

## LPTN State Convention To Be Held in Johnson City, TN March 30 through April 1

*Make Your Plans To Attend This Important Event Now!*

**By Kelly Wall**

Mountain Region Coordinator & VOF Editor

The 2007 LPTN State Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Johnson City, TN. Convention speakers for Saturday afternoon include Presidential Candidates Gene Chapman, Steve Kubby, and George Phillies. Other speakers: Dr. Jim Lark (Libertarian National Committee) and Greg "Lumpy" Lambert (Knox County Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Advocate). Additional activities and events include Friday evening welcoming reception, complimentary breakfast and Saturday morning business session (election of state officers and proposed changes to state by-laws), complimentary lunch, an evening of fun at the Comedy Zone (inside the Holiday Inn), supper and socializing with fellow Libertarians. Please don't miss this important event!❖



Holiday Inn, Johnson City, Tennessee

---

## Proposed Changes to Bylaws

VOF Editor

Inside, you will find two separate proposals for changes to our state party bylaws. Please review the two proposals carefully as we will be discussing and debating them during the state convention. Please note that the proposed deletions are represented with a strike-through and the substitutions and new text are shown as bold italics. For full text of the current bylaws, please visit [www.lptn.org](http://www.lptn.org).

## Support TN Ballot Access Bill

**By Alicia Mattson**

Chair, LPTN

It's legislative season again, and the LPTN has secured legislative sponsors for a bill in the Tennessee General Assembly that would improve ballot access for Libertarian Party candidates.

The state of Tennessee does not currently recognize the LP as a political party, so our candidates are misleadingly labeled as "Independents" on the ballot. While recognized political parties get automatic ballot access and party labeling, it would cost the LPTN around \$180,000 to hire paid petitioners to collect enough signatures for us to get the same privileges.

The state argues that the qualification standards must be set high because of the expenses incurred by the state and local governments when a political party nominates candidates with primary elections.

So we're trying an approach this year with a bill that would solve the problem in the same way that nineteen other states have addressed it. The bill designated as HB0626 / SB0288 would create a two-tier system, essentially creating major and minor parties.

Under this bill, the existing laws for organizations called "political parties" wouldn't change, but a new status called "partisan organization" would be created. Partisan organizations would have much lower qualification standards than would political parties, but the standards would be high enough to prevent frivolous abuse. Partisan organizations would be granted party labels on the ballot, and they would simply nominate their candidates by convention at no cost to the state's taxpayers.

Passage of this bill would solve the ballot label problem for our candidates, and since no primary elections are involved, it removes the state's fiscal objection. Please contact your state legislators and ask them to co-sponsor and support the bill designated as HB0626 in the House and SB0288 in the Senate.

The LPTN extends its thanks to State Senator Tim Burchett and State Representative Mike Turner for introducing this bill. Check the LPTN website for updates and to sign our petition supporting the bill.❖

## Proposed Changes to By-Laws

By Tony Wall  
Vice Chair, LPTN

### Article III: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership in the LPTN shall consist of either of the following:
  1. National, and therefore State, Libertarian Party membership under the Unified Membership Plan ~~as defined by the National Libertarian Party by-laws~~; or
  2. Membership in good standing of an affiliated county party, as certified by the county chair, **regional coordinator**, and/or the Secretary/Treasurer. County parties and the LPTN Secretary shall maintain a list of non-national members who are certified by the County Chair as LPTN members. This list shall be kept current and shall be forwarded to the LPTN Secretary bi-annually by February 1 and August 1 of each year.
  3. No state dues will be charged for those who are not members under the Unified Membership Program **National Libertarian Party by-laws**. Voluntary contributions are welcome.

### Article V: CONVENTIONS

- A. Conventions will be held annually. Business conventions for the election of officers will be held in the years without statewide public elections. Conventions held in years with statewide elections will be for LPTN candidates for public office. Party business (Other than the annual budget and approval, as required in Article VII, and election of delegates to the national convention) may only be conducted if a bylaw amendment meeting the requirements as stated in Article VI has been presented with the proper advance notification.
- B. To be eligible to vote at an LPTN convention, one must either:
  1. have been a member, as defined in Article III, for at least six months; or
  2. be certified by the county chair, **regional coordinator, and/or the Secretary/Treasurer**, and accepted by the convention by majority vote and upon recommendation of that county chair, **regional coordinator, and/or the Secretary/Treasurer**.

