

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/20210410135504/http://lpva.com/Archives/VaLiberty/200...>

# Virginia Liberty Online Edition

## January/February 2001 - Volume VI Issue 1

Editor: E Tiller - Producer: M Montoni

---

## Bring Liberty to Virginia: Run For Local Office

By Gary Reams

*The year 2001 will be an exciting time for the Libertarian Party. The Libertarian Party continues to grow in strength and numbers. It is time to make a stand and run for local office, or volunteer your time or money to help a campaign. Let's make it happen!*

We are fortunate that there are so many individuals and organizations promoting liberty and respect for human rights. Their mission varies from developing policy, educating the public, lobbying, and litigation. The Libertarian Party is unique among these because it is the political arm of these many efforts. Political parties must carry out political acts – especially, fielding candidates. Opportunities abound, since all Virginia Delegates are up for election, as well as many local offices.

What benefit is there to our common efforts in promoting liberty by running candidates? It allows Libertarians to offer a clear alternative to the politicians from the two tribal parties who are more interested in obscuring their differences than defining them. It allows us to translate the ideas and philosophy coming from the libertarian think tanks into practical politics and easily understood language. And it builds the Libertarian Party by attracting volunteers and establishing our credibility.

What benefit is there to you in running for office? Plenty. It feels good to be able to challenge the superficial and unprincipled policies of the Republicrats. And, instead of ranting in your kitchen to sympathetic friends, it allows you to make your case directly with the citizens and the elected politicians. You will find a great deal of satisfaction knowing you have made a difference, enlarged your circle of friends, and taken an active part in turning the tide of statism.

Frequently, I run into Libertarians who are interested in running but have some concerns. Let me



address them:

- ***How much commitment or money is necessary?***

You the candidate define that. There is a minimal level necessary - return phone calls by the media and interested parties. If you are invited to a forum, make a good faith effort to participate, or if allowed, find a substitute, and do your best to present Libertarians in a positive light. Everyone would be delighted to have a full-time candidate who has unlimited wealth to spend. But Libertarians are realists. We recognize you may have other full-time commitments on your time and resources. Just remember, whatever you do - it is more than if you didn't run.

- ***Is a lack of experience a concern?***

Most campaigns, even by experienced candidates have a certain element of "winging it." There are many in the Libertarian Party who have experience who will want to help you. Besides, with inexperience you bring a new perspective and may come up with something innovative.

- ***Is a awareness of the issues -- or lack thereof -- a major concern?***

Many Libertarians are well-informed about federal issues (income tax, Drug War policy, Social Security, etc.) but feel ill at ease regarding state or local issues.

Remember, you are in control of your campaign. Choose issues you feel some passion about and push them. You need not know everything about everything – it's best to focus on just a few things. For example if you are

interested in gun rights - promote a House Bill (preferably one already introduced) that would repeal bans on concealed weapons in restaurants. If you have a passion about the Drug War - promote a House Bill limiting asset forfeiture or returning voting rights to non-violent drug offenders. Simply put, there is no better way to lobby for change, educating the citizens on libertarianism, and building the Libertarian Party than to run for office or support a campaign. If you are interested in discussing this more, contact the Executive Director, Marc Montoni at (703) 715-6230, [Director@LPVA.com](mailto:Director@LPVA.com), or PO Box 28263, Richmond VA 23228.

Take the plunge!

---

# *OPINION*

- More than one in ten boys in the United States are on amphetamines and other stimulants like Ritalin.
- Could the Government - which claims to be 'fighting' a war on drugs - be encouraging, if not promoting, the use of Ritalin and other drugs in schools, instead of addressing the real problem: deficiencies in the educational system?
- Was the 'Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder' (ADHD) diagnosis developed specifically to justify the use of drugs to subdue children in the classroom?

# Drugging Our Children

By Peter R. Breggin, M.D.

