**To: Daniel Fishman**

**Executive Director, Libertarian Party**

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

**Region 5 Representative, Libertarian National Committee**

**Subject: List of Events and Dates in 2020**

To assist our outreach efforts, I have prepared a list of events and dates to which the LP may wish to draw attention in 2020. 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 came across 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 that I consider it to be unimportant or unworthy of commemoration.

I have endeavored to verify the accuracy of most 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/](http://www.brainyhistory.com/)

www.calendardate.com

www.hisdates.com/

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

[www.brownielocks.com/month2.html](http://www.brownielocks.com/month2.html)

www.holidayscalendar.com/

[www.daysoftheyear.com/](http://www.daysoftheyear.com/)

At this time, it is unknown upon what dates the following events will occur during 2020:

* Tax Freedom Day (<http://taxfoundation.org/tax-topics/tax-freedom-day>) (on April 16 in 2019)
* 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 2015-2019.)

As far as I am aware, there are relatively few “big anniversaries” in 2020. “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)

10: Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* published (1776)

16: Ratification of the 18th Amendment (1919)

17: Prohibition takes effect (1920) (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.) 100th ANNIVERSARY

17: U.S. citizens prohibited from owning gold certificates (1934)

19: Birthday of Lysander Spooner (1808)

20: Martin Luther King Day observed

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

26 (through Feb. 1): National School Choice Week (schoolchoiceweek.com)

27: Melvin Laird (Secretary of Defense) suspends the military draft (1973)

**February:**

3: Ratification of the 16th Amendment (1913)

4: State of the Union address

17: Presidents’ Day observed (Suggestion: Distribute a press release describing the requirements for a good president from a Libertarian perspective.)

19: Pres. Franklin Roosevelt orders internment of Japanese Americans (1942; www.politico.com/story/2018/02/19/this-day-in-politics-february-19-1942-416028)

20: Congress proposes the 21st Amendment for state ratification (1933)

**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)

20: 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)

7: National Beer Day (Cullen-Harrison Act enacted, allowing sale of “low-alcohol” beer prior to end of Prohibition) (1933)

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

15: Protests in Tiananmen Square begin (1989)

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

16: Emancipation Day celebrated in Washington, DC (signing of Compensated Emancipation Act by Pres. Abraham Lincoln in 1862; celebrated on Apr. 16 except when that day falls upon a Saturday or Sunday)

19: Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775). Patriots’ Day celebrated in Wisconsin (may be observed on Apr. 20).

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

20: 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.)

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

4: Kent State shootings (four people killed by Ohio National Guard) (1970) 50th ANNIVERSARY

16: Armed Forces Day observed (celebrated on the third Saturday in May)

16: House of Commons passes repeal of the Corn Laws (1846)

21 (through May 25): Libertarian Party national convention

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

25: Memorial Day observed. Birthday of Karl Hess (1923).

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

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

**June:**

4: Tiananmen Square Massacre (1989)

5: Birthday of Adam Smith (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)

16: Birthday of Adam Smith in 1723 (New style calendar)

17: Pres. Richard Nixon’s War on Drugs initiated (1971)

17: 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)

25: Congress passes Alien Act (1798)

26: Anniversary of 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)

28: 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)

4: 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: Congress ratifies Bretton Woods Agreements Act (1945)

**August:**

5: Pres. Abraham Lincoln signs the Revenue Act of 1861 (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)

15: 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 the Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act; it reduced tariffs, but instituted an income tax that was found unconstitutional in 1895.)

29: Individual Rights Day (celebration of the birthday of John Locke in 1632)

**September:**

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

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

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)

20 (through Sept. 26): Banned Books Week NOTE: These dates have not been confirmed; it may be scheduled for Sept. 27 – Oct. 3. Banned Books Week took place on Sept. 22-28 in 2019.

21: International Day of Peace (sometimes known as “World Peace Day”)

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

**October:**

1: Beginning of federal government’s 2021 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)

26: Passage of the “Bank Secrecy Act” (1970) 50th ANNIVERSARY

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

28: Resistance to the Townshend Acts (1767) (A meeting at Boston Town Hall took place at which it was suggested that residents and merchants voluntarily boycott British goods.)

28: Passage of the National Prohibition Act, known as the Volstead Act (1919)

29: Massachusetts Resolves written by Samuel Adams (1765)

**November:**

3: Election Day

4: Alexanderplatz demonstration in East Berlin (1989)

9: Berlin Wall opens (East German Politburo allows East Germans to leave) (1989)

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

11: Remembrance Day observed (marks the date upon which general hostilities in World War I ended)

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

16: International Day for Tolerance

16: First Kentucky Resolution is passed by the Kentucky legislature (1798)

21: David Nolan passed away (2010)

26: Thanksgiving

**December:**

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

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

6: Ratification of 13th Amendment (end of chattel slavery) (1865)

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

10: Human Rights Day observed

11: Anniversary of founding of the LP (1971)

11: Birthday of George Mason (1725)

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

18: Congress passes the 18th Amendment (1917)

18: 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)