

## What is a Liberty on the Rocks Happy Hour Like?

Essentially, there is not a one-size-fits-all model for Liberty on the Rocks networks. While we follow the same mission, and seek to achieve the same goals (to promote peace, freedom and liberty) we don't necessarily believe there is a cookie-cutter approach to everything.

There are definitely a few basics all networks must agree to (see *Do's and Don'ts*), but as far as reaching the overarching goals, Liberty on the Rocks would like to encourage innovation, experimentation (within the scope of our mission) and discovery in order to find what works, what doesn't and why. Below you will find information on the basic goals for each chapter, as well as some examples of what you might find at a typical "Liberty on the Rocks" happy hour.

### **The goals of LOTR Networks are to Unite, Educate & Activate**

- ***Unite***: Create fun environments in order to connect free market advocates (or anyone curious, interested or unsure) with one another as well as with free market organizations and causes, both local and nationwide
- ***Educate***: Promote a free society that respects and promotes peace, liberty and individual rights, pass along information about local and national educational outlets, and encourage discussion and idea sharing among members and guests.
- ***Activate***: Encourage liberty-oriented activism and provide opportunities for involvement when possible (by promoting an opportunity or creating your own)

### **What Does a Liberty on the Rocks Event Look Like?**

*Suggestions/Examples for the structure of a Liberty on the Rocks Meet-Up*

Each chapter is encouraged to find what works best for their 'neck of the woods', as it does change based on location. These are simply a few suggestions, but there are no hard and fast rules. We do, however, always recommend that a majority of the event is left open for networking, since that is what usually draws people to these events. In addition, the networking is what allows people to share ideas, learn from one another and to meet new people in the movement.

#### **New Chapter Example**

6:15 pm: Organizer(s) arrive at meeting spot 15 minutes early to scope the place out, ensure reservations have been made and to leave out educational materials, sign-up sheets, nametags and/or LOTR flyer to announce that the group is meeting there, etc.

6:30 pm: People start to arrive. At least one organizer stands near the entrance (if it's a separate meeting space) in order to welcome all guests as they come in, while encouraging them to grab a nametag, sign-in with their email and/or check out any educational resources available (link that to the section on educating)

6:30-7:15ish: Social networking & mingling. Organizer(s) help to introduce guests to one another, encourage discussion, join in conversations, etc.

7:15 pm: Organizers announce the “30-Second Soapbox”, where any guest can come up for 30 seconds (or a minute) to promote an event, organization, cause, specific issue, current affairs, etc. This lasts as long as people want to come up and promote something.

7:30 pm: Organizer brings up an important topic that is currently in the news or within the liberty circles (i.e. Obamacare, Seasteading, Voluntary Societies, etc.), mentions a few interesting comments about it and then encourages guests to discuss!

7:35 – 8:30 pm: Social networking & idea sharing. Organizer(s) thank guests for coming and are sure to invite them back as well as encourage them to sign-up for their email list, FB page and/or to receive text message alerts

### ***Established Chapter Example***

5:50 pm: Organizer(s) show up 10-minutes early to set up a table for educational literature, information about local organizations, email sign-up sheet and/or nametags, etc. They put up a flyer or some sign to show that the group is meeting in that location

6:00 pm: Guests begin to arrive, who are greeted by one or more organizers. Attendees are encouraged to sign-up for the groups email list, FB group or text alerts

6:00 – 6:20 pm: Social networking & mingling

6:20 pm: Organizer announces an activity (such as a mock debate, group discussion, group activity, etc.), explains how it is to be done and then introduces the individual(s) who are to take over at that point (if applicable)

6:25-6:45 pm: Attendees participate (or sit on the sidelines) during the activity

6:45 – 7:45 pm: Social networking, idea sharing & mingling. Organizer(s) say hello to any new guests, introduce people to one another, help promote discussion, etc.

7:45 pm: Organizer(s) announce a “30-Second Soapbox” allowing anyone to come up to and promote an event, cause, organization, current affair or happening

7:50 pm: Organizer introduces the featured guest for the evening to give a brief discussion on a liberty-related topic

8:00 pm: Featured guests finishes up their 10-20 minute talk and opens up to Q & A from audience (this also tends to include comments & thoughts, not just Q & A)

8:15 – 9:00 pm: Social networking, idea sharing, small group discussion, conversation, eating, drinking, having fun, etc.

## **What else can you tell me about Liberty on the Rocks events?**

### ***They are Social***

- Liberty on the Rocks meet-ups are social networking events where liberty-advocates (or anyone curious, interested or unsure) can show up in order to meet others with similar viewpoints, while sharing thoughts & ideas about current events
- While it is great to have speakers at these events to bring in more attendees, it is also important to ensure that guests always have plenty of time to network without any distractions. It's also important to keep any talks to a minimum so that they don't exceed the attention span of your guests
- The social networking aspect, while seemingly insignificant, is one of the best ways to encourage idea sharing among guests. It also encourages non-active individuals to talk with others who are, to find ways to become more connected, informed or involved. When people have more friends interested in liberty and free markets, they are simply more likely to talk about it, consider it and eventually do something about it.