Parents throughout the country are pressured and coerced by schools to give psychiatric drugs to their children. Teachers, school psychologists, and administrators commonly make dire threats about their inability to teach children without medicating them. They sometimes suggest that only medication can stave off a bleak future of delinquency and occupational failure. They even call child protective services to investigate parents for child neglect and they sometimes testify against parents in court. Often the schools recommend particular physicians who favor the use of stimulant drugs to control behavior. These stimulant drugs include methylphenidate (Ritalin, Concerta, and Metadate) or forms of amphetamine (Dexedrine and Adderall).

Stimulant drugs, including methylphenidate and amphetamine, were first approved for the control of behavior in children during the mid-1950s.

Since the early 1990s, North America has turned to psychoactive drugs in unprecedented numbers for the control of children. In November 1999, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) warned about a record six-fold increase in Ritalin production between 1990 and 1995. In 1995, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), a agency of the World Health Organization, deplored that "10 to 12 percent of all boys between the ages 6 and 14 in the United States have been diagnosed as having ADD and are being treated with methylphenidate [Ritalin]." The United States uses approximately 90% of the world's Ritalin.

The number of children on these drugs has continued to escalate. A recent study in Virginia indicated that up to 20% of white boys in the fifth grade were receiving stimulant drugs during the day from school officials. With 53 million children enrolled in school across the United States, probably more than 5 million are taking stimulant drugs.

Stimulant medications are far more dangerous than most practitioners and published experts seem to realize. Animals and humans cross-addict to methylphenidate, amphetamine and cocaine.

Furthermore, their addiction and abuse potential is based on the capacity of these drugs to drastically and permanently change brain chemistry. Studies of amphetamine show that short-term clinical doses produce brain cell death. Similar studies of methylphenidate show long-lasting and sometimes permanent changes in the biochemistry of the brain.

All stimulants impair growth not only by suppressing appetite but also by disrupting growth hormone production. This poses a threat to every organ of the body, including the brain, during the child's growth. The disruption of neurotransmitter systems adds to this threat.

These drugs also endanger the cardiovascular system and commonly produce many adverse mental effects, including depression.

Too often stimulants become gateway drugs to illicit drugs. As noted, the use of prescription stimulants predisposes children to cocaine and nicotine abuse in young adulthood.

Stimulants even more often become gateway drugs to additional psychiatric medications. Stimulant-induced over-stimulation, for example, is often treated with addictive or dangerous sedatives, while stimulant-induced depression is often treated with dangerous, unapproved antidepressants. As the child's emotional control breaks down due to medication effects, mood stabilizers may be added. Eventually, these children end up on four or five psychiatric drugs at once



and a diagnosis of bipolar disorder by the age of eight or ten.

In my private practice, children can usually be taken off all psychiatric drugs with great improvement in their psychological life and behavior, provided that the parents or other interested adults are willing to learn new approaches to disciplining and caring for the children. Consultations with the school, a change of teachers or schools, and home schooling can also help to meet the needs of children without resort to medication.

The ADD/ADHD diagnosis was developed specifically for the purpose of justifying the use of drugs to subdue the behaviors of children in the classroom. The content of the diagnosis in the 1994 *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association* shows that it is specifically aimed at suppressing unwanted behaviors in the classroom. The diagnosis is divided into three types: hyperactivity, impulsivity, and inattention. Under hyperactivity, the first two (and most powerful) criteria are "often fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat" and "often leaves seat in classroom or in other situations in which remaining seated is expected." Clearly, these two "symptoms" are nothing more nor less than the behaviors most likely to cause disruptions in a large, structured classroom.

Under impulsivity, the first criteria is "often blurts out answers before questions have been completed" and under inattention, the first criteria is "often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work, or other activities." Once again, the diagnosis itself, formulated over several decades, leaves no question concerning its purpose: to redefine disruptive classroom behavior into a disease. The ultimate aim is to justify the use of medication to suppress or control the behaviors.

Advocates of ADHD and stimulant drugs have claimed that ADHD is associated with changes in the brain. In fact, both the NIH Consensus Development Conference (1998) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (2000) report on ADHD have confirmed that there is no known biological basis for ADHD. Any brain abnormalities in these children are almost certainly caused by prior exposure to psychiatric medication.

