



"Just because you're paranoid / don't mean they're not after you." -Kurt Cobain

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## From the Chair

On December 31, 1995, Bill Watterson brought his legendary comic Calvin and Hobbes to an end with a simple, four-frame drawing with only Calvin, Hobbes, a sled, and a world covered in snow. Hobbes says that the world looks "brand new, like a big, white sheet of paper to draw on." Calvin celebrates the new year and the "fresh, clean start" it brings. He lauds the day full of possibilities. Then he closes with the iconic line, "It's a magical world, Hobbes, old buddy... Let's go exploring."

We talk so much about the cause of Liberty. We debate trade-offs with different approaches to furthering Liberty and compare the effectiveness of various strategies to grow Liberty. We work, with no expectation of personal return, to bring about this thing called Liberty.

To me, Liberty is not a destination. Rather, it's a journey, a magical world of possibilities inviting us to go exploring. We have the great privilege of embarking on this odyssey together. The relentless pursuit of Liberty, defending those who are least able to defend themselves from the tyranny of wanton state overreach, with the companionship of other Liberty-minded individuals, these are rewards themselves.

The only requirement is not to hurt others. Not only is this not a high bar, it is also intrinsically rewarding, as we use our energy to improve things around us, and the whole world benefits. Imagine if the resources that we have poured into making bigger and more weapons of war were instead dedicated to developing a truly clean and abundant source of energy. Or if we let the economy grow organically through our participation instead of taking people's money when they earn it, when they spend it, when they live in their house, when they own their car, when they start a business, when they hire someone, and when they die. Or the innovation potential if industry was allowed to thrive rather than being crushed under the weight of absurd regulation enforced by a stifling bureaucratic apparatus which ironically is sustained with the squandering of the money that was taken from us.

Certainly, Libertarian philosophies can get nuanced and complex, but our basic worldview is simple. You have the right to make decisions about what is best for you. Don't hurt others. There is a magical world in front of all of us, and I am in awe at the possibilities when we come together.

Happy New Year. Let's go exploring.

-Joe Garcia, LPNC Chair

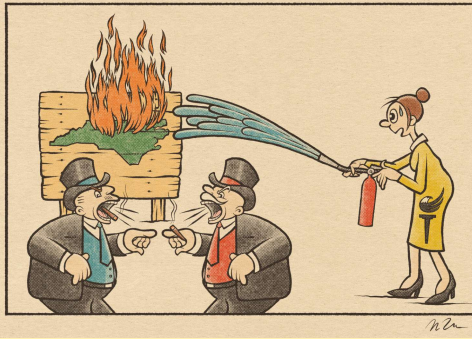
## A Libertarian Call to Action

### It's time to change the world, starting in our own backyards

by Rob Yates  
LPNC Communications Director

Comic by Noah Zenger

If we want to be vehicles for meaningful, positive change, we must remember to keep our focus local.



Mid-November of last year, the Federal Reserve **announced** that it was running a twelve-week pilot, partnering with several massive banks, to test a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for the U.S. Dollar (if you are unfamiliar, here is the **Fed's definition** and description, and here is an **objective description**). Few major press outlets covered the story in earnest, and those that did gave a brief and cursory summary of a project that could "**speed up payments**."

The Fed, unsurprisingly, has not published any examination of the downside of a CBDC, but has released a "**study**" that masquerades as objective, while the White House was **lauding the possibilities** a CBDC presents before the pilot was announced.

I want to make sure I am crystal clear about this... There is perhaps no current lever available to the government that is more potentially dystopian and tyrannical than a CBDC. Any potential upsides of CBDCs are dwarfed against the ability of the Fed to simply turn off your money for any reason – wrongthink (by their definition), exceeding some arbitrary carbon cap, donating to the wrong candidate, purchasing the wrong book, refusing a medical procedure...

I **predicted** these developments years ago, which certainly fueled my reaction. I make no claim to prescient prognostication; rather, it is easy to foresee that, when granted tools enabling greater control of the population, the state and its actors will inevitably use them.

My first instinct on reading that CBDCs were becoming a reality in the U.S. was to write something and immediately send it out to our entire subscriber base. I wanted alarm bells ringing and red lights flashing.

I actually wrote, "This is the hill we die on!" on our message boards. My penchant for the dramatic notwithstanding, I maintain that the potential for abuse of a Federal Reserve sponsored CBDC is so draconian that we should, in fact, do something. I encourage you to all contact your **representative** and **senators** and demand that an actual U.S. CBDC never see the light of day.

