

The
**Tar Heel
Libertarian**

"Let the revolution begin." — Ron Paul

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From the Chair

Fall is a beautiful time in North Carolina, and an exciting time for the Libertarian Party here. We have seen real progress in the Liberty movement over recent months, driven by the relentless dedication of the good people in our party. We finally saw the [release](#) of the body camera footage from the Joshua Rohrer arrest in Gastonia. The city continues to refuse to have independent review of the video, and we will continue to show up until there is some real accountability for this wrongly arrested war veteran, as we have since the beginning.

We also saw our Mecklenburg County affiliate host a debate between Shannon Bray, Libertarian Party candidate for the U.S. senate, and Matthew Hoh, the Green Party candidate. Shannon is one of 32 Libertarian candidates on the ballots this year in North Carolina, and we are excited for the Liberty message that they are forcing into the conversation. They need our support, and today's newsletter puts the spotlight on a few of them. Check out the full slate of candidates on the website, and give time or money if you can, they will certainly appreciate it.

We are currently hosting a table at the North Carolina State Fair, as mentioned below. It is an annual event that is always fun, interesting, productive, and well worth the time and energy. Last weekend, our Cape Fear affiliate hosted a strategizing and social event, capped off with a bonfire. In recent months, we've had LPNC members representing at Pride parades around the state, reminding people that we were calling for removing restrictions on marriages between consenting adults 40 years before it became the cool thing for the two big parties to do.

We remain tirelessly dedicated to the cause of Liberty, with every person as our inspiration. With the cooling weather and changing leaves as the backdrop, we want to thank everyone, sincerely and deeply, for giving what you can, especially our donors, who provide the financial lifeblood that keeps us in operation. For those of you who are able, we encourage you to do more, as we rely on our individual members to drive our accomplishments, and we are looking forward to achieving so much more.

-Joe Garcia, LPNC Chair

Third Party Debate

Davidson College Hosts U.S. Senate Libertarian and Green Candidates

-Rob Yates, LPNC Communications Director

For those of you who watched Cheri Beasley "debate" Ted Budd, on Friday, October 7, we want you to know, we at the LPNC feel your pain. A series of progressively ridiculous question dodges with empty platitudes and party-line talking points serving as filler, if nothing else this event was standard fare in the farcical world that has become our political discourse. Both sides, of course, claim "victory," in the most unfortunately accurate reflection of the hollow mess we have made buying into the enmity-driven drivel of our politicians.

Fortunately, there is a rational alternative to team red and team blue, where serious people have principle-based solutions to actual problems on which reasonable people can disagree and remain friends. On September 15, Shannon Bray, Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. Senate, sat down with Matthew Hoh, Green Party candidate, [for a debate](#) moderated by WRAL radio host Pete Kaliner. The two [met on Pete's Charlotte show](#) to continue the discussion the next day.

The first event was hosted at Davidson College. The room, set in old brick with modern finishings, set the perfect backdrop for a discussion of current problems with people who understand the history and importance of the position they seek, with meaningful answers produced on a foundation of research, understanding, and humanity, as opposed to rubber-stamped and fully vetted gobbledygook that the other two regurgitated last Friday.

Kaliner went through seven topics, ranging from the economy and environment to foreign affairs and education, with a series of questions underlying each. After a short break, there was a Q&A session for audience members to raise questions important to them, the citizens and residents of North Carolina. While Kaliner kept the event moving, the structure was loose and the discussion friendly, with a significant focus on areas of agreement between Bray and Hoh, such as decriminalization of cannabis and non-interventionist military policies.

They ended the evening discussing the polarization in the country, commenting on social media and modern politics and what they are doing to drive us further apart. They both expressed hope and optimism for where the country is going, and they proved it by sitting down next to each other, despite each one espousing apolitical philosophy that, at its core, is diametrically opposed to the other's.

On his show the next day, Kaliner took both candidates to task much more aggressively, pushing back on answers about abortion, economics, and the electoral college, and not allowing them to get off the hook with incomplete conclusions or baseless assumptions. Nevertheless, the events were both friendly and positive, and proved conclusively that the narrative "we must hate each other" is an utter and dangerous falsehood.