Hundreds of animal studies and human clinical trials leave no doubt about how the medication works. First, the drugs suppress all spontaneous behavior. In healthy chimpanzees and other animals, this can be measured with precision as a reduction in all spontaneous or self-generated activities. In animals and in humans, this is manifested in a reduction in the following behaviors: (1) exploration and curiosity; (2) socializing, and (3) playing. Second, the drugs increase obsessive-compulsive behaviors, including very limited, overly focused activities.



Children become diagnosed with ADHD when they are in conflict with the expectations or demands of parents and/or teachers. The ADHD diagnosis is simply a list of the behaviors that most commonly cause conflict or disturbance in classrooms, especially those that require a high degree of conformity.

By diagnosing the child with ADHD, blame for the conflict is placed on the child. Instead of examining the context of the child's life - why the child is restless or disobedient in the classroom or home - the problem is attributed to the child's faulty brain. Both the classroom and the family are exempt from criticism or from the need to improve, and instead the child is made the source of the problem.

The medicating of the child then becomes a coercive response to conflict in which the weakest member of the conflict, the child, is drugged into a more compliant or submissive state. The production of drug-induced obsessive-compulsive disorder in the child especially fits the needs for compliance in regard to otherwise boring or distressing schoolwork.

Many observers have concluded that our schools and our families are failing to meet the needs of our children in a variety of ways. Focusing on schools, many teachers feel stressed by classroom conditions and ill-prepared to deal with emotional problems in the children. The classrooms themselves are often too large, there are too few teaching assistants and volunteers to help out, and the instructional materials are often outdated and boring in comparison to the modern technologies that appeal to children.

By diagnosing and drugging our children, we shift blame for the problem from our social institutions and ourselves as adults to the relatively powerless children in our care. We harm our children by failing to identify and to meet their real educational needs for better prepared teachers, more teacher- and child-friendly classrooms, more inspiring curriculum, and more engaging classroom technologies. At the same time, when we diagnose and drug our children, we avoid facing critical issues about educational reform. In effect, we drug the children who are signaling the need for reform, and force all children into conformity with our bureaucratic systems. Finally, when we diagnose and drug our children, we disempower ourselves as adults. While we may gain momentary relief from guilt by imagining that the fault lies in the brains of our children, ultimately we undermine our ability to make the necessary adult interventions that our children need. We literally become bystanders in the lives of our children. It is time to reclaim our children from this false and suppressive medical approach. I applaud those parents who have the courage to refuse to give stimulants to their children and who, instead, attempt to identify and to meet their genuine needs in the school, home, and community.

*Dr. Breggin is the Director of the International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology.*

Printed with permission.

---

# Too Much Ritalin!

**By Patti Johnson**

The Ritalin phenomenon caught my attention in 1994. As I walked with some children in a parade, one six-year-old boy intrigued me. He was precocious, energetic and a delightful companion. When I dropped him off at his home, I mentioned these traits to his mother. She startled me when she replied, "That's not what his teacher says. She told me he has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and needs to be put on Ritalin." I urged the mother to have her son tested before drugging him. He was so bright, and his level of energy seemed normal for a little boy. What if he just needed a more challenging curriculum or a different learning environment? Now that I know much more about Ritalin, I feel even more strongly that all options should be explored before resorting to Ritalin.

In 1991, the federal Department of Education said schools could get hundreds of dollars in special education grant money each year for every child diagnosed with ADHD. Since then ADHD diagnosis shot up an average of 21% a year. These data suggest a link between money and Ritalin use.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the U.S. buys and uses 90% of the world's supply of Ritalin. Approximately four million U.S. children are on Ritalin. Ten to 12% of U.S. boys are being treated with Ritalin. No other nation is following our example. In fact, Sweden banned methylphenidate (Ritalin) in 1968 after reports of widespread abuse.

Ritalin is highly sought after by the drug-abusing population. According to Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), the skyrocketing use of Ritalin represents the greatest increase in drugs associated with abuse, and causes the highest number of suicides and emergency room admissions.

