



The Utah Liberator

The Voice of the Libertarian Party of Utah and the Uncensored Opinions of Our Members

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New State Officers Elected

New Chair Outlines Ambitious, Practical Program for Growth and Electoral Success

The Libertarian Party of Utah meeting in convention at Salt Lake City on July 1, 1995, elected a new slate of state officers by acclamation. The new officers are:

Chair **Jim Lorenz**
Vice-Chair **Jim Dexter**
Treasurer **Jim Elwell**
Secretary **Chauna Pierce**

Salt Lake County LP chair Fred George, noting the similarity of the officers' first names, immediately dubbed the new leadership as the "Jimnasium." Not to be left out, Chauna Grant said, "Just call me Jimmie."

Prior to the voting, state chair nominee Jim Lorenz, former chair of the San Diego (CA) County LP, an organization with 2,000 dues-paying Libertarians, outlined his plans for the Utah party's future.

"Thanks to all of the Utah Libertarian party's previous officers and members who have worked and paid to establish and maintain the presence of our party in this place. This is the place, isn't it? I agree that it is and it is now the time to echo and exploit the mood of dissatisfaction with the various overbearing governments that seem to surround us and siphon off too much of our labor and substance. The Democrats are slowly discovering that Marx was wrong, the Republicans are beginning to get the idea that Madison was right.

"That's for us. We Libertarians are the honest, sincere and dedicated followers of Montesquieu, Locke, Paine, Jefferson, Madison, *et al.*, in the

march away from tyrannies of every sort and toward the most noble goal of liberty and justice for all. We need to illuminate the Democrats' and the Republican's voting record as compared to Libertarian principles. Not that we are perfect, just very near. At least we would act on principle and not on the latest polls as Machiavelli might advise and as Clinton does.

"Would it take a Libertarian Congress seven years to balance the federal budget, auction off the US Postal Service and turn the BLM lands over to the states? Would it take a Libertarian state legislature, governor and attorney general two terms to recognize the ninth and tenth amendments? Would it take a Libertarian mayor/city manager/council more than one term to stop every form of municipal tax-supported competition with private businesses and their tax-paying customers? Would it take over 30 minutes for a Libertarian school board member to discover and condemn the mixing of tax funds to support any organized religion?

"This is too easy. All of the answers seem to be in the negative. Yes, that's true. We know the answers, they're easy. How do we get Libertarians elected to these political offices? What's the answer to that one? It seems to be very difficult and to take a very long time. This is true.

"Well, OK. Where do we begin and what do we need to do? The answer to the first part is easy. You have already made a very good beginning and we have proven, though still few in number, that we are forthright,

usually correct from a moral POV, tough, tenacious and growing. The second part is not so easy as it is understood that it is not enough to know what is right, we who know must do right. So, what's to be done?

"Before we can answer that, we have to consider a few basic principles of human politics that are tested and true, whether we like them or not. And, like it or not, when we announce our party membership, whether we run for office or collect signatures or pass out handbills, we are acting as politicians. So we might as well know some of the ground rules:

1. Money is the mother's milk of politics. Money buys ink, paper, postage and media time. It pays the phone bill and all the other various expenses of making an effort. However, a little bit of money applied in just the best way can have a very great effect. Waste is always futile and no money to spend leaves the opportunity untouched.

2. All politics are local. That is, people first tend to see issues in the light of how they will be affected personally. Very few objectify even fewer issues—the burden is on us. In sales training this is spoken of as 'selling the benefits.' It is just common sense and is easy to do with a little practice.

3. Politics is the art of the possible. It is also true that you cannot sell something that nobody wants, can't use and won't pay for. I don't think we could elect a Libertarian governor of Utah in 1996 because we would

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Lorenz — *cont'd*

both have to find a candidate of stellar charisma and raise some six to ten millions of dollars, plus build a professional organization capable of using vast sums of money for maximum political effect. What is possible: With a few dollars and a dedicated cadre of principled Libertarians, we can, in a short time, produce a marked change in public perception and a much higher acceptance of Libertarian principles and candidates.

Apply our sparse resources to the most effective leverage points so that we look like thousands. Form hundreds of committees and fronts, as the left does, to make a point and disappear before being attacked. We want to change public opinion over a time period that has no deadline, with just a little money every month. This is the right thing to do. It is possible and doable. We can also find minor races for minor offices that we can win and so prove our usefulness and dedication.

4. Nothing political happens by accident. If you want to get the public to do something, you have to make the effort. The burden is always on the one attempting to communicate. Statutes are written by persons who want some reward, and every word is weighed to that standard, whatever it may be. If you want to write statutes for a Libertarian purpose we will have to help you get elected. But first, you will have to help the Libertarian Party become powerful enough to do that. Time, money, work and attitude.