Constantly faced with voting choices billed as the lesser of two evils, with the common refrain from the average voter, "voting third party is a waste of my vote," it can certainly seem like the only option is to dig ourselves more deeply into the hole we have created, more bitterness, anger, and polarization as the engine. Instead, I submit that, if you don't like the way things are, then stop voting for it. The only wasted vote is one for a party-groomed and donor-approved member of team red or team blue.

A vote for Shannon is a vote for liberty, it's a vote for medical freedom, a vote for criminal justice reform that puts people first, it's a vote for economic responsibility, it's a vote for decentralization and block chain adoption, and so much more, and I encourage you to vote for Shannon, unequivocally. But, if you disagree with his solutions, or have some concerns and can't bring yourself to vote gold, I understand.

First, stay tuned, as we will be providing you so much more through this newsletter and all the exciting things the LPNC has planned, and we are confident we can change your mind. And second, if you can't vote for Shannon, vote for Matthew. Anything is better than a vote for the uniparty duopoly that we pretend is a representative democracy. And check out the debates; both candidates made the case for themselves, and then heartily endorsed the other as a second option.

Dignity and decency in politics isn't dead, it's just suffocating under layers of fallout painted red and blue as the two major parties try to turn us against each other to secure your vote. It's time we chose better.

County Corner

Cape Fear Affiliate Bonfire -by Kim Acer

The Cape Fear Libertarian Party, a collaboration of Onslow, Pender, New Hanover, and Brunswick County affiliates, held "Freedom Fire Fest" on October 8th. The event began with a county budget workshop, followed by a 2nd Amendment update from the LPNC's 2A Liaison, Justin Hinckley. Late afternoon speakers were Mike ter Maat, 2024 LP presidential candidate, and widely respected Libertarian, Jacob Hornberger.

Following afternoon portion, the group moved locations to enjoy a catered BBQ dinner. All attendees were invited to "be the spark," and participate in lighting the evening's bonfire. With perfect fall weather and a nearly full moon, the event brought on an opportunity to meet new faces and converse with old friends. Some attendees camped overnight as well.

The Cape Fear Libertarian Party would like to thank all those who attended and participated in making this event a success!

Cape Fear volunteers and committee members

Bob Drach, New Hanover County Chair, presents on county budgets

Bryce Acer (CFLP Chair) introducing Mike ter Matt

Lighting the evening bonfire

Mecklenburg County Pride Parade -by Steven DiFiore

The crowds were large after a two-year hiatus, which isn't surprising given the cabin fever induced by both pandemic fears and lock-downs. In any case, the Charlotte PRIDE festival has returned to the Queen City and with more than Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand attendees, a record setting number, over the course of the weekend it was clear to all that the hunger for such a celebration remained alive and well. Not only were attendance numbers elevated for this twenty-year Charlotte tradition but also the mood and energy of the folks who walked around checking out each booth that lined the streets of Uptown Charlotte.

In the midst of generic blue or white pop tents, the gold and black canopy of the Libertarian Party of Mecklenburg County's booth shown with distinction. An AstroTurf "lawn" beneath the canopy contributed to a novel and welcoming political outreach style. Though the heat was stifling at times and the threat of rain hung over the festivities on Sunday, the intrepid volunteers of the Libertarian Party booth had some of the best outreach success of the past year.

Charlotte, a volunteer and At-Large Committee member used her past experience hawking wares at Renaissance Fairs to great effect, engaging passers-by in a friendly and lively manner. Jeff and I, both long time volunteers availed ourselves of years of experience to promote the Party and our work, highlighting future opportunities for and with our organization. If the fact that our sizable cache of Libertarian Party Swag items was completely depleted by the end of the weekend is any indication, our efforts were well received. This engagement was much more than merely handing out rainbow Gadsden Flag hand fans or applying colorful Torch of Liberty temporary tattoos.