Ritalin is classified as a schedule II, or most addictive drug, on par with cocaine, morphine, PCP and metamphetamines. The DEA has noted serious complications associated with Ritalin, including suicide, psychotic episodes and violent behavior. According to Washington Times [Insight magazine], "the common link in the recent phenomenon of high school shootings may be psychotropic drugs like Ritalin." The International Journal of Addictions lists over 100 adverse reactions to Ritalin-paranoid psychosis, terror and paranoid delusions among them.

Ritalin can have other serious side effects including disorientation of the central nervous system. It is an amphetamine, capable of inducing sudden cardiac arrest and death. Twelve year-old Stephanie Hall of Canton, Ohio died the day after her Ritalin dose was increased.

The medical community has expressed alarm over the widespread use of psychotropic drugs for children. Dr. Fred Baughman Jr., pediatric neurologist, said of psychiatrists, "They have proven several times over that chronic Ritalin / amphetamine exposure they advocate for millions of children causes brain atrophy (shrinkage)." The National Institute of Health (NIH) reported, "We do not have an independent valid test for ADHD, and there are no data to indicate that ADHD is due to brain malfunction. Further research to establish the validity of the disorder continues to be a problem." The NIH also reported that Ritalin and other stimulant drugs result in "little improvement in academic or social skills," and they recommend research into alternatives such as change in diet or biofeedback.

If we care about children's health, we owe it to them to explore healthful ways to improve their classroom performance and deportment. I would start with an observation:

In the 1950s we did not have millions of children unable to concentrate in the classroom. What has changed? First, the classroom climate. The traditional classroom was expected to be a quiet, well-ordered environment. Desks were arranged so that all students could make eye contact with the teacher, see the demonstrations and read instructions. Students were not permitted to distract or disrupt others. The teacher was presumed to know more than the children, and so gave direct, group instruction, guiding students step by step in learning new skills, modeling standard English grammar and syntax in the process. Elementary students had a short morning recess, a half-hour recess after lunch and a short afternoon recess.

Progressive educators undermined this approach. Desks are arranged in groups. Students cannot see the teacher and so students distract one another. The failed "Whole Language" method has replaced phonics. Children are passed on to the next grade without learning to read. Discipline is sometimes lax and supervision is casual. Some schools have abolished recess altogether.

When adults are faced with tasks such as balancing the checkbook or figuring our income tax, we tend to seek out a quiet place where we "can hear ourselves think." Children are more sensitive to stimuli than adults, more easily distracted. Insisting that they fend for themselves in a noisy, chaotic, confusing, classroom can do them a disservice.

Many of those children go home to empty houses where they watch television and snack on chemically-altered, heavily-sugared, artificially-flavored junk food. Wouldn't it make sense to provide more attention, more supervision, more exercise, and more nutritious foods before prescribing potentially harmful psychotropic drugs to render children compliant?

It is not my intention to judge parents, counselors, and doctors, or to dismiss the genuinely hard cases. My only motivation is to provide information that could help schools and parents make sound decisions about the health and welfare of their children.

---

***Patti Johnson is affiliated with the Independence Institute***

Printed with permission.

---

# What do you think?

Tell us! Write:

Letters to the  
Editor  
PO Box 28263  
Richmond VA  
23228-0263

or send email to [Newsletter@LPVA.com](mailto:Newsletter@LPVA.com).

---

---

## ***Remembering our Y2k Freedom Fighters***

### ***Virginia LP Election Results - 2000***

How did the Libertarian Party do in the 2000 elections? Well, we may not have "won" any races this year, but over 46,000 people voted Libertarian across the state! That's 46,000 people expressing their dis-satisfaction with Big Government, and demanding the return of their freedoms.

In the Presidential race, despite the media 'Browne out', Harry Browne managed to get nearly three times the votes than Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan did.

In the U.S. House of Representatives races, Brian Brown in the 10th Congressional District, got nearly 10% of the votes in a three-way race against Republican incumbent Frank Wolf - over 28,000 people votes! Sharon Wood, in the 1st Congressional District, received more than twice the number of votes than an independent candidate did in a 4-way race. Robert McBride and Ron Crickenberger made 2% and 1.3% of the vote totals in

their respective 4-way races in the 11th and 8th C.D.'s.