## Avoid the distraction of federal politics

In this newsletter, I try to give a lot of space to the people who have given decades of their lives fighting for Liberty. We are in a unique situation right now, as Libertarians, where – distant as it may be – there is a real light at the end of the tunnel, if we are simply willing to run it down. But the people who set this table... they had no idea if they would ever enjoy the fruits of their labor. We all fight for Liberty for Liberty's sake, but the founders of the party and the LPNC had no expectation of success, and yet they fought on.

When I sent out the distress signal about CBDCs, the response was surprising. People who are much wiser than I were not against me writing something about it – they were supportive, in fact. But they were skeptical of impact and cautioned on expectations. We **had to fight** for eight months to get 45 minutes of body camera footage released for one incident in Gastonia; how can we expect to drive change at the Federal Reserve and why should we waste time and energy there?

I encourage you all to be fully educated regarding all the ways our tyrannical federal government surveilles your activity and restricts your rights. But the fact is, federal politics, impactful as they may be, are ultimately a distraction. For every onerous Federal policy we lament, there are myriad onerous city, county, and state policies we are ignoring. That opens the floodgates for much bigger government imposition.

## A call to action

I can't tell you what to do, nor would I want to. It's antithetical to everything in which I believe. I can tell you, though, that there has never been a more opportune time for our message to spread. The **number of unaffiliated voters is higher** than registered Dems or Repubs, driven by a more than 100-percent increase since 2004. Disenchantment with the two-sided uniparty has **never been higher**.

We have the best message, but the forces that oppose us are powerful, well-funded, and have huge reach. Relying on the power of our message alone to advance Liberty is screaming into the void when facing the selective and targeted narrative control fostered by the front line of the state and its behemoth information apparatus.

The solutions are right there waiting for each of us to take action. Give \$5 a month; volunteer one hour a week; run for local office; speak at a city council meeting; join a school board; join a county affiliate; bring a friend to a meeting; attend state and affiliate conventions; email a representative each day; phone bank for an hour; attend a tabling event; share the right book with a friend... The list of possible action extends to the horizon.

If you aren't sure where to start, reach out; I promise our Volunteer Coordinator has plenty of opportunities. Start small, it all makes a difference. Just do something.

## Think locally, act locally, change the world

I hate the cliché of the new year representing some nebulous opportunity to make a change, but I recognize the perfection of the timing. Make 2023 the year you find a way to give what you can to the cause of Liberty, right here in North Carolina.

We need to win locally to stop the tidal wave of authoritarianism that is the natural consequence of a people ceding political power. Let's change the political landscape in North Carolina so that we would never worry about something like federal control through CBDCs because the tyrannical arm of the federal government would know better than to ever try and invade North Carolinians, physically, virtually, financially... and we, our children, and their children, never have to fear the government again.

## In the News

[What's coming in 2023 in NC's health care scene? Here's what we'll be tracking.](#) (North Carolina Health News - January 3, 2023)

[North Carolina regulators approve initial carbon plan](#) (Power Engineering - January 3, 2023)

[AG: Meadow's won't face voter fraud charges](#) (News & Record - December 31, 2022)

[NC state budget law adds new requirements for governor's use of emergency powers](#) (Fox News - December 30, 2022)

[U.S. Appeals Court upholds union restrictions in 2017 N.C. Farm Act](#) (Carolina Journal - December 28, 2022)

[Judge Glock on Zoning and Local Government](#) (Econlib - December 26, 2022)

[NC governor demands Duke Energy report on why no warning of rolling power outages](#) (The Herald Sun - December 26, 2022)

[Reward of up to \\$75,000 offered for information on North Carolina power grid attack](#) (CBS News - December 7, 2022)

## County Corner

### Raleigh Gun Show

Our last tabling event of 2022 was the Raleigh, N.C. Capital City Gun Show. The LPNC had a particularly successful 2022, tabling and attending events around our beautiful state, and we could not be happier with how we closed it out.

Dedicated LPNC members gave their time to host the table, where they met Liberty-minded individuals, talked shop, taught a few things and learned more, and ended up getting several people to sign up for more information on the party. Thank you to the volunteers for running a smooth and successful table at this event. We are looking forward to more in 2023, so come join us when you can!



Left to Right: Sean Acton getting in the holiday spirit, Mac Browder and LPNC 2A Coordinator Justin Hinckley talking shop with visitors at the table, LPNC chamber flags that all table visitors received.