Our World's Smallest Political Quiz display, prominently set up at the front of the booth was by far our best conversation starter. Over Three Hundred people took the time to fill out the quiz and have a conversation about both the questions and what Libertarians are all about. These conversations are, of course, the most vital part in any outreach effort. It spreads awareness of our Party, the Movement, and the philosophies at play in equal measure. The quiz is also fun. At least the hundreds of folks we spoke with over the course of the weekend seemed to think so. For many, placing a sticker (who doesn't love stickers after all) on the political landscape board is where our outreach ended. With a heartfelt thanks for a fun experience, they moved on to sample other parts of the festival.

However, a few wanted to know more and those are the best moments of the whole weekend. From meeting a UNCC student interested in starting a University Club to an apolitical small business owner who is interested in single issue coalitions around local zoning and land use policy, these encounters open the door to some interesting future prospects for our Party Affiliate. Even those who are not on board with our Party, or anything outside the Team Red/Team Blue paradigm, lead to fruitful conversations. Rather than engage in argument or debate, and always resisting the urge to "own the Libs" in this case, our volunteers walked the path of dialectic and mutual respect. Even when we couldn't find points of meaningful agreement, which is very rare, by never getting angry, frustrated or mean both parties found that points of disagreement were merely that, a minor point of disagreement. No one bore hard feelings either way and our interlocutors always walked away feeling good about their interactions.

That's what it is all about really, leaving a lasting and positive impression in the hearts and minds of those we meet. Our Party Affiliate has seen amazing growth this past year and with the many new connections we have made during this year's Charlotte PRIDE festival we are looking forward to continued growth and fostering positive meaningful change in our communities.

Candidate Spotlight

Dee Watson, NC Senate District 16

Hello, my name is Dee Watson and I am currently running as a Libertarian in for NC Senate district 16. I have over 20 years' experience working in clinical trials as a statistician and statistical programmer. I've always worked in places where opinions are formed from fact finding. When I see politicians selectively pick facts to bolster their opinions, I'm shocked by how counterproductive they are. The best way to solve any problem is to first acquire the relevant information. Then honest people typically agree on the best course of action. If elected, that's what I hope to bring to the capital.

I understand that individuals are best suited to make their own decisions. Government one size fits all decisions cause inefficiencies and needless waste. I will advocate against all government medical mandates. People own their own bodies and the government should never decide what an individual is required to put in or keep out of

their body. The government has made it illegal to own a plant, but when someone is arrested, and they didn't harm anyone, the only victim is the person arrested. We need to end the criminalization of possession of firearms and drugs. Most importantly we need to realize that many children are not served best by government schools. We need to fund students, not systems in North Carolina.

<https://electdeewatson.org/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5PQpysHfv_X1WfeKP3cEIA

David Coatney, US House District 11

My name is David Coatney, and I would like you to know that I have been happily married for 10 years and have been a small business owner since 2005. As the owner of a web marketing agency, I have dedicated my entire adult life to helping small businesses, and now I want to fight for policies that help Mom & Pop. I saw how destructive government overregulation can be to small businesses and decided not to sit on the sidelines anymore. I was also motivated to fight for immigration reform after having experienced the immigration process firsthand with my wife Beth.

<https://coatneyforcongress.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtJ3IVx2UWcl6JC4QVaeSA/videos>

[DONATE](#)

Sean Haugh, NC House District 31

I am running so the voters of my district can choose to radically reduce the size and scope of state government. Abolishing corporate welfare incentives, ending the war on drugs, expanding school choice, and privatizing alcohol sales are all easy Libertarian solutions that will massively reduce the state budget. There are also a whole host of regulations and taxes that we could eliminate so that everyone can enjoy more opportunities to seek prosperity for themselves and their families. We could start with permanently repealing all the healthcare regulations that were suspended because they turned out to be obstacles to our response to the pandemic.

seanhaugh.com

Thomas Hill, Cabarrus County Soil & Water Supervisor

Social Media Coordinator for Dr. Mary Ruwart and founder of Healing Our America (<http://healingouramerica.com>)

