



"The Destiny of Man is to unite, not to divide. If you keep on dividing you end up as a collection of monkeys throwing nuts at each other out of separate trees." — T.H. White, *The Once and Future King*

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From the Chair

Hello North Carolina, and thank you for the honor of electing me Chair of the state party. It is my privilege to introduce myself here. I am humbled by your support. This is a responsibility that I do not take lightly, and I promise I will be tireless in my dedication, diligent in my duties, and responsive always to the needs and concerns of everyone in the LPNC.

I am hoping you all will get to know me and my plans a little better today, but first I have to mention the prior EC and the wonderful job they did. Jonathan, Sarah, Steven, Mike, Kim, and Travis, you all taught me so much over the last couple of years. I will take what I learned working with you and apply it, and I ask only that you hold me accountable, as I have always tried to do. Thank you for the time and energy you gave to the LPNC.

I want to say a special and direct thank you to Joe Garcia, our previous Chair. Joe, you have been an example, a mentor, and a friend to me in so many ways. From arguing over bylaw technicalities to coming together to support Joshua, I am deeply appreciative of all you have done over the last few years, and before, and for all the lessons I learned watching and working with you. I aim to serve the LPNC as Chair in a way that makes you proud to have passed the Liberty torch to me.

To the rest of the LPNC, and everyone reading this, I want to let you know that we are ready to get to work! I have a number of things I want to accomplish relatively quickly, building on the work of the prior EC, to position the party for success now and into the future. Early priorities will involve modernizing the website, building out a social media strategy, providing the resources needed to grow affiliates, and working with affiliates to strengthen our pipeline of candidates and give them the tools they need to run successful campaigns. The 2023 Election season is right around the corner. If you are running or know someone who would like to run, please get in touch with us. We'll be happy to support our candidates in any way we can.

This is on top of the strong progress we have made in recent years from the hard work all of you have been doing, work I hope to see continue. Our EC will remain dedicated to supporting each of you when you need, and to getting out of your way when you need. We have seen so much growth and so many successes recently. Joe covered many of them in his address to the convention on Saturday, and yet it was only a handful of the many accomplishments that the state party and so many of the affiliates have realized. I am here to help that continue.

Convention was a huge success, and I want to personally and publicly thank and commend Zac Lentz and Dee Watson for all their hard work in pulling off a successful event. We had great speakers, smooth voting, a fantastic auction, and even a gubernatorial announcement.

Finally, to Sean, Mike, Dee, Christina, Mac, Nick, and Angela, I want to say how much I look forward to working with you as we bring this party to the next level. Building on the work of those who have come before us, let's see some tangible results, and take things to a level we only dreamed of previously.

Thank you, all of you, again for your support. I promise to spend the next two years proving your faith in me was justified.

-Ryan Brown, LPNC Chair

LPNC Convention Recap

A lot of Liberty packed into one weekend

Comic by Noah Zenger

A spirited reception, a campaign announcement, bylaws and new officers, and an all-star lineup of speakers...



The Silicon Valley Bank crash was actually a fitting backdrop for a full, productive weekend at the LPNC State Convention, with its theme of "Celebrate Local" a stark contrast to the national news headline.

I want to start by saying how gracious and helpful the staff at the Village Inn was. The service was excellent, the accommodations were comfortable, and we were allowed to conduct our business in peace. Shout-out to the woman at the counter (withholding her name for privacy reasons) who gave Treasurer Mike Ross and I some hope with her pursuit of Liberty.

Friday Evening

Registration and the welcome reception began Friday evening in the hotel bar. Old friends, familiar faces, and new Liberty warriors all came together to share some laughs and libations as we geared up for the weekend ahead.

We were happy to spare a few minutes to listen to Kelly Mann, Grassroots Director for The John Locke Foundation, who dropped by to share details on the wonderful and in-depth research the [John Locke Foundation](#) provides. Kelly is also a [contributor](#) to the Carolina Journal. If you are not using the resources these two entities make available, you are selling yourself short.