Despite no public campaigning, eighty-seven voters across Virginia wrote-in Gary Reams for U.S. Senate.

In local elections, Frank Bardinelli got 32% of the vote in a race against incumbent Zeb Barfield for Mayor of Hallwood.

There were three uncontested races for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 3rd, 4th and 6th districts where voters did not have the opportunity to vote for a Libertarian. If you have been thinking about running for office this year - do it. Otherwise there may be more uncontested races in 2001.

#### U.S. President/Vice-President

Browne/Olivier	0.6%
Buchanan/Foster	0.2%
Write Ins	0.1%
Phillips/Frazier	0.1%
Bush/Cheney	52.5%
Gore/Lieberman	44.4%
Nader/La Duke	2.2%

#### U.S. Senate

Gary Reams	87 write in votes
Mickey Mouse	3 write in votes

#### U.S. House of Representatives

1st C.D.	Sharon Wood	3.7%
8th C.D.	Ron Crickenberger	1.3%
10th C.D.	Brian Brown	9.9%
11th C.D.	Robert McBride	2.0%

#### Mayor - Hallwood, VA

Frank Bardinelli	32%
------------------	-----





**Brian Brown (photo at left) speaks to a reporter during his lunch hour! Sharon Wood talks to a potential voter at Hampton Bay Days (photo at right)!**

**... while Ron**

**Crickenberger wowed the press and public alike in a series of debates with his major-party opponent...**



**Robert McBride (left) is a ceaseless proponent of liberty, and is always ready with a funny quip.**



**... And before we forget, at right is a photo of an individual who probably devoted more of his life and energy to fighting for liberty in than just about anyone -- our presidential candidate Harry Browne (Left), shown here standing with LPVA Executive Director Marc Montoni at the campaign wrap-up party in Atlanta, Georgia on election night.**



# Managing A Libertarian Campaign

By Jason Willency

As a paid campaign manager for two Libertarian congressional campaigns, I was given a unique opportunity to witness the highs and lows of the struggle for Liberty on a day-to-day basis. Although the endeavor was not as financially rewarding for me as for my counterparts in opposing campaigns, it beat by far my experiences in the Republican Party -- on account of people and principles. I entered this campaign year with high hopes for what we could achieve.

I had been given the privilege of working with three Libertarian Party candidates in Northern Virginia in 1999, and all three had turned in encouraging results. Given the much higher rate of voter participation which could be expected in 2000, a presidential election year, I harbored visions of reaching the masses with our powerful message of individual freedom with personal responsibility. While my visions of grandeur were only partially fulfilled on election night some eight months after it all began, I came away with an appreciation for the high caliber of people attracted to our Party but tempered by the sobering reality of how monumental our task is. That is, if anyone is going to win in the struggle for true Liberty in the United States, Virginia Libertarians are going to be near the head of the brigade.

In Robert McBride's campaign in the 11th Congressional District, we had some of the most dedicated activists and supporters around. Many continued to plant and re-plant signs even after those signs "disappeared" multiple times. Contributors opened their checkbooks, often several times, to keep our campaign going for 8 whole months. Activists and supporters alike (well over 100 volunteers and contributors) adapted to changing circumstances and fortunes with little complaint as Robert attempted to go where few had gone before in the 11th Congressional District. Robert's positive outlook and easygoing manner kept us all pumped up through high and low.

Brian Brown, our candidate in the 10th Congressional District, deserves special praise. Despite a change of residence, a motorcycle accident (on the eve of the petitioning deadline), two different jobs, and completing a real estate course, Brian kept on campaigning. Refusing to be a paper candidate, he

gave two public speeches; about a dozen newspaper, radio and television interviews; and marched in two parades. He recorded one radio commercial and wrote a campaign manifesto from which was derived his campaign platform.