## Chair Chats



### Bob Drach New Hanover County LP Chair

This month, the Tar Heel caught up with New Hanover Chair Bob Drach. New Hanover is the second smallest county in North Carolina by size, but top ten in population, trailing only Wake and Mecklenburg and their surrounding counties. It is the second most densely populated county, after Mecklenburg.

New Hanover also has a fickle voter base, where loyalty shifts between duopoly candidates each election. More than 40 percent of the nearly quarter million population is unaffiliated, and there are more than 2,000 registered Libertarians and growing.

With the Atlantic Ocean forming its eastern border, New Hanover boasts some of the world's most beautiful beaches, Wilmington as its centerpiece cultural hub, solid economic opportunity, and a thriving community of traditional Carolinians and transplants alike. With this as the backdrop, the Tar Heel asked Bob about his journey to Libertarianism, what the affiliate is doing now, and where he sees New Hanover going in the future.

**Tar Heel:** Bob, thank you so much for taking the time to talk to me today. I want to start off by asking a little about your history. I understand you are a sailor, and completed an intense journey from Cali to Hawaii. Can you tell me more about that?

**Bob Drach:** I was the cook and a deckhand on the SV Lureline, a Tripp 47 sloop out of Kaneohe, HI. The race started in Victoria, BC and finished off in Lahaina, on Maui. That is a "downhill" route where we fly spinnakers and surf ocean swells the whole way. Twenty-one days of just wind, waves, sun, chill, work, and sleep. Blissful.

**Tar Heel:** That sounds incredible. What attracted you to sailing? And, to tie it in, how does the feeling of freedom combined with personal responsibility you get on the water parallel with your Libertarian philosophy?

**Drach:** I blame Melville, Dana, Chichester, and other writers who have romanticized sailing as a test of mettle against the sea. The community of sailors is built on hard work and respect for each other and for nature. Not all sailors are Libertarians, but most have that deep streak of personal responsibility, respect for others, nature, and teamwork.



**Tar Heel:** So, what originally attracted you to the Libertarian party? How long have you been active, and what other roles have you had?

**Drach:** When I turned 18 in 1979, I wrote on my draft card that I was a conscientious objector, and I registered to vote as a Libertarian. After college and two years in industry, I joined the Peace Corps and taught Physics in secondary schools in Tanzania. I believe in public service but also believe that the best public service is to provide excellent products and service to customers and to maximize value for investors and all constituents. My only government role outside of the Peace Corps was a stint on the New Hanover County Board of Equalization and Review.

**Tar Heel:** New Hanover is such an interesting place. There is a dichotomy with the city and the surrounding rural areas, and then the ocean obviously has a major influence. You have farming and shipping right next to a robust arts community. Broadly speaking, where does politics fit into all this?

**Drach:** The college, UNCW, plays an outsized role in local politics. Also note that this area has grown faster than North Carolina as a whole, and N.C. is itself a growth state. A lot of the new people coming in are from the Northeast, and many from the Midwest. The dichotomy that emerges is a large block of voters who have escaped and another block of strong personalities - both "left" and "right." Unfortunately, the overall trend has been for more government involvement in real estate, zoning, building infrastructure, and funding special interests.

**Tar Heel:** It really is similar to other North Carolina counties in that regard. Knowing all that, where can the Libertarian Party make inroads? What messaging is resonating with people in New Hanover?

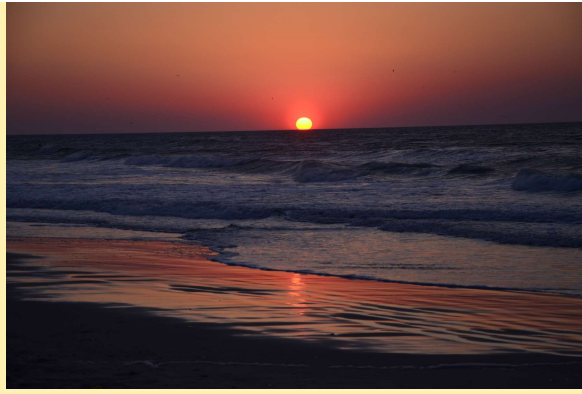
**Drach:** New Hanover County has a rich history of Libertarians running for office and working to impact local politics. The current leadership team, including Michele Sundstrom and Justin Hinckley, are focused on membership development, and building infrastructure to support future candidates. Our messaging includes defending Second Amendment rights and representing Libertarian values through the city and county budget processes. Do you know that at last year's New Hanover County budget public comments session there were 20 people who showed up, and all of them supported the budget or even requested additional spending? This is what our elected officials have been hearing. We will send a different message.