Of course, the highlight of the evening was [Mike Ross announcing](#) that he would be seeking the Libertarian nomination for North Carolina's gubernatorial race in 2024. After a [poignant introduction](#) by Liberty warrior Pastor Moses Colbert, best known for his ardent and selfless defense of those who have nothing, Mike gave his announcement speech to the gathered convention attendees. The crowd was boisterous with excitement, and the applause was loud as Mike finished his speech and introduced his team.

Saturday Business

Saturday started off extraordinarily smoothly given the unusual requirement that a convention Chair needed to be selected. Fortunately, LPMeck Chair Steven DiFiore was up to the task, and he did an outstanding job of, as one of the younger attendees put it, "herding cats, only they all have their claws out."

Steven delivered the State of the Party [address](#) for outgoing Chair Joe Garcia, and we observed a moment of silence to memorialize fallen Liberty warriors [Donald Reid Deal](#) and [Tom Howe](#). After that, it was down to business.

Somehow, we got through ten bylaw amendment proposals, one resolution, and a 90-minute lunch break before Executive Committee and Judicial Committee elections began. There were even two votes that received unanimous support, proving that nothing is impossible.

Once nominations began for EC positions, I was struck by how many qualified and passionate people we have working together in the party. Elections went quickly, and we ended up with an exciting slate for the EC (I plan to get interviews with each of them in the upcoming weeks), as well as the Judicial committee.

For LPNC Executive Committee, the delegates elected:

- Chair: Ryan Brown
- Vice-Chair: Sean Haugh
- Secretary: Dee Watson
- At-Large: Christina Aragues

- At-Large: Nick Taylor
- At-Large: Mac Browder
- At-Large: Angela Humphries

For Judicial Committee, the delegates elected:

- Ken Penkowski
- Phil Jacobson
- Steven DiFiore
- Tom Bailey
- Sarah Brady

Saturday Evening - Time to Let Loose

Our speakers began as we were finishing up dinner, and we were lucky to have two of the most effective and powerful voices in the Liberty movement address us. [Dan Smotz](#), host of [The System is Down](#) podcast, was the opening speaker, and [Larry Sharpe](#) was the keynote speaker. Their speeches, while different in substance, covered similar themes, as they called for party unity, reinforced the need for hard work, extolled the advantages of putting aside your ego to communicate, and closed with messages of hope.

We went straight into the auction, emceed by Larry. Items ranged from questionable to exceptional, but all those who won their bids were happy, and we raised some money to boot.

Sunday Forums

Sunday's session opened with energy, despite the weight of the time change hanging over us, as Christina Aragues gave a detailed seminar on how to run a successful campaign. Christina is an experienced candidate who has run some of the most successful campaigns in LPNC history, and she gives a fun and informative perspective on how to replicate her success.

Next was the Governor candidate forum. Mike Ross answered questions about education, the second amendment, criminal justice reform, and nullification, among others, laying out his plan for a successful Libertarian candidacy and governorship. When he thought he was finished, the three presidential candidates each surprised Mike with a question of their own before their panel started.

As mentioned, the next item on the agenda was a panel with presidential candidates [Chase Oliver](#), [Mike ter Maat](#), and [Jacob Hornberger](#). They answered questions about their candidacies, their solutions to problems we are facing as a country, Libertarian messaging, and host of others for about 45 minutes. The session was engaging and educational from three exemplary stewards of the Liberty movement and representatives of the party.

The day and the event closed with a presentation by Kim Acer covering our affiliate strategy. She explained where we stood, where we would like to see growth, and how we plan to achieve it. For a theme of "Celebrate Local," instead of the contrast of the national background under which we opened convention, Kim's affiliate discussion was a perfect and appropriate ending. I highly encourage anyone who is not currently participating to join your local affiliate or start one yourself; we have several unaffiliated counties waiting for you to organize.

There is plenty more to come from convention. There are videos, pictures, speeches, and additional write-ups and interviews, but I wanted to make sure to capture some of the magic of the weekend quickly, before it got too far away. Zac Lentz and the convention planning committee nailed it. Now it's time to take the energy from this weekend and ride that to so much success for the party.