Largely due to Brown's discipline and focus, especially when it was time to be "on," he bested an Independent opponent who was thought by the media to be more "credible" and "mainstream." Although victory over Congressman Wolf was outside our grasp, we achieved a "victory" of our own. This victory was the 36 campaign activists and 44 campaign donors who joined our effort, not to mention the good press his candidacy generated for the Libertarian Party.

Despite the rousing successes detailed above, my enthusiasm is tempered by the sobering task we face. We must advance Liberty in a democracy. While Liberty is about the triumph of the individual over the collective, democracy is just the opposite. We have little to offer voters in a democratic system, so we must do one of two things. We must undertake a campaign to educate our countrymen and countrywomen about the uniqueness of our Constitutional Republic and why they should help to restore it; or we must identify that portion of the public which either instinctively or intellectually understands this truth and organize into an effective political move-ment that can force change in a democratic system.

Whichever approach we choose, we must continue this fight. To do otherwise would betray those who came before us and won the freedoms we are now fortunate enough to enjoy in the United States. I count myself blessed to have been given the privilege of serving as a campaign manager for a dedicated band of Freedom Fighters in Virginia.

---

# Election 2001

It's time for a real change. It's time to stand up for liberty. For freedom and responsibility for all Americans.

With over 300 positions across Virginia coming up for election this year - there is an incredible opportunity to have Libertarians elected to office.

What kind of people run for local office? Ordinary people like you and me. People that believe everyone should be free to run their own lives, and not some bureaucrat in Richmond or Washington D.C.

Look at the election schedule below and sign up today to become a candidate, manage a campaign, donate money, or volunteer your time to spread the powerful message of freedom across Virginia. Wouldn't you do a better job than some Demorepub that wants to take your freedom and money?

May 8, 2001

Town Council, Town of Vienna

November 6, 2001

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Attorney General

House of Delegates (100)

Soil and Water Directors:

Counties:

Alleghany (2)

Bath (2)

Buchanan (2)

Charles City (2)

Clark (2)

Dickenson (2)

Dinwiddie (2)

Essex (2)

Frederick (2)

Highland (2)

James City (2)

King and Queen (2)

King George (2)

King William (2)

Loudoun (3)

New Kent (2)

Prince William (3)

Scott (3)

Shenandoah (2)

Spotsylvania (2)

Stafford (2)

Warren (2)

Wise (2)

York (2)

Cities:

Covington (2)

Fredericksburg (2)

Petersburg (2)

Williamsburg (2)

Winchester (2)  
Covington (2)  
Fredericksburg (2)

Commonwealth's Attorney

Sheriff  
Commissioner of the Revenue  
Treasurer  
Board of Supervisors  
(40 counties)  
School Boards  
(35 counties)

Yes! I would like to stand up and be counted for liberty.

I am interested in (circle choices):

- Running for local office
- Being a campaign manager
- Being a campaign treasurer
- Being a campaign volunteer
- Fundraising for a candidate
- Writing letters to the editor in support of a Libertarian candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE EMAIL

Send this form to : Marc Montoni, Libertarian Party, PO Box 28263, Richmond VA 23228. Ph. (703) 715-6230. Email [Director@LPVA.com](mailto:Director@LPVA.com).

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION 2001

- Do you enjoy meeting other Libertarians?
- Do you love hearing Libertarians speak?
- Do you have good organizational skills?

If so, you are needed to organize the biggest and best Virginia Libertarian function of the year - the Libertarian Party State Convention 2001. For more information and to apply for the position of Convention 2001 Organizer, contact: Marc Montoni, [Director@LPVA.com](mailto:Director@LPVA.com), PO Box 28263, Richmond VA 23228.

---

## *Around the State*

### *-- Blue Ridge Libertarians --*

WINCHESTER -- The Blue Ridge Libertarian Party (BRLP) will sponsor an information table at a gun show in January. On display will be a gun rack with the current "choices":

First slot - Democrats -empty.

Second slot - Republicans - guns with OregulationsO -- represented by a rifle with chains and locks around it.

Third slot - Libertarians - guns without OregulationsO.