**Tar Heel:** What are the biggest challenges you see in getting that messaging out in a way that attracts people?

**Drach:** We are in a pickle because people are addicted to government promises and government money. Both the Rs and the Ds have corrupted the discourse in this way. C.S. Lewis once said that the safest road to hell is the gently sloping one. Our challenge is to look for the opportunities to turn people around. The mask and vaccine mandates were one such opportunity for some people. There will be others and we need to exploit them when they happen.

**Tar Heel:** New Hanover is doing relatively well economically, especially against other N.C. counties. What are some of the biggest problems you see in the county, and what solutions can the Libertarian Party provide?

**Drach:** Tyler Yaw, one of our LP-NHC members who hosts the Whiskey and Wisdom podcast, believes strongly in finding the local issues where the Libertarian view is compelling. One such issue is building a new bridge across the Cape Fear River – I know, who will build the roads? We should be working through the DOT and planning boards to make it a toll bridge, so the users pay at a minimum and it gives the project a chance to attract infrastructure investors. A different problem is the legacy of racism in the City of Wilmington that in some ways has trapped multiple generations in a cycle of poverty and gang affiliation. I think the most effective actors on this problem have been the downtown churches and NGOs. We should affiliate with these and support their missions.



**Tar Heel:** *Along those lines, what is your vision for the New Hanover LP in the next year, the next five years, and after that? Are there any specific changes you want to affect, and where do you see candidate success coming through?*

**Drach:** Our urgency is to build critical mass in membership, community involvement, and fundraising. I'm stoked about the people who have joined our meet ups and we have some more outreach planned this year. My goal is to field a full slate of Libertarian candidates for state and local offices in New Hanover County. Not just field them but support their campaigns and deliver a consistent compelling message to the more than 150,000 voters in our county.

**Tar Heel:** *What about you, what does the future have in store for Bob Drach?*

**Drach:** I suffer from that dichotomy we discussed earlier – 80 percent of my time I'm sailing across the Pacific or trekking in Patagonia, while I'm advocating Liberty only a small part of time. I feel like the advocacy is not enough, but ultimately, we want government and politics to be just a small and harmonious part of our lives. I think that if we build a good team in NHC then I can help others who are ready to give a chunk of their lives to public service or be in a better position to do more myself when I'm ready to hang up my foul weather gear.

**Tar Heel:** *Thank you again, so much, for your time today. Fascinating discussion, and I appreciate it. One final question, what are some things about New Hanover County that other affiliates might not know at all, but that could help them as they spread the message of Liberty, grow their respective local parties, or try to get candidates elected?*

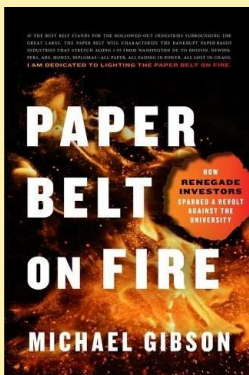
**Drach:** I mentioned Tyler Yaw who hosts the Whiskey and Wisdom podcast with a libertarian bent. He is a potential resource for developing content. Our Justin Hinckley has worked on a brochure for Second Amendment issues and has handled several issues as our Treasurer with grace – he would be happy to talk through either of these topics with folks. I'm an advocate for attending county and city council meetings and exercising our responsibility to make public comments.

**\*Editor's note:** *Justin Hinckley, mentioned in the interview, is our 2A issues coordinator, and the Tar Heel 2A Editor who writes the monthly 2A Talk column. Tyler Yaw hosts the Whiskey and Wisdom podcast, which can be found [here on Apple podcasts](#).*

## Book Review

### Paper Belt on Fire, by Michael Gibson

Review by Rob Yates



"Our community of hackers tells me I have a garage-sale writing style. Odds and ends, bits of memoir, bursts of photography, shards of scholarship, vignettes, reportage, untranslatable words, history, shifting points of view... I turn to poems as often as economics. And if I digress at times, and weave multiple story arcs, I beg you to hold on tight"

Gibson gives readers this caveat in the foreword, but it is impossible to describe how simultaneously appropriate and understated this is. Never have I been more certain that someone could beat me in chess, fix my car, cook a gourmet meal, recommend a hostel in Thailand, and talk punk rock all night.