5. Appearance is reality. Very few folks worry about whether the light in the refrigerator is really off after they close the door. They become very interested when they open the door and the light does not come on and the root beer is warm. It is always what we see and realize that makes the most immediate difference in our behavior. As the tailor used to say, "The clothes make the man."

If Libertarians are seen as being indifferent, confused, remote, unreli-

able—in a word, unelectable—then that is our reality. When we are representing the Libertarian Party we must be focused, clean and neat in our person, vehicles and media material. When a member of the public opens our door, our light must come on and our presentation must not be spoiled. Our public face must always reflect success and confidence—not on our personal terms—but on what we know the public expects—if we expect their support.

6. Politics is a team sport. Most Libertarians are individualists. However, if we are to have any success in changing public opinion, we must associate and cooperate. While all of us would loathe a 'check-off' system for the compulsory collection of union dues, our burden is to cooperate voluntarily to fund and operate the Libertarian Party of Utah.

Our newsletter, which will be mailed free to dues-paying members, is printed on real paper, mailed by real postage and this incurs real, not idealistic costs. Sad but true, even idealism has its price. The purest Libertarian in the world could not be politically effective alone and without funds. By working together as closely as possible we can multiply our individual efforts to advance freedom many times over.

"So what is our immediate program?"

1. We are going to define our LP-Utah mission statement. What is our purpose, as a political party, as members of that party, as citizens? We need to publish, to ourselves and to Utah, how we approach our political business, which is the reason for our existence as a political entity. If we can't explain it in simple terms to each other, how can we explain it to the public and have them accept it?

2. We are going to publish a monthly newsletter, beginning in August 1995. If it is only a postcard that says we are alive, organized and look forward to meeting with our friends, it is vital that we publish. We need the calendar data from the county chairs

to begin with. We can reprint the LP Platform, or portions of the Declaration & Constitution, or the Federalist Papers as filler if need be, but we must publish on a regular basis to have a credible public presence.

3. We are going to grow this party by every means available. For members, *dues-paying members*, represent funding for ongoing projects, volunteers to carry out those projects and candidates to run for office and be elected. The more members, the more money, the more volunteers, the even more candidates. Vice-Chair Jim Dexter suggests we can have 500 dues paying members by July 1, 1996. I accept this figure as an opportunity and as a challenge.

Since we now have about 80 paid members, this means 420 new and replacement members in 12 months. That means we need 35 new members per month on a straight-line basis. State dues are \$25.00 per calendar year, which includes a monthly newsletter. Non-member newsletter subscriptions are \$15.00 per year. Ask for the order, you may get it. Don't ask and the result is self-evident. We also accept donations. Make checks payable to LP-Utah. (So-called *basic members*, who may have signed the LP pledge, but are not dues-paying members, are another matter. As are *registered Libertarians* or *Libertarian voters*. we will discuss these categories at another place and time.)

4. We are going to have as much fun as possible. We are going to get along with each other better than we ever have because we are going to see progress and results. This is because we are going to measure the things we most want to influence: money, membership and public opinion. The first two are easy to quantify, so we will have to work harder on the latter, but it can be done.

"Thank you for your attention and support. I will be happy to entertain volunteers. Please call my private line, (801) 583-5611, between 9 AM and 9 PM for the most cordial reception."

The Story Behind the News

Editor's Note: We are always happy to print news about Libertarians, especially those who make news. In this case, we were intrigued by the small blurb (below) that appeared recently in the Salt Lake Tribune. So we asked Ms. Robinson, a long-time Libertarian, to provide her side of the story.

CONVICTION REVERSED

Riverton paralegal Kaylin Robinson won an appeal Thursday of her conviction for driving on a suspended license. Robinson argued she never had a driver license, so she could not have been driving on a suspended license. The Utah Court of Appeals agreed — but noted she was violating the law by driving without a license.

Logic Prevails

by Kaylin Robinson

An age-old adage says, "What the State giveth, the State can taketh away." But what if the State didn't giveth? Can the State take it away? I think not . . . and the Utah Court of Appeals agrees with me.

For those who don't know me, I drive without a driver license. I do not like asking my government's permission to do the things I do. So, the Utah Driver License Department set me up an "account," and suspended it the same day. I didn't ask for it. They just did it.

The next time I got stopped (by Murray City Police Officer Clawson), I told him I didn't have a license. He didn't believe me. Dispatch told him I was suspended.

The fun began. Murray City Prosecutor, Edwin T. Peterson, said he liked prosecuting me because I am fun. I don't argue off point. He doesn't think so any more. I won.

I gave him every opportunity to figure it out. But he continued to pursue the "suspended license" issue. I asked for a jury specifically to argue Fully Informed Jury Association (F.I.J.A.) issues.

After the City rested, I called my witnesses. I put on proof that I had never, ever, gotten a driver license. Mr. Peterson wanted to amend the charges but I objected and the Judge sustained me. Instead, he instructed the jury that a person could have their privilege suspended even if they had no license. The logic in that escapes me since a definition of license is privilege. The jury convicted me anyway. I knew they would. The battle was joined.