The BRLP will show the Waco video (or something similar) at the gun show (OWhat man can walk past a TV thatOs on?O).

### *-- Fredericksburg Area Libertarians --*

FREDERICKSBURG -- The December 14 meeting featured Ms. Margaret Hyland of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML).

### *-- Highland Libertarians --*



ABINGDON -- The Virginia Highlands Libertarians (left) met Tuesday Nov. 28th and elected James Grey as the new leader. Members here will be helping to set up a campus group at Virginia Highlands Community College with the help of new member Melissa Roberts.

Shown in the photo are members DW Tuckwiller, Melissa Roberts, new chair James Grey, and the Walls -- visiting LP activists from just over the border with Tennessee.

-- ***Lynchburg Libertarians*** --

LYNCHBURG -- The Lynchburg Libertarian League (LLL) met on Dec. 11 to elect local officers and establish a local party affiliate.

-- ***New River Libertarians*** --

BLACKSBURG -- Hemp law reform activist Mike Krawitz spoke at the November meeting about ending drug prohibition.

-- ***Northern Neck Libertarians*** --

TAPPAHANNOCK -- The Northern Neck Libertarians held their first meeting in November and plan to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

-- ***Peninsula Libertarians*** --



HAMPTON -- Peninsula's November meeting hosted speaker Jim Lehman, who presented ***The Beginning Of The End Of The Two-Party System***. He enjoyed talking with the Peninsula Libertarians so much, that **he joined the Libertarian Party on the spot!**

Shown in this photo from the November meeting are Jim Lehman, Jim Hicks, Sharon Wood, Marc Montoni (from left to right).

-- ***Prince William County Libertarians*** --

MANASSAS -- Prince William Country Libertarians held their annual Crab Feast in November. The room was full and there was lots of table hopping. The Annual Convention was held at the end of the Crab Feast and officers were elected. Robert McBride and Gary Reams spoke about their hilarious experiences during the McBride-for-Congress campaign.

-- ***Rockingham County Libertarians*** --



**HARRISONBURG** -- The November meeting of the Rockingham County Libertarians (right) was held at a local Thai restaurant, and attracted several new people. The meeting was also attended by National LP Chairman Jim

Lark. Coincidentally, one of the leaders of the JMU Libertarian group happened to be dining at the same Restaurant (left), and enjoyed meeting fellow Libertarians from the area.



### -- *Shenandoah Libertarians* --



**WOODSTOCK** -- Shenandoah Libertarians (left) have been actively fighting a taxpayer-funded tourist train proposal which members have dubbed the "**Tax Train**". Members Marc Montoni and Charlotte Patrick have been speaking out against the proposal in letters to the editor, media releases, and at public hearings held on the issue.

The Shenandoah Libertarians are now widely recognized by the local media -- including the *Northern Virginia Daily*, the Shenandoah *Valley-Herald*, the Harrisonburg *Daily News-Record* and WAZT Channel 10 Woodstock -- as the 'official opposition' to the "Tax Train".

Shown in the photo are Charles Borsom, Charlotte Patrick, and Marc Montoni.

### -- *Virginia Beach Libertarians* --

**VIRGINIA BEACH** -- The first meeting of the Virginia Beach Libertarians took place at the campus of Virginia Wesleyan College on November 16th. The Founding Convention is scheduled for January 27, 2001.

## What Is A Libertarian?

A Libertarian is someone who believes you should be free to live your life the way you choose -- politicians in Richmond or Washington D.C. are simply not qualified to control you.

The word Libertarian comes from the word "liberty", meaning freedom.

Libertarians believe you have the right to keep your hard-earned money, or spend it the way you choose - and would demand that government not steal it from you by taxing you.

Libertarians believe government projects end up hurting those who they are supposed to be helping; and that when government runs anything it is always inefficient. Libertarians believe you should have the freedom to give your money to support charitable organizations if you want, and not be forced to support a government pet project that is doomed to failure.