*Paper Belt on Fire* is part epic poem, part philosophy, part self-help manual, and part social commentary, all wrapped up in an autobiography that would qualify Gibson as Dos Equis next Most Interesting Man in the World. His writing style is as captivating and frantic as the stories he tells; the people and places feel honest as they weave together, buoyed by philosophical musings, with some genuinely funny parts as well.

The book follows Gibson, starting with his CIA interview, into his work for Peter Thiel, and through the foundation of the 1517 Fund with Danielle Strachman. At every turn, Gibson puts established orthodoxies to the test, defying broadly accepted predictors of success and ridiculing the importance given to institutional certificates as credentials.

The 1517 Fund is named for the year Martin Luther published his 95 Theses, railing against the absolute bureaucratic authority of the indulgences the Church afforded to anyone who could afford them. Similarly, Gibson disavows contemporary attitudes giving deference to people who possess certain meaningless certificates with the right name on them. From New England Ivy League schools down to D.C. strongholds, dubbed the "Paper Belt," elitist institutions gatekeep their club, reserving entry for those who embrace piece-of-paper meritocracy, bestowed exclusively by those same gatekeepers.

*Paper Belt on Fire* thoroughly dismantles the paper paradigm's validity, while also explaining how truly dangerous the stagnation created by this mindset is for the advancement of humanity. Gibson then gives reason for hope, detailing some ways out of this mess, and what to look for next.

It is impossible to properly celebrate this book in a brief review, but I highly recommend it, five out of five stars, two thumbs up. Definitely worth your time.

## Upcoming events

### Rage Against the War Machine

On February 19, the National Libertarian Party will be hosting a rally in Washington D.C., Rage Against the War Machine, along with the People's Party, to demand an end to the U.S. Government's meddling in foreign governments, war profiteering, illegal detention of journalists, and so many other deadly consequences of a military industrial complex that seeks endless foreign war.

From the [event website](#): Join us at the Lincoln Memorial at 12:30 pm on Sunday, February 19, on the anniversary of the Ukraine War and President's Day Weekend, to Rage Against the War Machine! Veterans, speakers, rock musicians, comedians, and more. After the rally, we'll march to the White House and deliver our demands to Warmonger-in-Chief Joe Biden.

Several members of the LPNC are planning on attending. Some of them are organizing transportation and cooperation. If you are potentially interested in getting involved, [let us know](#) so we can help you make connections.



### Concord Gun Show

After our success at the Capital City Gun Show in December, we've decided to table the Concord Gun Show on February 25 and 26. Gun shows attract people with whom we tend to share principles; people who just want to be left alone, who are skeptical of the government, and who will likely be very open to the ideas of Liberty.

Each day there are two shifts. On Saturday, February 25, first shift is from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and second is from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. On Sunday, February 26, first shift is from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM and second from 1:30 PM Sunday. The event will be at Cabarrus Arena & Events Center, 4751 Highway 49 North, Concord, NC.

If you can give some of your time, please, [sign up here to register for a shift](#).

We are looking for two or three volunteers for each shift. LPNC tabling events are always fun, interesting, and informative. They give us a chance to hear from people who share our concerns and to spread our message effectively. We want to carry our momentum from last year and start regularly tabling gun shows across the state, but we can't do it without your help.

**IF LIBERTARIANS WERE IN CHARGE**

YOU COULD LEAVE THIS GUN SHOW TODAY:

- With any **AR-15** or other semi-automatic rifle.
- With as **many handguns** as you want to buy.
- With a **suppressor**.
- With a **machine gun**.
- With a **short-barreled rifle** or **shotgun**.
- With **body armor**.
- With newly manufactured **armor-piercing ammo**.

...ALL WHILE CONCEALED CARRYING ANY FIREARM YOU WANT, WITHOUT A LICENSE.

LPNC.ORG

## 2A Talk

**Constitutional Carry - What is it, why we need it, and what you can do about it**

by Justin Hinckley

LPNC 2nd Amendment Liaison Coordinator

On January 1, 2023, Alabama enacted its constitutional carry law, signed in March 2022. This is the latest in a string of pro-self-defense actions in both legislatures and judiciaries throughout the U.S. in the last few years. In 2003 just one state, Vermont, had legal constitutional carry. Twenty years later, and 25 states now have it in their laws. Nineteen of those 25 have come into force since 2013.