## Proposed Changes to By-Laws

By Alicia Mattson  
Chair, LPTN

(Since this proposal is extensive, a supporting document for it is posted in the convention article on the LPTN website at: <http://www.lptn.org/news/articles/118>)

### Article I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Libertarian Party of Tennessee, hereinafter abbreviated as LPTN

### Article II: PURPOSE

The Primary Purpose of the Libertarian Party is to help restore the Libertarian Principles of Free Enterprise, Property Rights, Individual Freedom coupled with Individual Responsibility and Small Limited Government in whatever Entrepreneurial Fashion we can. It is the purpose of these by-laws to limit the party officers and not the party members.

### Article III: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership in the LPTN shall consist of either of the following:
  1. National, and therefore State, Libertarian Party membership under the Unified Membership Plan; or
  2. Membership in good standing of an affiliated county party, as certified by the county chair and/or the Secretary/Treasurer. County parties and the LPTN Secretary shall maintain a list of non-national members who are certified by the County Chair as LPTN members. This list shall be kept current and shall be forwarded to the LPTN Secretary bi-annually by February 1 and August 1 of each year.

~~B. No state dues will be charged for those who are not members under the Unified Membership Program. Voluntary contributions are welcome.~~

- A. **Members shall be those registered Tennessee voters who have paid dues of an amount to be set by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall immediately terminate the membership of anyone whose dues are not current.**

### Article IV: OFFICERS

- A. Elected officers shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. ~~The term length of these officers shall be two years. Officers shall take office automatically at the close of the business convention in which they were elected, and they shall serve approximately two years until the close of the next biennial business convention.~~ All officers of LPTN shall have signed the National pledge rejecting the initiation of force. **certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals, and they shall be LPTN members in good standing. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the adopted parliamentary authority.**
- B. Any officer of the LPTN can be recalled by either:
  1. A request for such recall by a simple majority of the County Chairs, which is confirmed by a 2/3 majority of the members qualified to vote in convention; or
  2. A request for such recall from a simple majority of the members which is then confirmed by 2/3 of the County Chairs.
- C. Duties of Officers:
  1. **Chair:** It is the responsibility of the State Chair to find, develop, and assist coordinators and county chairs. The Chair shall also chair meetings and request special meetings. **preside at all LPTN meetings, including conventions and meetings of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the LPTN with authority to direct its business and affairs.** The Chair shall also efficiently represent the LPTN as a spokesperson to the National Libertarian Party, the media, the State, and all others. Additionally, the Chair may recognize and assist Coordinators from time to time for temporary and or ongoing projects, who once so recognized shall serve at the discretion of the Chair. Finally, ~~the~~ **The** Chair shall appoint a Regional Coordinator for each of the four geographic regions of the state, whose duties shall consist of assisting counties with organizing and other needs. All appointed regional coordinators shall reside in their respective regions, and no Regional Coordinator may be a currently elected state officer.
  2. **Vice Chair:** It is the responsibility of the Vice Chair to **assist the chair and to perform the duties of the chair in the event that the chair is unable to perform those duties** replace the Chair in the event the Chair is unable to serve. The Vice Chair shall also be responsible for maintaining a communications program with and among the county chairs and the state officers.
  3. **Treasurer:** It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to account for funds and disburse those funds for their intended use. ~~The Treasurer shall also present a detailed accounting of the expenditures for the previous year. The Treasurer shall also propose new budgets to the membership in convention. The Treasurer shall receive, expend, and account for the funds of the LPTN under the supervision and direction of the Chair and the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all LPTN financial reporting to governmental entities as may be required by law. The Treasurer shall present a written report at each Executive Committee meeting. The Treasurer shall present a report at each LPTN convention, including a balance sheet and a profit/loss statement.~~
  4. **Secretary:** It is the responsibility of the Secretary to handle correspondence, keep and disseminate the membership roster to appropriate persons, and make such reports and filings as are helpful and required to our purpose and the help co-ordinate our activities with the National Libertarian Party or other groups. **The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the LPTN, keeping minutes of Executive Committee meetings and LPTN conventions, keeping a membership roster, keeping records of the most recently adopted Bylaws and Convention Rules, and performing such correspondence and reporting duties as are assigned by the Chair or the Executive Committee.**
  - D. In the event that an elected Officer is unable to complete a term of office, that Officer shall have the right to appoint a successor. This choice must be confirmed by the consent of two-thirds of the county chairs. If that confirmation fails, the chair shall appoint the successor;

with same two-thirds approval from the county chairs. The appointment shall be termed as "Interim" until the next regularly scheduled state convention, at which point the convention shall either confirm the appointment or vote a new person into office.