As our county continues to attract new businesses and residents, we need to maintain our ecological balance by holding developers responsible for any negative impact upon our shared infrastructure and environment. We can welcome economic growth without sacrificing our principles and natural resources. The county should encourage all farmers and rural property owners to plant hemp as a form of erosion control. Win or lose, I will continue to monitor issues in our community and advocate for the level of stewardship required to ensure we all have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink

[Website](#)

Book Review

Economics in One Lesson, by Henry Hazlitt

Review by Olivia Broadway, Queen City Freedom Fellowship

Economics in One Lesson is a libertarian classic. Though the title may lead you to believe it to be a dry book of economic theory, the book is anything but that. Hazlitt begins the book by presenting the reader with "the lesson" in chapter 1, and he spends the rest of the book explaining how the lesson applies to real situations. He does this in layman's terms, using examples most of us can relate to, without jargon or complicated graphs, so it is easy to read and understand.

What is this lesson? *The art of economics consists in looking not merely at the immediate but at the longer effects of any act or policy; it consists in tracing the consequences of that*

policy not merely for one group but for all groups. Hazlitt encourages us to think longer term and more broadly about the downstream impact of our decisions. For example, who really benefits from tariffs? Sure, the protected company or industry benefit in the short term, but what about everyone else? Hazlitt points out that tariffs hurt our exporters, and they make “the industries in which we are comparatively inefficient larger, and the industries in which we are comparatively efficient smaller...In the long run, [a tariff] always reduces real wages, because it reduces efficiency, production and wealth.” The chapter on inflation also stood out as a timely reminder of the disastrous effects of an increase in the supply of money.

Economics in One Lesson was originally penned in 1961 and updated in 1978. The effects of our economic policy decisions were predicted decades, if not centuries, ago. Indeed, there seems to be nothing new under the sun. I highly recommend this book to anyone trying to understand what is going on in our economy. This lesson is still as true today as it was in 1961.

Upcoming Events

North Carolina State Fair

The NC State Fair (October 13 - 23) is a major outreach event for the LPNC and our candidates. Be sure to stop by our booth in the Education Building...and please consider [signing up to staff the booth](#) for a three-hour stint. It's fun and spreading the gospel of liberty has been scientifically proven to boost your karma in most cases...and in **all** cases, we provide volunteer booth staffers with a **COMPLIMENTARY TICKET** to enjoy the Fair.

Wake County Early Voting

The WakeLP is running 19 candidates including Wake's own Shannon Bray this election cycle! We want every voter to know they have more than the same old two choices! There are 15 early voting sites in Wake County (20 Oct-to-5 Nov) and over 200 precinct voting sites on Election Day. We won't be able to cover every site, but we would love any help at the polls this year. On Opening Thursday we will scout for the best sites, and we would like get as many volunteers as possible to those sites. We will provide handouts and guidance.

A candidate list can be found here: [2022 Candidates - Libertarian Party of Wake County \(wakelp.org\)](#)

Please consider signing up to help: <https://signup.com/go/ZBXJZdM>

2A Talk

Guns Don't Kill People, Social Media Does -by Shannon Bray, Libertarian Party U.S. Senate Candidate for North Carolina

<https://www.shannonbray.us/>

I have something I want you to consider. After every mass shooting, people cry out for gun control. For weeks or months, gun control is all you hear and then it goes silent. There are many people who believe that the availability of weapons is why we have mass or school shootings. The thought is that if you take the guns away from everyone, these types of events would not happen. If we just pass a few more gun laws, we will save our children.

There comes a time when we need to find the core of the issues and not just slap band-aids on everything. Everything in our community has become fuel for our cancel culture; if someone does not like it, they want it gone for everyone, but that is a topic for another day. For the sake of this article, let us call the band-aid gun control and let us consider the core of the issue: social media. No doubt you already knew where I was going with this since the title states it clearly but let me make my point and offer you several references so that you can come to your own conclusion. First, I will highlight the growth of social media. Second, I will present data that will show social media links to depression and anxiety. Third, we will discuss the characteristics of people who commit these crimes. And finally, I will offer various approaches that will help mitigate these issues and explain why Congress is unable to address the problems by simply passing a bill.