Finding The Gold in a Purple State

by Joshua D. Glawson

Growing up in North Carolina, I spent many Summer days playing in the forests. My friends and I would trek deep into the woods to play hide-and-seek, build forts, make bows and arrows, climb trees, and play along creeks and rivers. Before heading out the door, my grandmother often told me to search for quartz rocks for her - they were her favorite, especially purple amethyst. Simply walking into a wooded area or along a creek, it is quite common to find pieces of various types of quartz scattered about. [North Carolina](#) is filled with quartz and gemstones, including aquamarine, citrine, smoky quartz, and amethyst.

It was years later that I discovered when you find an abundance of [quartz](#), you can also find pyrite and actual gold. With North Carolina being plentiful in quartz and gold, many lapidarists, miners, and geologists frequent the state. The way these [scientists](#) can quickly tell the difference between pyrite and actual gold is by scratching it with a piece of copper or hitting it with a hammer. Pyrite will not scratch with copper, but it will shatter with a strike of a hammer. Gold, on the other hand, will scratch with copper, but not break with a strike of a hammer. To purify the gold, it is then put in a fire to rid it of impurities.

Although geology and physical geography were some of my most memorable courses in college, my major was political science. In my field of study, we often become inspired by the world around us and apply those ideas to the study of politics and government.

North Carolina is not only filled with quartz and hues of purple amethyst, but it has also become a [purple-voting state](#). This means the voting population has become equally Democrat and Republican, with unaffiliated voters surpassing them both. Of course, "unaffiliated" does not mean these voters do not tend to vote Democrat or Republican. Rather, there are specific issues [unaffiliated](#) voters do not believe are being answered by either of the two main political parties. I believe this is an opportunity to search the political landscape for something deeper buried in this political purple pattern - the gold of liberty.

Increasingly, many **Gen-Z** voters are finding they do not resonate with either Democrats or Republicans, while older voters are getting tired of the political turmoil and feel frustrated with the limitations of the two-party representation. There are several issues on which North Carolinians on both sides of the blue and red aisle are finding agreement.

Such purple topics include: ending many of the limitations of the alcohol control state laws in the archaic **ABC system**; making changes to the bureaucratic laws that prevent more affordable and alternative **housing** options; ending the brunt of the overreaching laws associated with the **war on drugs**; and, combating the increased costs of medical services and health care due to strict limits of health insurance and **Certificate of Need** laws. With this fertile, purple, political ground gold, i.e. **Liberty**, can be found. Of course, testing will need to take place to determine if this is fool's gold or actual gold.

Beyond cops merely scratching the surface and the faulty forged proclamations of judges' gavels, North Carolinians are feeling the fire of a political **refinery** that will determine the purity of gold that exists in the state. Some of the impurities have included severe limitations on personal liberty, curbed small and large business development, restrained affordable housing options, persistent mass incarceration, ceaseless civil asset forfeiture, and hindered health care provisions. If North Carolinians can come together to rid the state of these purple political impurities, as the **writing is on the wall**, the gold of Liberty can glisten while the destructive overreach of the state can be left numbered, weighed, and divided.

*A slightly abbreviated version of this article **originally appeared** in the Carolina Journal*

Joshua D. Glawson is a writer and speaker in the Liberty Movement. He has been active with the Libertarian Party of California since 2015. He now resides in his home state of North Carolina. Check him out at **Home - Joshua D. Glawson (joshuadglawson.com)**.

LP in NC

North Carolina State of the State Libertarian Response

LPNC outgoing Chair Joe Garcia gives the Libertarian response to Governor Ray Cooper's State of the State address and Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson's Republican rebuttal.

LPNC Chair on the Pete Kaliner Show

LPNC newly elected Chair Ryan Brown joins the Pete Kaliner show to discuss the State of the State address, the LPNC live tweeting of the event, and all things Liberty in North Carolina.

A Libertarian Solution to U.S. Financing in the Russia-Ukraine War

The LPNC's very own Phil Jacobson has proposed a most Libertarian of solutions to the seemingly intractable situation in Ukraine, allowing for voluntary support of Ukraine and defense of Liberty worldwide without illicit tax, violations of principles, or promotion of aggression.