## Article V: CONVENTIONS

- A. Conventions will be held annually. Business conventions for the election of officers will be held in the years without statewide public elections. **Nominating** conventions **will be held in years with statewide elections and will be for nominating LPTN candidates for public office and for the election of at-large Executive Committee members.** Party business (Other than the annual budget and approval, as required in Article VII, and election of delegates to the national convention) may only be conducted if a bylaw amendment meeting the requirements as stated in Article VI has been presented with the proper advance notification. **The times/dates/locations of conventions shall be set by the Executive Committee, with 30 days written notice given to all members. The Executive Committee may call special nominating conventions as needed, with advance notification given to all members.**
- B. To be eligible to vote at an LPTN convention, one must either:
1. have been a member, as defined in Article III, for at least six months ; or
  2. be certified by the county chair, and accepted by the convention by majority vote and upon recommendation of that county chair.
  2. **be present on the convention floor at the time of the vote, and**
  3. **be registered as a convention attendee.**
- C. The Convention will, by majority vote, certify all candidates who will be eligible to have "Libertarian" next to their names on the ballot. **select the Libertarian Party nominees for each public office. "None of the Above" shall be considered as an option for all public office nominations. Should "None of the Above" win a majority vote, no candidate shall be nominated for that office. The Executive Committee may by majority vote appoint a party nominee to fill a vacancy caused by another nominee's withdrawal, disqualification, or death.**
- D. Delegates to National Libertarian Party conventions, and Presidential Electors in Presidential election years, are elected at the previous state convention, by a majority vote of that convention, along with alternates. In the event that a delegate cannot attend, that delegate shall select an alternate, or the duty will fall upon the state chair to select the replacement from among the previously elected alternates. The Chair shall be designated as the Head of the Delegation; in the event (s)he is unable to attend, (s)he shall be entitled to appoint a replacement from among the delegates attending. In the event that additional LPTN members in good standing are able to attend a National Convention, they shall be named as Alternates at the discretion of the Head of the Delegation.
- E. **A quorum shall consist of 40% of the total number of registered convention attendees who are eligible to vote.**
- F. **Resolutions must be approved by a 2/3 vote. Resolution must be submitted in writing to the Secretary. Any proposed resolutions exceeding 100 words in length shall be made available in writing to the Secretary and all convention attendees at the beginning of the session in which they are proposed. At the beginning of each session, the Secretary shall report to the attendees the availability of any such resolutions.**

## Article VI: Executive Committee

- A. **The Executive Committee shall manage all the affairs, properties, and funds of the LPTN consistent with these bylaws. The Executive Committee may delegate its authority in any manner it deems necessary.**
- B. **The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the LPTN and three additional members elected at-large.**
- C. **At-large Executive Committee members shall take office automatically at the close of the nominating convention in which they were elected, and they shall serve approximately two years until the close of the next biennial nominating convention. At-large Executive Committee members shall have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals, and they shall be LPTN members in good standing.**
- D. **The Executive Committee shall by majority vote appoint new officers and members-at-large should vacancies occur, and such appointees shall serve to the end of the vacated term.**
- E. **Any officer or member-at-large may be suspended, for cause, by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee. Any officer or member-at-large who fails to attend two**

**consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee shall be considered to have resigned his/her position if not present at the opening of the third consecutive meeting.**

- F. **The Executive Committee shall meet in such reasonable times, places, and ways as may be determined by action of the Executive Committee, call of the Chair, or written request of 3 committee members, provided that all committee members are given sufficient notice of such meetings. A majority of the membership of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for such meetings. The Executive Committee may conduct business by teleconference.**
- G. **The Executive Committee may by a 2/3 vote revoke the membership of an LPTN member, for cause.**
- H. **A copy of approved minutes of Executive Committee meetings shall be made available to LPTN members upon request.**

## Article VII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

**The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the LPTN in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the LPTN may adopt.**

## Article VIII: AMENDMENTS

- A. It shall require a 3/4 (75%) majority of members attending the Convention, who are eligible to vote as defined by Article V, to amend these bylaws. **These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the LPTN Convention.** It shall require a 1/3 vote to close debate on a bylaw amendment.
- B. Bylaws may only be changed during an LPTN business Convention, with at least 60 days written notice to the Secretary, and with publication in the pre-convention issue of Voice of Freedom, distributed to all members **30 days written notice to all members.**
- C. All bylaws and amendments shall take effect at the close of the convention during which they are adopted.

