

# Let Freedom Ring!

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July 2002

## A New Dawn!

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### LNC Meets

July 7, 2002. 1PM. The new Libertarian Party National Committee meets in Indianapolis. Almost all members are present.

Newly-elected At-Large member Lee Wrights, editor of Liberty for All [www.libertyforall.com](http://www.libertyforall.com) reports that he has heard from his webmaster, who monitors large numbers of lists. Across America, Libertarians are saying that there has at long last been a change for the better in the national party, and that they will be renewing their membership in LPUS.

Bill Winter is being retained for three months on a contract work for hire agreement to edit LP News. Pay is on a pro rata basis based on hours worked. His replacement is being sought.

The new Executive Committee was discussed. Gorman proposed abolishing the Executive Committee, and assigning its tasks to the full National Committee. The Executive Committee currently

(LNC Meets Continued Over)

### Neale, Bisson, Givot, Martin To Lead LNC Dixon, Hough, Gorman, Smith, Wrights Are At-Large Members

Indianapolis. July 6, 2002. Geoff Neale has won a multiple-ballot victory as new National Chair, defeating George Phillies and Eli Israel. A first-ballot vote eliminated Phillies, leaving Neale well ahead of Israel. Conversations before the vote with large numbers of Phillies' supporters found that most planned to transfer their votes to Geoff Neale. In a well-received gesture of unity, Eli Israel withdrew from the race. Supporters of an ill-known, never-nominated fourth candidate for National Chair then raised a series of obscure parliamentary issues, delaying the conclusion but not changing the outcome. Geoff Neale finally triumphed over None of the Above in a voice vote.

Ken Bisson very narrowly beat Maryland activist Steve Boone for Vice Chair. Steve Givot was

(A New Dawn Continued Over)

### Liberty Congressional PAC To Produce Campaign Turnkey Kits

By Labor Day, The Liberty Congressional PAC will try to send every LP candidate in America a Campaign Turnkey Kit. "The schedule is extremely tight", said PAC Chair George Phillies. "We need to find good prices for lawn signs and bumper stickers, graphic artists, CD-ROM material including palm card and web site templates, training videos. We must raise money and get it out the door. We've had wonderful offers of support, but more is needed." Phillies noted that there may be 2000 Libertarian candidates this year. The cost of the kits might be in the range \$5-10,000. "This is the best support we can give future generations of Congressional candidates." The LC-PAC is reached at 87-6 Park Ave., Worcester MA 01605 or [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net).

### Get Candidates!, Delegates Say

Perhaps 100 delegates to the 2002 Libertarian Party National Convention were surprised to get a pre-convention robot phone poll. While many said that they first thought the poll was from the National Committee, most rapidly realized that it was from an LNC candidate or his friends. Sources not including the actual pollster—widely understood to be Libertarian Victory Fund leader Chris Azzaro—have reported to *Let Freedom Ring!* on some of the poll's outcomes. For National Chair, Geoff Neale was accurately reported to have a modest lead over Eli Israel and a somewhat larger lead over *LFR* editor George Phillies.

Pollees were also asked their preference of strategy. 12% wanted more membership recruitment. 26% wanted more education/outreach.

**62% wanted more candidates! Local Organization has triumphed with the membership!**

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**[A New Dawn]**

elected Secretary, beating Carol Moore by a wider margin. Deryl Martin was elected Treasurer without opposition.

The new At-Large members of the LNC are Mike Dixon, Don Gorman, Lee Wrights, BetteRose Ryan and Austin Hough, all of whom winning by substantial margins over their competitors. New Regional representatives are Ed Hoch, Joe Dehn, George Squyres, Mark Rutherford, Michael Gilson, Lorenzo Gaztenaga, Mark Cenci, Steve Trinward, and Mark Nelson.