Libertarians want you to be free to do with your body what you want - as long as you don't hurt anyone else. If you choose to work out, eat right and live a long healthy life - that's your choice. If you choose to smoke, take drugs and eat all the wrong food - that is also your choice. Libertarians think you should make your own decisions, and take responsibility for your actions - and not be told what to do by politicians.

Libertarians also believe that you have the right to defend yourself in whatever way you choose. Libertarians support the second amendment - without the rules and regulations that take away your right of self-defence.

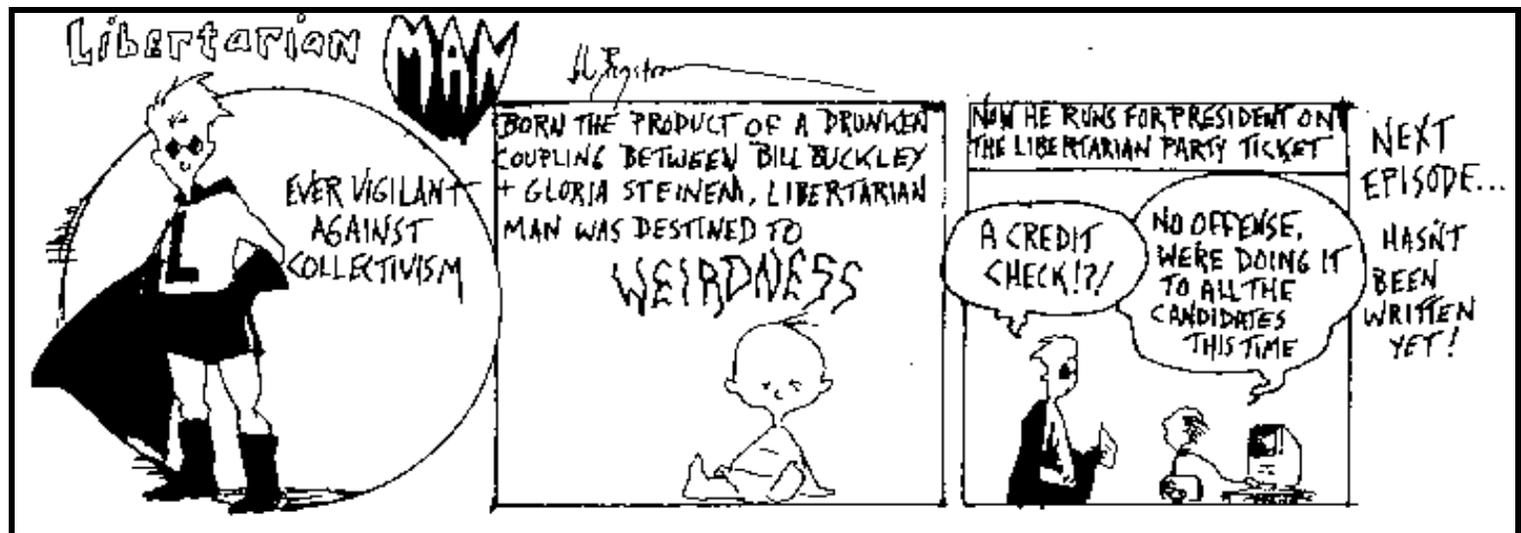
Libertarians believe that getting government out of the schools will not only save you thousands of dollars in tax, but also improve your child's quality of education. You should have the right to choose where you send your children to school, so that they receive the kind of instruction and teaching that you want.

Libertarians want you to be free to run your life, the way you want.

Choose freedom for yourself and for everyone.

Join the Libertarian Party today.

## Libertarian Funnies



This page was composed December 21, 2000, using Netscape Composer.

If you'd like to receive the Dead-Tree edition, please [email me](#) and I will reply with a membership application / donation form.

If you have trouble downloading this page, please email our [webmaster](#).

**Libertarian Party of Virginia**

Marc Montoni, Executive Director

PO Box 28263

Richmond VA 23228-0263

703-715-6230 Voicemail

540-984-4608 FAX

[Director@LPVA.com](mailto:Director@LPVA.com)

[LPVA Home](#)

[National LP Home](#)