Constitutional carry is essentially the removal of restrictions on concealed or open carrying a firearm. It is a term generally applied to laws which make it legal to carry a gun without a specific license issued by the state in question. A few states have stipulations pertaining to the open versus concealed carry of a gun or relating to handguns versus long guns, but the majority of laws apply equally to all manners of carry and types of firearm.

As with all burdensome government restrictions, the benefits of removal are many and varied. In this column, I will discuss some of the reasons with the biggest impact to the most people. For starters, the obvious issue of liberty is worth mentioning. As Libertarians, we support the idea that everyone should be able to best determine for themselves how to defend their life. Government should not be placing artificial barriers between individuals and self-defense.

Constitutional carry reduces entrance costs for individuals, thus allowing more people to accept the responsibility of defending themselves. Acquiring carry permits is expensive and time-consuming. By enacting constitutional carry in North Carolina, we reduce the cost of legally carrying a concealed firearm by about \$200 (average concealed carry class price and application fee), reduce the time needed to take off work by about 12 hours (eight-hour class and estimated four hours for sheriff's office), and eliminate the one-to-four month processing period of scheduling your class, attending your class, scheduling your application appointment, getting your fingerprints, submitting your application and fingerprints, and going back to the sheriff's office to receive your concealed handgun permit. These barriers price-out lower-income individuals, as does the time required to take off work. Surely, rich people don't deserve to defend themselves more than everyone else.

The last benefit I want to discuss related to constitutional carry is the idea of crime and policing. If we all agree that police cannot be everywhere to protect everyone at all times and we all agree that self-defense is a fundamental human right, then it should follow that we all agree having the most effective means to self-defense and having those means at our disposal at all times is essential. Even if law enforcement was eminently trustworthy, police often cannot respond to crimes fast enough to interrupt them and save lives. This makes it incumbent upon all individuals to accept the burden of providing for their own defense. Constitutional carry provides a better atmosphere for individuals to decide for themselves how, when, and where to arm themselves as a means of self-defense by eliminating the artificial barriers of government regulation.

As Americans dedicated to the cause of liberty, it is not enough that we merely read and discuss the topic of constitutional carry amongst ourselves. We must start voicing our thoughts to those who represent us, as they cannot claim ignorance to the importance of such a cause if they are told about it regularly. In the interest of assisting people with expressing their beliefs quickly and clearly, I have included a small note you can send to your state representatives, encouraging them to endorse the principle of constitutional carry:

*I am contacting you today in order to express my thoughts, seek your response, and ultimately, gain your endorsement regarding the topic of constitutional carry. Constitutional carry is a term used to refer to laws which abolish permitting and licensing schemes relating to carrying a firearm outside the home. It puts the decision-making process about how and when to carry a firearm back into the hands of the individual. Would you not agree that individuals are in the best position to make decisions affecting their own lives? I fully support the enactment of constitutional carry in our great state of North Carolina, thus enabling those who have not had opportunity or means to acquire their concealed handgun permit (CHP), to be able to carry concealed without delay. The NC CHP costs hundreds of dollars, requires many hours dedicated to the process, and months of waiting in order to obtain. These barriers block many low-income citizens from being able to carry the most effective means to self-defense, because they do not wish to risk arrest for illegal carrying, while doing nothing to prevent violent criminals from illegally carrying. After all, the criminals are intent on committing additional crimes anyway, what incentive do they have to not break one more law? I look forward to your response and working with you to expand the idea of constitutional carry and passing a law to enable all peaceful North Carolinians to defend themselves in the way they see fit.*

## 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 an interview, reflecting on how things are or how things were. It is the foundations on which we stand that allow us to move forward.

## Keep Moving Forward

*Dr. Mary Ruwart is a Libertarian author, speaker, and activist who previously served as an Adjunct Professor of Biology at UNC-Charlotte. Dr. Ruwart was the Libertarian candidate for Senate in Texas in 2000, and was a keynote speaker at the 2004 Libertarian National Convention and at the LPNC state convention in 2018. Additionally, Dr. Ruwart has served on the boards of the International Society for Individual Liberty, the Fully Informed Jury Association, and the Michigan chapter of the Heartland Institute. She is currently one of the scholars leading the Libertarian Solutions 3.0 online learning course run by Liberty International.*

As we move into 2023, it's tough to know which way the world is turning. Covid has wreaked havoc on our economy, our rights, and our health. Although the worst of the crisis is supposedly behind us, it's uncertain what 2023 will bring. Many of us are still mourning our losses and frustration abounds. This is when we are most vulnerable, when we must take care not to be our own worst enemies.