[Read More](#)

Get Involved

Do you oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals? Do you challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and wish to defend the rights of the individual? Are you already Libertarian, but you want to do more and you aren't sure how?

There are lots of ways to get involved!

[Join the Party
Affiliate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Connect with a County](#)

Reflections from an Old Libertarian

Libertarianism has a long, rich [history in North Carolina](#). As we build the cause of the liberty for the future, we will always remember where we came from and those who worked to get us here. Every month, we will feature an OG Libertarian from North Carolina, telling stories, giving and interview, reflecting on how things are or how things were. It is the foundations on which we stand that allow us to move forward.

Blood is Thicker, the Libertarian Bond -by Sean Haugh

At a time when the national Libertarian Party and several of our state parties find themselves mired in controversy and infighting, we here with the Libertarian Party of North Carolina just keep on growing and doing our thing, blissfully unaffected by it all.

How do we accomplish this? For over 20 years we have practiced a party-building philosophy we call the NC Way. Simply put, if you want any amount of greater Liberty at all, in any direction, or even just on one issue, we welcome and embrace you in the Libertarian Party. It doesn't matter where you came from politically, nor even really how far down the path to total freedom you want to go. If you want freedom, you have a place with us.

We very openly love ALL our fellow Libertarians here in NC. One great thing about us is we are neither left nor right, just Libertarian. So we can bring in people from all over the political spectrum. Once we put them all at the same table at a local meeting, we come to find out we all have a whole lot more in common with each other than we ever did with the parties we fled.

We've never cared much for caucuses here, and as far as the National Committee is concerned, as long as we don't need their support for ballot access (and we haven't since 2008), we hardly care what they do. We have our own work to do here at home, and we are putting together our own teams of people at the local level do carry it forward. A lasting political party is built from the ground up, not from the top down.

Sure, caucuses are active here, and the Mises Caucus is particularly strong in NC, as it is everywhere across the country. But the NC Way means we see people as individuals, not as representatives of some collective identity. When they started showing up, we welcomed and embraced them and put them to work, just like we always did with everybody else.

To me, these newer members aren't "the Mises Caucus." They are people, they have names. People who have brought new enthusiasm to the party. People who do the administration and outreach work that helps us grow even more rapidly. People who run for office and represent us well to the voters. People who embrace Libertarian principles and love all their fellow NC Libertarians. People who have become my friends and allies, and whom I am glad are on our side.

So I look at all this infighting going on elsewhere and am kinda puzzled. It doesn't have to be like that. No one has to show up for a fight. Besides, we have bigger fish to fry with all these authoritarian Democrats and Republicans in office.

It really doesn't matter where you came from politically or why you want more Liberty or what particular freedom issue matters to you the most. You have friends and allies here in the Libertarian Party of NC. We have been doing it this way long before there was a Mises Caucus, and we'll still be practicing the NC Way when the next flavor of the day in the Liberty movement comes along.

Support Freedom, Peace, and Prosperity in North Carolina

In the 2020 election cycle, total spending on federal elections between the Republicans and the Democrats was [over \\$14 Billion](#) (with a "B")! In [North Carolina alone](#), the two major parties spent over \$280 million on [one of the most the most expensive](#) Senate races in history.

As the party of principles, we reject the massive amounts of dark money pouring into campaigns that produces bought-and-sold candidates loyal to donors and special interest groups at the expense of the American people. We rely on you for financial support to keep pushing back against the two-party behemoth and advance the causes of liberty.

[**Donate Here Today**](#)

Letters to the Editor

Every month, we will feature a few of the emails we receive from the dedicated people of North Carolina. You may opine on anything you like, but relevance to

our cause and North Carolina will get precedence.

We will also ask a question each month, and include the best responses in the next edition. Please submit your responses to communications@lpnc.org, and include your name, county, and level of involvement.

This month's question is: "Was Ayn Rand a Libertarian?" Please explain your answer.

Advertising

Have a business, blog, podcast, product, or service that you are interested in advertising to fellow libertarians? Reach out [here](#) for inquiries about ad space.

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