3 [Upcoming Events](#)
[Roster LPNM Central Committee Members](#)
- Page 4 [Enrollment/Renewal/Donation Form](#)

From Our State Chair



Well! We have had ourselves somewhat of an exciting time since our last edition!

The Ladies of the Central Committee spontaneously formed their own posse, The Liberty Belles, after the shooting in the military recruitment center. Seems our soldiers are not allowed to carry firearms, so they could not shoot back. So, our Liberty Belles (namely, Sherry, Betsy, and Elisheva,) took it upon themselves to stand up for liberty by conducting nearly-daily demonstrations in support of our troops.

And lets also give big-time thanks to fellow-travelers, the Sons of Liberty Riders, for showing up in force! They were practicing public open-carry and brought tons of flags to wave. They added considerably to the overall effect. It is always very nice when liberty-loving people from all walks of life can get together and stand up for freedom! Thanks, guys and ladies as well as several other citizens and fellow LPNM members who stopped by to stand

with the Liberty Belles at various times!

For myself, I've been following-up on inquiries, writing press releases, and providing rebuttal arguments to those who write at the Albuquerque Journal.

I am happy to report an increase of membership by 10 new members, and two have considered running for office in this next election cycle: one for mayor, and the other for one of New Mexico's three Congressional Districts. I'm hoping for more candidates this time around, and for all the readers of this column to help these men by at least signing their nomination papers, or (even better!) circulating those papers yourself, and encouraging others to do the same.

There will be more about these two gentlemen in the coming months. Stay tuned!

Our finances are growing slightly but surely, particularly when this newsletter goes out, so if you are one of those who habitually contributes to the Party every time you get a new newsletter, please: Don't Break that Habit!

We have formed two new committees: a Telecommunications-Committee-of-One, headed and fully occupied by Sherry Heim, to check into the various means by which we can conduct business via Internet if a quorum is not present for a Central Committee meeting; and a Legislative Committee composed of Elisheva Levin and Ron Bjornstad, to keep the full Central Committee informed on issues of interest when and as they may arise.

In closing, I'd like to repeat my challenge that we all strive to get at least one more dues-paying caucus member to sign up before the next quarterly edition of this publication hits the newsstand! Happy Liberty to you all and good hunting!

~Marty



Is Offensive Speech Free Speech?



Kerry Adams

<http://www.mereliberty.com>

Some forms of speech under the First Amendment are relatively innocuous, but what about offensive speech? Is offensive speech free? The penalty for penning the Declaration of Independence was treason; under threat of hanging. This document itself was highly offensive to more than just King George. It offended colonists still loyal to the British Crown. And the United States herself was born out of the will and desire to express freedom from (among other things) stifled speech, belief, and expression.

America hasn't always gotten free speech right as over 200+ years of history we continue to push the envelope and find that we have to alter our perceptions a bit (and then some). But as Ron Paul stated, "we don't have freedom of speech to talk about the weather, we have the first amendment so we can say very controversial things." When we think about the advances America has made in freedom, we must realize that they all started with an offensive idea, [philosophy](#), or question. Treason against the British Crown, the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, the civil rights movement, etc. were all offensive and even considered dangerous

to civility. Of course, offensiveness doesn't necessarily lead to good, but it would be irrational to suppress something simply because an idea was offensive to our current cultural climate.

Is Offensive Speech Free Speech?

There are many categories of offensive speech, and for the purpose of this post I'm not going to touch on some of the more controversial debates. There are certainly some worthy discussions being had about whether or not the most controversial forms of speech ought to be protected or prohibited and I encourage you (in the name of free speech) to look at them. But for now, I will be painting with broad strokes as I write about offensive speech in general terms. And as a word of caution, some of what I speak of below may be offensive to you, but I'm using these things as examples and not necessarily reflecting my own personal opinion on any given topic.

When was the last time you read something offensive? If you spend more than five minutes on Facebook, I'm sure you've come across something offensive whether it be vulgar, political, rude, or religious. Have you watched Netflix recently? Those shows produced for Netflix (or Hulu) certainly push the envelope with free expression which would otherwise be shushed by traditional broadcasting companies. Some fundamentalist Christians might be tearing out their eyes if they've seen even the first episode of Marco Polo or stayed through the House of Cards series long enough to see the affair between Zoey and Frank Underwood.