I appealed. I argued F.I.J.A., and I argued the logic of charging me with driving on a suspended license when I had no license in the first place. I argued evidentiary and other issues as well.

I argued that I was broke and the City should pay for the costs of the transcripts. Went through the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court with that argument. Mr. Peterson complained that I litigate for a hobby. Oh well, he "practices" law.

The Supreme Court told us to agree what the facts were instead of getting a transcript and sent it back to the Court of Appeals. By now I had trained Mr. Peterson not to denigrate me.

So we submitted briefs. On all the issues. Lo and behold. The Utah Court of Appeals ruled on July 13, 1995 (five years after the beginning of this thing), that if you do not have a license, you can not be suspended. As my son says, "Duh!" They, of course neglected to comment on the other issues. Refused to publish it, too.

Logic, therefore, prevails.

Ed. Note: While we will not censor articles submitted, we will edit for clarity and fact. In this case, we changed Kaylin's "Driver's License" to "Driver License" because it is not the property of the driver, but the state.

"I Told You So"

by Fred George, Chair, SL County

How are you at learning stuff?

Has anyone ever told you something, and some far back corner of your thoughts gets the impression that whoever told you might someday have occasion to say "I told you so." That kind of thinking often detracts from whatever you're being told.

I think I know the feeling. Not that I remember being told "I told you so" so much as remembering being told. Often times, it's months or years after being told something when I'll have an experience that'll remind me of what I had been told. And it's also been my observation that many of such experiences might otherwise go somewhat unnoticed if not for what I had been told previously.

Then it clicks. Most people aren't out to have a chance to say "I told you so." Most want to tell you something just so you'll recognize it when you experience it.

That's the Libertarian Party. Telling everyone since 1971.

Mark Your Calendar

Events of interest to Libertarians

August 24, 1995 - 7 PM

Utah LP State Central Committee
875 So. Donner Way #503, SLC

September 16, 1995 - 2 PM

Libertarian Pool Party (BYO, legal drugs only)
875 So. Donner Way, SLC
RSVP: 801/583-5611

October 6-8, 1995

F.I.J.A. National Convention
Crystal Inn, SLC

To Submit Articles or Calendar Items

We welcome your contributions, preferably in electronic format. Call Jim Dexter at 801/963-1028, or e-mail JimDex1@aol.com (or CIS: 71137,1754) for details.

Young Adults Are Natural Born Libertarians

“**G**eneration X is going to start tearing down government,” concludes one 28-year-old in the July 26 *USA Today* cover story. The article says that Generation X’s 41 million members, the “babybusters” born between 1965–76, are fed up with both Republicans and Democrats.

And why not? At one end, this “X” generation is stuck with a \$5 trillion national debt to pay for failed liberal Dem social programs. At the other end, with conservative Rep attempts to censor the Internet, arrest pot smokers, and restrict abortions, they see government oppressing their few remaining freedoms.

The lengthy article made several important points:

- Generation Xers, many of whom are latchkey kids from divorced families, are notably self-reliant.
- Having parented themselves, they do not take kindly to government attempts to “improve” their lives.
- They have far more faith in private institutions than in government-imposed solutions.
- They participate in Libertarian-type discussion groups on the Internet, which they view as a “world without borders, where people are free to access information, bypassing commercial media.”
- They care deeply about issues such as the environment, race issues, poverty, etc., and want to make a difference, but don’t believe the established political structure offers any answers.
- The proposed flag-burning amendment prompted one Xer to say, “Politicians have such little respect for the Constitution, they’re willing fool around with it to win an election.”
- They view the individual as the primary unit of society, and believe Republicans and Democrats want

“government to perform functions that it has no business performing.”

- The computer culture—especially the infobahn—has accustomed them to a “libertarian world where individualism is paramount and government just gets in the way.”

One astute twentysomething noted, “If you combine social tolerance with skepticism about government and then belief in free markets, that’s the essence of Libertarianism.”

So the next time you’re talking to a young adult, be sure to mention the Libertarian Party of Utah. But don’t be disappointed if they don’t sign up immediately. Fierce individualists, they’re not generally joiners and like to think of themselves as apolitical.

But those who have joined contributed to the Libertarian Party’s 20% growth this year, and represent 40% of the new membership.

While there are as many shades of Libertarian thought as there are members, we who have joined the party realize that, under a democratic system, there is strength in numbers.

As Pericles said, “A man who says politics is not his business is a man who has no business.” We cannot achieve our ideals (see below) without significant numbers.

So whenever you talk to Xers (ages 19–30), tell them about the *only* political party that agrees with their views of less government and more freedom . . . the Libertarians.

This Is Our Stand

Statement of Principles from the Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Utah

We, the members of the **Libertarian Party**, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments, throughout history, have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the US, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the

right to life—accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action—accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property—accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders, and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.