The government has accumulated power throughout the crisis and it may seem at times that there is little we, as libertarians, can do. In our understandable frustration, it's easy to lash out at our families, friends, and fellow libertarians instead. If we do, our abusive government will have succeeded in dividing us and we will be doing its dirty work for it. In times like these, we should be coming together and acknowledging our real enemy and vent our frustration constructively.

How do we do that? We come together and help those who are not in a position to fight the good fight. For example, in Gastonia, not far from where I used to live in Charlotte, members of the LPNC and Spike Cohen's "You Are The Power" have been holding rallies, speaking at public meetings, and raising money to help abused and disadvantaged homeless people being harassed by city and county government. These activists are building bonds with local community members, forming a diverse coalition of people from across all political, cultural and economic spectrums. If we expect others to embrace our philosophy of non-aggression, we have to be a living example of our principles in action. Be the neighbor known for offering a hand up, not a hand out. If we invest faithfully in our cause, the people we are trying to reach will have extra incentive to invest a little faith in our ideas.

Joining a coalition to obtain justice allows us to unite with those who feel the same on a single, simple issue. Our comrades in arms are more likely to listen to the libertarian message when they see our dedication to justice in action. Not only do we thwart the injustice of the state, but we gain sympathizers for the libertarian ideal. Isn't this a much better way to release our frustrations than fighting among ourselves? This is the time to embrace our libertarian colleagues and together do good. Let's not let "them" divide us, but unite us!

## 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. You can [Join the Party](#), [Volunteer](#), or [Connect with a County Affiliate](#).

Go here if you [Just Ask Questions and Get More Information](#)

## Support your Fellow Libertarians

The Tar Heel is honored to promote the endeavors of LPNC members. Here we feature businesses, podcasts, blogs, seminars, or anything else our members send our way.

### Whiskey and Wisdom Podcast

Check out New Hanover Affiliate member Tyler Yaw and his co-host Chris Kellum in their exploration of the world, its people, and its spirits. They smartly and succinctly cover a truly eclectic array of engaging topics, all while enjoying the quintessential American libation.


[Discussing life's most fascinating topics over a good glass of whiskey.](#)




### Libertarian Solutions Online Learning Course

Dr. Mary Ruwart is one of several venerable Libertarian scholars taking part in Libertarian Solutions 3.0 online learning course run by Liberty International. This year's main theme is "How to Share the Libertarian Message with Just About Anyone." Dr. Ruwart is encouraging all LPNC members to take this affordable and exceptional course, and it offering a discount code for those who do. Use code "MARYRUWART" to get 20% discount on your ticket!

The Libertarian Solutions 3.0 online learning course will give you an enhanced understanding of the real-world application of libertarian principles; teach you how to effectively communicate these life-enhancing concepts; and illustrate how to awaken your friends, family, and acquaintances to the "good news" of liberty.

 February 15 - April 1, 2023

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Enroll now and find more information at <https://liberty-intl.org/ls3>

- Mary J. Ruwart
- Walter Block
- James W. Lark



- Per Bylund
- Ken Schoolland
- Dean Ahmad
- ...and possibly others!

**LIBERTARIAN SOLUTIONS 3.0** **LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL**

I will be speaking at the Libertarian Solutions 3.0 online learning course. Sign up with the coupon code "MARYRUWART" to get a discount.

**20%**

liberty-intl.org/l3

## Convention Season

### LPNC 2023 State Convention

Friday March 10 - Sunday March 12, 2023

Village Inn in Clemmons, NC

Hello again, liberty lovers - convention is right around the corner! Please join us again at the Village Inn in Clemmons, NC, Friday March 10 - Sunday March 12, 2023. We'll kick off with our Friday night social at 6:00 PM and wrap up on Sunday as usual, but this year we'll be shifting more speakers to Sunday so we can get all of the business done on Saturday.

We hope you will join us for this important gathering of libertarians from across the state. Please register using the [website link](#).

If you have any issues registering or would like to ask any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. You may email [convention@lpnc.org](mailto:convention@lpnc.org) or [secretary@lpnc.org](mailto:secretary@lpnc.org) with any concerns.

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### LPMeck 2023 Convention

Saturday, January 28, 4-6 PM

Why should you come to the January 28th convention of the Libertarian Party of Mecklenburg County at Hawthorne's Pizza?

[All the reasons and registration here.](#)

Come get free pizza at Hawthorne's! We make sure everyone who attends gets both good food and good politics.

We are the party with the vision of a better future.