What about the ongoing hashtag war between supporters and protestors of law enforcement? #ICantBreathe #ICanBreathe #BlackLivesMatter #BlueLivesMatter. There's now an app police officers can use to judge a person's potential for criminal activity based on their Facebook posts, and there are several activist organizations dedicated to filming the police, that have gained traction on the Internet. Then there's the hard-to-believe story that North Korea is responsible for silencing Sony by (allegedly) releasing tons of personal information about Hollywood elites on the Internet. Satire surely is offensive, but it's been upheld as protected under the First Amendment, even allowing the use of copyrighted property *for the purpose* of satire under the Fair Use Act. What about religion in schools; participating in prayer circles, protesting "under God" in the pledge, questioning why the Koran is being taught about and not the Bible? Or maybe you have a favorite politician and you don't like the political speech coming out against him (or her).

When it comes down to it just about any kind of speech could be construed as offensive and I haven't even begun to scratch the surface here. I'm sure you can think of many other examples that I haven't mentioned.

Is Offensive Speech Valuable?

I can remember back to a 2008 Presidential debate amongst Republican hopefuls where one candidate first raised eyebrows. Ron Paul dared to remind Republicans of their history as non-interventionists. Mayor Giuliani didn't like Paul's political statements and actually wanted Paul to not only retract them, but lie about his own belief concerning them. Again, you may find Paul's statements offensive, but are they valuable? Is he asking valid questions? Is the counter position, that the American

government cannot error, and we shouldn't question it concerning foreign policy, reflective of the principle of free speech? Ask yourself, in this clip, who is supporting free thought, speech, and expression, and who is not? Or is this at least a discussion worth having even if you arrive at the same conclusion you had before entertaining these ideas?

In general, offensive speech is highly valuable to a free society. It allows us to question the status quo, call to the carpet those in power, bring attention to serious issues, and it also allows us to understand why we believe what we do. One of the best ways to defend your position is to know what you *don't* believe in and *why* you don't believe it. Our capacity to reason is what makes human beings unique, but the art of critical thinking (and it is an art) is lost in our current culture, especially if we're more concerned with whom will be offended, rather than who will listen and respond.

Moreover, offensive speech can remind us of why certain things are offensive to begin with. The Netflix drama, Marco Polo had this horrid scene of a young girl getting her toes broken for the first time, for the purpose of foot binding. The scene included the terrible sound of cracking bones, a screaming child, and a woman cowering in the corner knowing that this violence was wrong, but feeling powerless to stop it. It was a painful scene to sit through, but a reminder of several important lessons, including that such violence against women and children still comprises the vast majority of human history, and the freedom we enjoy today is still huge even if there are other areas where we are losing.

Can we talk? Even if two people, representing polar opposite views, would be willing to have a civil dialogue others can learn a great deal. I may never convince you that libertarianism is the best political philosophy to live by, but by having the conversation, those quiet onlookers who don't understand the issues well enough to form questions can still learn something. I can't tell you how many people have sent me messages and emails thanking me for participating in a discussion, or writing a particular piece because I articulated the very questions they had. And if the two people having the conversation are wise enough, common ground might be found and mutually beneficial progress can take place. However, nothing good can happen when free speech is oppressed.

So how should we respond? In the next post, I plan on talking about how we ought to respond when we disagree with or take offense to some idea, question, philosophy, etc. Who has an obligation to protect speech? Does every individual have to provide every other individual a platform from which to speak? Should Christians be offended that their culture is breaking away a formerly "Christianized" tradition?

Kerry Adams is a libertarian Christian and writes a blog at www.mereliberty.com. She was born and raised in New Mexico and now resides in Rio Rancho, NM where she has a monthly unpaid column published by the Rio Rancho Observer.

Upcoming Events

Albuquerque Liberty Forum

Second Thursday of each month 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Frontier Restaurant

2400 Central Avenue SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

LPNM Central Committee Meeting

September 20, 2015

1:00 – 3:00 PM

UNM Law Library

1117 Stanford NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131

Students For Liberty 2015 Regional Conference New Mexico

October 10, 2015

New Mexico State University

Las Cruces, NM

Tickets Available: Free of Cost

Registration:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/110480385959456/>

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.

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 Rep - Mike Blessing 505-448-9976

District 2 Rep - 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

Membership: Ron Bjornstad

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



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

Note: The date on the envelope of your newsletter is the date which your membership expires. If there is no date, we would really appreciate if you would renew your membership or join the Libertarian Party of New Mexico. Together we can give liberty a voice.

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 \$ _____

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 / DISCOVER / AMERICAN EXPRESS

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

CVV# _____ (3 digit number on the back of your card)

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