### ***They are Inclusive and Welcoming***

- **The Caveat:** If someone in attendance is acting rude and/or obnoxious and threatens to ruin the inclusive, welcoming nature of your group, organizers have every right (and responsibility) to ask them to leave, and to possibly not return.
- LOTR networks are meant to bring people together who don't normally get the chance to meet or converse. In the context of liberty-advocates, this could include Libertarians, Classical Liberals, Anarcho-Capitalists, Objectivists, Conservatives, Independents, etc. That is why the welcoming environment is so crucial, considering individuals with these different viewpoints (while varying only slightly in many cases) do not always get to know one another, even though they should. Individuals with other viewpoints are not to be excluded (unless necessary – see the first bullet point), but that doesn't mean they need to be marketed to. We want to encourage others to explore the ideas of liberty, without simply “preaching to the choir”, but this network is still made up of advocates for free markets (whether active or not), which is what attracts people to attend.

- Having nametags, being a non-partisan group that values principles over party, and simply welcoming different liberty-advocates to your meetings is a great way to create an inclusive environment.

### ***They are Laid-Back & Informal***

- Liberty on the Rocks events are meant to be laid-back and casual. No suit and tie necessary, although it's alright to wear one as well!
- There does not need to be any kind of formal agenda, although chapters are encouraged to include certain activities (done regularly or randomly) in order to keep happy hours fun, entertaining and worthwhile for guests to attend (examples include announcements, guest speakers, educational activities, mock debates, group discussion, etc.)
- Organizers are able and encouraged to have announcements and (brief) speakers, but always want to ensure there is ample time available for individuals to talk and network amongst themselves without any distractions going on around them

### ***They are Informative***

- Liberty on the Rocks happy hours are events people attend to find out what is going on in the local community to support liberty and freedom.
- Organizers are encouraged to create a table or another spot to leave out flyers, brochures, postcards, etc. for others to take as they please.
- Local free market groups as well as guests should be encouraged to bring literature containing information on liberty-oriented events, causes, organizations and/or happenings that they represent or are aware of. However, **organizers must ensure that information is legitimate, non-candidate related and is pro-liberty in nature**
- Once organizers begin collecting flyers, brochures, books and/or other resources, they should hold on to them in order to make them available at future happy hour events
- Leaders of the networks are also encouraged to invite representatives from different liberty-oriented organizations and groups to attend as often as possible in order to continually inform members and guests of their organizations and/or they work they are involved in
- Speakers can be invited to discuss (briefly) topics related to liberty, free markets or limited government. Good speakers allow for information to be dispersed and they also attract a larger audience (depending on the speaker). It is also possible (and a great idea) to invite featured guests to attend, but not provide a speech.

Perhaps they can simply mingle and network, while getting up to talk for perhaps 2-minutes about their organization and how guests can learn more about it

**\*See *Do's and Don'ts* for more information on getting information out to your group.**

### ***They are Fun***

- Everyone likes to have a good time, so it is important for chapter organizers to consider different ways to keep their meet-ups fun and worthwhile for guests.

Some ideas from other chapters include:

#### ***Mock Debates***

Mock debates are a great way to evaluate the viewpoints of big-government types, and they help to establish creative as well as culturally relevant ways to promote the ideals of liberty. They can also be incredibly fun and entertaining!

#### ***The Index Card Game***

Create index cards with various topics (i.e. immigration, stateless society, fiat currency, etc.) and tape them to attendees' backs as they enter (if they wish to play). Once the room is full ask guests to turn to someone nearby and spend 2 minutes discussing their feelings/perspective on the topic. Next, allow the partner to discuss their topic. This is a great way to get people thinking about different free market-related issues while getting to know more people.

#### ***Creating a Group Video***

This could include filming individuals and asking specific questions regarding liberty or their thoughts on particular subjects. It could also be a fun, promotional video that asks guests why they attend your Liberty on the Rocks events

#### ***Group Discussion/Round Robin***

Having a group discussion on a current event, and providing everyone the chance to speak briefly about his or her opinion/perspective. This works best in a smaller group, with 20 or less attendees (not that it couldn't be done with more!)

#### ***Trivia Questions***

Hosting a liberty-oriented trivia contest is a great way to get the creative juices flowing, create a fun environment and to encourage attendees to meet people they haven't met yet. The trick to this is locating great questions online to use for the trivia and then asking people to get into groups for the game. It's always nice to have a prize when possible, so it's worth checking with local

free market groups to see if any are willing to donate a book or two for that purpose!