As a participant, your editor waited patiently for the first-ballot votes to be counted, saw the first-round results, and watched National Chair-Elect Geoff Neale and his supporters take the podium. There were people who hoped that I could end the parliamentary back-and-forth after Israel withdrew. However, it was reasonably clear that the people raising the issue were not my activists—they were supporters of the fourth candidate—so I allowed that I should remain silent rather than throw gasoline on the flames. After a few appeals from decisions of the chair, the parliamentary issues indeed stopped.

There were several geographic rearrangements, notably that New Jersey moved from the New England/New York Region to the Pennsylvania—Virginia Region.

**Good News on LNC Finances**

While attendance at the 2002 Libertarian National Convention was far less than the 900 budgeted (perhaps 600 packages were sold, with perhaps another 100 delegates who purchased no package), it appears that losses were quite small, perhaps \$30-50,000.

There may be extensive additional financial reserves for the LNC in the form of hitherto-unknown Accounts Receivable to the LNC, largely for LP News. Your editor sat through the July 7 LNC meeting at which these items were discussed. It was reported that outbound LP News Editor Bill Winter maintained a separate set for of books for LP News, including Accounts Receivable. These accounts were not available to National Treasurer Deryl Martin and Associate Treasurer Nick Dunbar, so their financial reports to the LNC and the public did not include them. We gather from remarks of the National Treasurer at the LNC meeting that Accounts Receivable that are more than 120 days overdue are in excess of \$22,000. Amounts for shorter-term receivables have not been reported.

A detailed report of these amounts awaits reconciliation of LP News and LNC financial accounts to ensure that no person is incorrectly reported to owe the LNC money. Collection of these receivables from the ethical Libertarians who have yet to pay them will provide a significant boost to a cash-strapped Libertarian National Committee.

**[LNC Meets]**

consists of four National Officers and persons elected by the LNC. National Chair Neale asked for Michael Dixon and Mark Nelson to be elected. Steve Givot noted that under the Carver model there would presumably be no ExComm. The ExComm has not met since early this year, despite the party's extensive financial and membership retention issues.

It was explained that the ExComm was established to act in place of the LNC between LNC meetings. The ExComm has almost the same powers as the full LNC. In principle, the LNC may reverse an ExComm decision, either at a regular meeting, a special meeting, or via mail ballot, but in practice decisions can be difficult to reverse. In the past half year, LNC members said, the staff ran the Party.

Ken Bisson nominated Mike Dixon, Mark Nelson, and Mark Cenci. Lorenzo Gaztenaga nominated Joe Dehn. Dixon, Nelson, and Cenci were elected on a secret ballot. The vote was not announced. It appears that a majority of the LNC ExComm are former Eli Israel supporters.

Accounts Receivable—monies owed to the LP by outside persons, mostly for LP News operations—were discussed. Large sums (see “Good News on LNC Finances”, this page) are involved. These reportedly do not appear in LNC financial reports because the former Editor, Bill Winter, had separate financial records for LP News operations. From all reports, the LNC Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer did not have these records, and are not at fault for not reporting them. To several LNC members' ears, the LNC Treasurer appeared to say that there are accounts receivable that are more than 120 days past due. One LNC member stated during the meeting that with respect to this issue it had been difficult to identify lines of authority within the Washington offices. Neale and Martin will visit Washington soon to clarify the situation.

In your Editor's opinion, so long as the amounts and policy are publicly known, we should cut candidates some slack during the financial drought before the campaign season. Indeed, I have confirmed that least some of the shorter-term LP News receivables are from Federal candidate(s). However, \$22,000 represents perhaps two dozen full-page ads.

Mr Gorman, saying “This is not personal.” moved that an open search be made for a new National Director when the current contract expires, and that Mr. Dasbach be allowed to apply. There was disagreement. I believe I heard Dixon say that he viewed Gorman's motion to be completely irresponsible.

The meeting went to executive session. On reopening, on a 10 (ayes)-3(nays and recorded abstentions) vote the LNC said that no action had been taken on Gorman's motion, and that we have complete confidence in Chair Neale to take other needful actions.