**To: Wes Benedict**

**Executive Director, Libertarian Party**

**From: James W. Lark, III**

**Region 5 Representative, Libertarian National Committee**

**Subject: List of Events and Dates in 2017**

To assist our outreach efforts, I have prepared a list of events and dates to which the LP may wish to draw attention in 2017. It may be useful for LPHQ to issue press releases (or refer to these events in our releases), help provide representatives for media interviews, and assist state and local affiliates in outreach efforts on or about some of these dates.

In some of the entries listed below, I have included supplemental information and suggestions for your consideration. I hope you find this material to be helpful.

Several of the events are included because I know something about them, or because I suspect they will be of interest to those who are sympathetic to the libertarian perspective. Some of the events and dates have been included at the suggestion (or request) of LP colleagues. A few of the dates and events are included because I stumbled upon information about them while looking for other information.

Please note that inclusion of an event on the list does not imply I believe the event is especially important or that the LP should commemorate it in some manner. Similarly, failure to include an event does not imply I consider it to be unimportant or unworthy of commemoration.

I have endeavored to verify the accuracy of many of the listed items; however, in some cases I have used Wikipedia or other web resources. Thus, if you use information from the list, you should seek to verify the accuracy of the dates and associated information.

Please note also that I shall send this document to my LNC colleagues. Since I do not have access to the State Chairs’ list, I would appreciate it if you would send the document to that list. I hope LNC members and State Chairs’ list subscribers will review the list and offer suggestions about additional events and dates, along with any corrections that should be made.

As you probably know, several websites provide information about events that took place on a given day. (I don’t know which sites are the most accurate.) These websites include:

www.brainyhistory.com/

www.hisdates.com/

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_historical\_anniversaries

www.itnsource.com/en/specials/anniversaries

www.brownielocks.com/month2.html

The website www.usa.gov/Topics/Reference-Shelf/Calendars.shtml may also be helpful to you.

At this time, it is unknown upon what dates the following events will occur during 2017:

* Address by President Trump to a joint session of Congress (Whether this address will be called a “State of the Union” address is evidently up to Mr. Trump.)
* Tax Freedom Day (<http://taxfoundation.org/tax-topics/tax-freedom-day>) (on April 24 in 2016)
* Cost of Government Day (Americans for Tax Reform has promoted the observance of this day in the past. The most recent observance of which I am aware occurred on July 6, 2014. I do not know whether Cost of Government Day was observed in 2015 and 2016.)

As far as I am aware, there are relatively few “big anniversaries” in 2017. “Big anniversaries” are those that are multiples of five years (especially multiples of ten years), such as the 25th anniversary, 50th anniversary, 100th anniversary, etc.

**January:**

6: Pres. Franklin Roosevelt delivers his “Four Freedoms” speech (1941)

16: Ratification of the 18th Amendment (1919). Martin Luther King Day observed.

17: Prohibition takes effect (1920). U.S. citizens prohibited from owning gold certificates (1934). (Note: Some sources list Jan. 16, 1920 as the date the 18th Amendment took effect. Other sources note that the enabling legislation passed by Congress (the Volstead Act) took effect as of midnight on Jan. 17, 1920.)

19: Birthday of Lysander Spooner (1808)

21: Supreme Court decision in Citizens United vs Federal Election Commission case (2010)

22 (through Jan. 28): National School Choice Week (www.schoolchoiceweek.com)

27: Melvin Laird (Secretary of Defense) announces end of the draft (1973)

**February:**

3: Ratification of the 16th Amendment (1913)

20: Congress proposes the 21st Amendment for state ratification (1933). Presidents’ Day observed. (Suggestion: Distribute a press release describing the requirements for a good president from a Libertarian perspective.)

**March:**

1: Ratification of the Articles of Confederation (1781)

9: Pres. Franklin Roosevelt’s Emergency Banking Act passed (1933)

16: Liberty Day (birthday of James Madison in 1751)

19: Start of second U.S. war against Iraq (2003)

20: U.S. invasion of Iraq (2003). Tonie Nathan passed away (2014).

23: Patrick Henry’s “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” speech (1775)

**April:**

5: Pres. Franklin Roosevelt signs Executive Order 6102 prohibiting gold ownership by citizens (1933)

13: Birthday of Thomas Jefferson (1743) (New style calendar)

15: Protests in Tiananmen Square begin (1989)

17: Emancipation Day celebrated in Washington, DC (signing of Compensated Emancipation Act by Pres. Lincoln in 1862; celebrated on Apr. 16 except when that day falls upon a Saturday or Sunday). Patriots’ Day (commemorating the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775) celebrated in Massachusetts. The same event is celebrated as Patriot’s Day in Maine.

18: Tax Day (Federal income taxes due for most Americans)

19: Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775

20: “420” or “4/20” (referred to as “Four-Twenty”): Several organizations that oppose Drug Prohibition conduct events this day.

22: Earth Day

25: Supreme Court decision in United States vs Carolene Products (allowed greater latitude for Congress to regulate commerce under the Commerce Clause) (1938)

**May:**

3: World Press Freedom Day

20: Armed Forces Day observed

24: Supreme Court decision in Helvering vs Davis (allowed Congress to interpret “general welfare” broadly; Social Security doesn’t violate 10th Amendment) (1937)

25: Birthday of Karl Hess (1923)

27: Supreme Court decision in Schechter vs US (National Recovery Act ruled unconstitutional) (1935)

29: Memorial Day observed.