## Article VII: BUDGETS

- A. The Treasurer will request from the delegates that the LPTN shall spend money in the same general manner for operations as the previous year, and shall set the following year's budget at an amount not to exceed the balance of LPTN funds in the bank at the time of the Convention. The budget shall be approved by a majority vote at the convention.
- B. The budget shall include a Chair's Discretionary Fund and a Reserve Fund:
1. The Chair's Discretionary Fund shall not exceed 10% of the total budget or \$2500, whichever is less. The Chair shall have discretionary authority to disburse these funds for LPTN purposes.
  2. Reserve Fund monies may only be disbursed after approval of 6 or more of the following people: LPTN Chair, LPTN Vice-Chair, LPTN Secretary, LPTN Treasurer, and the four LPTN Regional Coordinators. LPTN County Chairs may submit a written request for Reserve Funds to the Secretary for consideration. Submitted requests shall contain a specified amount and purpose for the funds.
- C. The books of the LPTN shall be open to the membership upon request.

## Article IX: County Affiliate Parties

- A. **The Executive Committee may charter County Affiliate Parties upon written request of at least five LPTN members residing within the counties included in the County Affiliate Party. No more than one County Affiliate Party may be chartered in one county, but a County Affiliate Party of two or more contiguous counties may be chartered, provided that the charter request is made by at least one LPTN member in each such county. The Executive Committee may by a 2/3 vote revoke the charter of a County Affiliate Party for cause or for atrophy.**
- B. **County Affiliate Parties shall provide the LPTN Secretary with names and contact information for officers of the County Affiliate Party as such information may change.**
- C. **For counties which have no chartered County Affiliate Party, the LPTN Chair may appoint County Coordinators to serve as a local contact points for those who may be interested in organizing a County Affiliate Party. County Coordinators shall serve at the discretion of the LPTN Chair.**

**Libertarian Party of Tennessee**  
**P.O. Box 2361**  
**Cookeville, TN 38502-2361**

NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 0022  
HERMITAGE, TN

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **Southeast Region Has New LNC Rep**

**By Alicia Mattson**

Chair, LPTN

The LP state chairs of the Southeast region (which includes Tennessee) voted in December to appoint former Georgia Congressman Bob Barr as our new Regional Representative to the Libertarian National Committee.

Since his days in Congress, Bob Barr has become increasingly active in the LP, supporting our 2006 candidates, and finally officially joining the LP. Now Barr's addition to the LNC will bring a new element to our management board as he offers us the assets of his experience. Besides having served 4 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Barr serves as a Board Member of the National Rifle Association and is the Chairman of Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances. He advises a variety of public policy organizations, including the American Conservative Union and the American Civil Liberties Union, and he practices civil and criminal law with an Atlanta-based firm.

Barr's appointment followed the resignation of Mark Bodenhausen from the position, due to health complications. I would like to thank Mark Bodenhausen for his past service, and I hope all of you will join me in welcoming Bob Barr as our new Regional Representative.



Bob Barr

---

## **TNLP Welcomes New Members:**

Henry Bookhardt (Knoxville)	John Luther (Nashville)
Robert Boyd (Cookeville)	Brent Mandujano (Nashville)
Brass Clarkson (Knoxville)	B. J. May (Antioch)
David M. Collins (Antioch)	Thomas McKeon (Cordova)
Drew Depirro (Dickson)	Chad Riden (Hermitage)
James Garner (Tullahoma)	Daniel Starks (Knoxville)
Andrew Groth (Chattanooga)	Brian Starr (Hendersonville)
LaMoyne Jacobs (Knoxville)	Brian Stefanko (Clarksville)
Logan Kennedy (Knoxville)	Christopher Thomas (Memphis)
Ken Kitchen (Chattanooga)	Richard Tippens (Knoxville)
William Lambert (Hermitage)	David Tucker (Powell)
Richard Lazear (Cleveland)	James Williams (Knoxville)

**WELCOME HOME!**