Seeking new affiliate team members!

The LPNC affiliate team is seeking regional liaisons to assist counties or regions in becoming official affiliates of the LPNC. Liaisons are responsible for following up with local organizers, as well as keeping open communication with those already active. They serve as coordinators between local groups and the LPNC; offering guidance, sharing information and resources, and updating contact information. They should be organized, with strong communication skills, and the willingness to attend virtual, bi-weekly meetings and work collectively to give updates, resolve issues, and find new opportunities.

Meetings are every other Monday at 8 PM.

Please e-mail Kimberly Acer at **county_organizer@lpnc.org** if you are interested!

In the News

North Carolina Using Eminent Domain to Seize Homes and a Church for Electric Car Factory (Reason – March 13, 2023)

North Carolina Gives Legal Sports Betting Another Try (Covers – March 13, 2023)

NC regional banks under close watch amid upheaval (Carolina Journal – March 13, 2023)

As North Carolina nears Medicaid expansion, concerns grow about what could be added to bill (Winston-Salem Journal – March 12, 2023)

Republican lawmakers closer to repealing Jim Crow-era pistol permit law in NC (CBS17 – March 11, 2023)

Reflections from an Old Libertarian

Libertarianism has a long, rich **history in North Carolina**. As we build the cause of 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.

Forty-Odd Years of LPNC Activism

by Phil Jacobson



In the enclosed picture, you see my first involvement with the Libertarian Party of North Carolina. It was in 1976, during the Presidential campaign of Roger McBride, at the Fayetteville airport. (I'm the scruffy one in the back.) There weren't many of us then. There were no regular LP meetings in most parts of the state, and there weren't many opportunities like this. And yet, the LPNC is still active today, like no other (ahem) "small" political party.

A continuous core of serious activists has always existed in party, but none of those in the photo will be at this year's state convention, except for me, who will attend only online. The others are no longer active with us. Some moved away. Some passed away. Many burned out. Still, the organization survived, slowly growing (on average) for over forty years. But so have serious internal controversies. Some of the controversy was about issues which were important to voters. Some was about issues only libertarian scholars usually care about. Some was about issues of internal organization. Sometimes a clash seemed personal.

But the organization is still here and active. Why? Because among those of us who have remained active a certain ethic has evolved, which over time has transcended most controversy. I've been calling it Respectful Disagreement.

The most controversial issues were the ones most important to us as individuals. One of the most fundamental issues is the question of how much government we are willing to endorse, "limited" or "none." That one is still with us. In my case a related issue is which of the party's officially stated goals is most important: educating the public about our ideas or trying to get our candidates into elective offices. At other times, there has been controversy over which individuals should represent the party as candidates.

Still other times, the issue was how "radical" we should present ourselves to the public, during elections and between them. Should we emphasize our opposition to the Drug War? Should we stress our belief that the government should stay out of people's bedrooms? Should we put a lot of energy into defending the 2nd Amendment? Exactly how far do we take the notion of religious freedom? Most recently, I have seen controversy develop over the use of Federal funds to support the Ukrainians in their war with Russia.

There are really no perfect answers to any of these questions - at least none which turn the LP into a perfect advocacy machine. We should not expect such neat perfection of strategy. Instead, we should remind ourselves that the core of our beliefs is that each individual should have both the responsibility and the ability to decide what or who to support, based on that individual's personal beliefs. Nor should we expect to find allies outside the LP who will stay with us on all issues, especially not on the most important ones.

Instead, we have found the most success by being "Single Issue" libertarians. We attend rallies with civil rights advocates to oppose excessive use of force by police. We find a different set of external allies (for the most part) when we demonstrate against the income tax. We find yet another set of allies when we lobby for ballot access reform. This same kind of shifting alliances happens within the party itself. Support for one Presidential candidate may find LP members gathering together one year who had been behind several different candidates in previous years. Special interest groups within the party all have unique membership lists.

But why should it be any other way? Individual choice is the whole point of libertarianism. Respectful Disagreement is why we survive. Respectful Disagreement is how we grow.

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 want to [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.](#)



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