31: Passage of Mecklenburg (North Carolina) Resolutions, supposedly the first local resolutions supporting independence; declared British laws null and void (1775)

**June:**

5: Birthday of Adam Smith in 1723 (Old style calendar)

12: Formal adoption by Virginia Constitutional Convention of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason (1776)

14: Peter McWilliams passed away (author of *Ain’t Nobody’s Business If You Do: The Absurdity of Consensual Crimes in Our Free Society*) (2000)

15: Magna Carta agreed to by King John (1215). (Note: Evidently a formal document was created to record the agreement on July 15, 1215.)

16: New Deal announced (1933). Birthday of Adam Smith in 1723 (New style calendar).

17: Pres. Richard Nixon’s War on Drugs initiated (1971). Watergate break-in (1972).

18: Congress passes Naturalization Act (1798)

19: “Juneteenth” celebration (announcement in Texas of the end of slavery) (1865)

21: Constitution ratified by New Hampshire (thus making it the “law of the land”) (1788)

23: Supreme Court decision in Kelo vs City of New London (2005)

25: Birthday of George Orwell (Eric Blair) (1903). Congress passes Alien Act (1798).

26: Supreme Court decision in District of Columbia vs Heller, which held that there is an individual right under the Second Amendment to keep and bear arms for self-defense (2008)

27: Passage of the National Labor Relations Act, known as the “Wagner Act” (1935)

28: Supreme Court decision in McDonald vs Chicago, which held that the Second Amendment is incorporated under the Fourteenth Amendment (2010). Supreme Court decision in “Obamacare” case(s) (2012).

**July:**

2: Vote by Congress to declare independence from Great Britain (1776)

3: Decriminalization Day (celebrated since 1976?)

4: Independence Day: Declaration of Independence approved by Congress (1776). Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) signed (1966).

6: Congress approves Alien Enemies Act (1798)

7: Birthday of Robert Heinlein (1907)

14: Pres. John Adams signs the Sedition Act (1798)

22: Bretton Woods Agreements signed by Bretton Woods Conference participants (1944). (The agreements established rules and procedures for regulation of the international monetary system, along with institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.)

31: U.S. Congress ratifies Bretton Woods Agreements Act (1945)

**August:**

5: Pres. Lincoln signs the Revenue Act of 1861, which imposed a tax upon income.

15: Imposition of wage and price controls, along with suspension of convertibility of the U.S. dollar into gold on international markets (“closing the gold window”), by Pres. Richard Nixon (1971). Public Law 93-373 passes, which legalizes private ownership of gold (1974). (The law didn’t take effect until Dec. 31, 1974.)

27: Revenue Act of 1894 becomes law (1894). (Also known as Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act; it reduced tariffs, but instituted an income tax that was found unconstitutional in 1895.)

**September:**

4: Labor Day (as celebrated in the U.S.)

5: Jury Rights Day (<http://fija.org/jury-rights-day/>)

11: Anniversary of “9-11,” now known by some as “Patriot Day” (2001)

16: Pres. Franklin Roosevelt signs Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 (first peacetime conscription?) (1940)

17: Constitution Day (Constitution signed by delegates to Philadelphia convention in 1787)

21: International Day of Peace (“World Peace Day”)

25: Congress approves 12 amendments to the Constitution and sends amendments to states for ratification (1789)

24 (through Sept. 30): Banned Books Week

**October:**

1: Beginning of federal government’s 2018 fiscal year

14: Pres. Jimmy Carter legalizes the home brewing of beer (1978)

21: Revenue Act of 1942 passes (1942) (Among other things, the Act imposed a “Victory Tax” of 5% on individual income over $624.)

22: Pres. Lyndon Johnson signs the Gun Control Act of 1968 (1968)

25: Pres. Jimmy Carter signs the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (1978). (Note: Powers under the Act were expanded under the USA Patriot Act.)

26: Passage of the USA Patriot Act (2001). Passage of the “Bank Secrecy Act” (1970).

27: Statue of Liberty unveiled in 1886 (on Oct. 28?)

28: Resistance to the Townshend Acts (1767). Passage of the National Prohibition Act, known as the Volstead Act (1919).

29: Massachusetts Resolves written by Samuel Adams (1765)

**November:**

7: Election Day

9: Supreme Court decision in Wickard vs Filburn, which greatly expanded Congressional power to regulate economic activity (1942)

15: Articles of Confederation approved by Continental Congress (1777) (Note: The Articles were not ratified until March 1, 1781.)

16: International Day for Tolerance. First Kentucky Resolution is passed by the Kentucky legislature (1798).

21: David Nolan passed away (2010)

23: Thanksgiving

**December:**

3: The Second Kentucky Resolution is passed by the Kentucky legislature (1799)

5: Ratification of 21st Amendment (repeal of Prohibition) (1933)

10: Supreme Court decision in McConnell vs Federal Election Commission, which ruled that most of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act is constitutional (2003)

11: Anniversary of founding of the LP (1971). Birthday of George Mason (1725).

15: Bill of Rights Day (date of ratification of Bill of Rights) (1791)

18: 100th anniversary of passage by Congress of the 18th Amendment (1917). Supreme Court decision in Korematsu vs United States, which ruled that Executive Order 9066 (putting Japanese Americans into internment camps during World War II) was constitutional (1944).

23: Pres. Woodrow Wilson signs Federal Reserve Act (1913)

24: The Virginia legislature passes the Virginia Resolution (authored by James Madison) (1798)

26: The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ceases to exist (1991)

27: Signing of Flushing Remonstrance concerning religious liberty (1657)

31: Private ownership of gold by U.S. citizens becomes legal again (1974)