Hawthorne's New York Pizza and Bar Meridian Place  
6215 Old Post Rd Suite 101, Charlotte,

[LPMeck Convention Details](#)

### LP of Union County 2023 Convention

Sunday, January 29, 1-3 PM

Come join the Libertarian Party of Union County for its 2023 Convention.

We will be convening at 1 PM at the Trail House located:

6751 Old Monroe Rd  
Indian Trail, NC 28079

We will cover party business first and then discuss how folks can get involved. We will have social time afterwards. This is a family friendly event, so feel free to bring your kids.

[LP of Union County Convention Details](#)

## New Hanover County LP 2023 Convention

Sunday, January 29, 1 PM

LP-NHC will hold its annual convention on Sunday, January 29 at 1 PM, at the Hampton Inn Medical Park, on 17th street in Wilmington.

The agenda includes a discussion of the history of LP-NHC from our stalwarts John Evans and Richard Hollembeak and will conclude with some community service as we do our quarterly Adopt a Highway pickup.

Goals for 2023 include membership development and formalizing a fundraising platform in prep for fielding candidates in the next local election cycle. In this we've received guidance from the LPNC-IT team, Cape Fear, and several others. We appreciate the guidance and support!

[LP-NHC Convention Details](#)

## Durham County LP 2023 Convention

Tuesday, February 7, 7 PM

This is our February monthly meeting as well as our annual county convention. we will be electing new board members and editing and approving our bylaws and platform.

Star Indian Cuisine  
3630 Durham Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham

[DurhamLP Convention Details](#)

## Johnston / Harnett County LP 2023 Convention

Tuesday, February 7, 7-10 PM

The Libertarian Parties of Harnett and Johnston County (LPHJC) are combining and holding their convention February 7, 2022, at the Cleveland Draft House. Please join us to approve the bylaws, elect party officials, and discuss liberty.

Cleveland Draft House - Garner  
6101 NC Highway 42 W., Garner

[Johnston / Harnett County LP Convention Details](#)

## Orange County LP 2023 Convention

Wednesday, February 8, 7-9 PM

Come and join the Orange County Libertarian Party for their 2023 County Convention. Help elect our local leaders and our slate of attendees for the LPNC State Convention. Everyone is welcome!

Linda's Bar and Grill  
203 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill

[Orange County LP Convention Details](#)

## WakeLP 2023 Convention

Wednesday, March 1, 7-10 PM

Join us for our 2023 annual convention as we select delegates for the LPNC convention. We will take care of some party business and elect new officers for the next two-year term. It will be held at our regular meetup spot at Tobacco Road (downtown Raleigh) on March 1st from 7-10 p.m. and all are welcome to attend. Delicious snack food will be provided! We look forward to seeing you.

**LPNC CONVENTION DELEGATES:** If you wish to attend the LPNC Convention (March 10-12) as a WakeLP delegate and cannot attend this meeting, please so inform John Underwood ([secretary@wakelp.org](mailto:secretary@wakelp.org)). To be eligible, you must have been a WakeLP member since at least early December 2022.

**PARKING:** If your bill comes to \$15 or more, Tobacco Road will reimburse you for parking in the Powerhouse Square Parking Deck behind the restaurant. Ask your waiter or waitress for a voucher.

## Letters to the Editor

Every month, we will feature a few of the emails we receive from the dedicated people of North Carolina. Opine on anything you like, but relevance to our cause and North Carolina will get precedence. Please submit your responses to [communications@lpnc.org](mailto:communications@lpnc.org), and include your name, county, and level of involvement.

Our best letter last month came from Joanne in Mecklenburg County.

I have been a life-long Republican but at 73 years old I registered with the Libertarian Party. Why the change? I recently attended a debate between a Green Party candidate and a Libertarian candidate. I was amazed to hear two politicians discussing issues with no personal attacks even when presenting opposing views on solutions.

I worked for many years as a teacher and then a principal so I'm into researching before making a decision. I delved into the platform of the Libertarian Party and what especially caught my interest was the opposition to any form of government censorship of speech. We are all painfully aware of the present climate where tech companies, pharmaceutical companies, media, and defense contracting companies control the narrative. It's tempting to shrug my shoulders and say "you can't fight city hall" but I have five grandchildren and I want them to live in a country where the rights of the smallest minority - the individual - are protected.

I have just begun my journey and realize I have a lot to learn so I can be a voice for freedom.

Joanne Yates

## 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.



## 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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