Liberty Pledgers invited to Convention luncheon

Members of the Liberty Pledge program are invited to attend a special, exclusive luncheon at the upcoming National LP convention in Washington, DC.

The event will be held in the Congressional Room of the Hyatt Capitol Hill hotel on Friday, July 5, starting at 12:00 noon. The luncheon is free for all Liberty Pledgers, and will feature a combination fajita bar and wok station.

“This is our way of thanking those people who have provided the LP with our most dependable support over the years,” said Libertarian National Committee member Sharon Ayres, who is coordinating the event.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to LP Secretary John Famularo at (215) 545-6994 by Friday, June 21st.

New Gallup poll says 50 million Americans are “libertarian”

The number of libertarians in America has remained consistent over the past two years, with more than 50 million Americans falling into that political category, according to a recent Gallup poll.

In a nationwide survey taken in mid-January 1996, Gallup found that 20% of the population was libertarian.

“This is good news,” said LP National Chair Steve Dasbach. “It confirms that libertarians are a significant political force in America. It also confirms that Gallup understands that the traditional liberal versus conservative view of politics is no longer adequate. You can’t discuss politics in America in 1996 without acknowledging the libertarian factor,” he said.

“Now the challenge for the Libertarian Party is to reach out to those libertarian Americans and explain why they should vote for our candidates and become contributing members of our party,” said Dasbach.

The Gallup poll also found that 15% of Americans are liberal, 55% conservative, and 20% populist.

State Rep. Don Gorman announces bid for Speaker of N.H. House

Libertarian state legislator Don Gorman has announced that he is running for Speaker of the New Hampshire House — despite long odds as the only third-party member of the state’s House of Representatives.

“There are many things that a Libertarian could do as Speaker that would be difficult — if not impossible — for candidates of other parties,” said Gorman, 58, at his announcement in Concord, NH, on May 1st.

The election of the Speaker is scheduled for mid-December 1996, when the new House convenes following the November elections. Gorman said he will spend the summer campaigning, and will personally contact every legislator in the 400-member House to ask for support.

His election strategy, said Gorman, will be to assemble a coalition of Democrats, who lack the votes to elect one of their own as Speaker; disaffected Republicans; and any new Libertarian legislators elected in November.

The odds against his election are long, admitted Gorman, since no third party member has been House Speaker “maybe [since] the Colonial era — certainly not since 1900. But the conditions have never been this ripe.”

Gorman said his campaign will appeal to the “strong Libertarian bent” of many members of the N.H. House. Like Libertarians, Gorman said, many Republican and Democratic legislators “came here with a message from their constituents — get the government out of our schools, our wallets, our bedrooms, and our lives.”

Gorman faces re-election in November, but said he doesn’t expect much opposition in his Deerfield district.

Astrologer predicts LP success

The Libertarian Party’s success is in the stars, an astrologer says.

According to the April 4-12 edition of the No Nonsense Astrology for Love & Money column, the LP will win record vote totals and the presidency within eight years.

Specifically, the No Nonsense astrologer predicted:
■ “In 1996 the Libertarian Party will receive a record number of votes.”
■ “In 2004 a Libertarian will be elected president of the USA, possibly Clint Eastwood.”

“This is a first for us — a mention in an astrology column,” said LP Chairman Steve Dasbach. “But we should remember, to paraphrase William Shakespeare, that our fate ‘is not in our stars, but within ourselves . . .’ ”
Libertarian leader plans for great party

By Mike Seate
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

In Libertarian Ken Sturzenacker's world, federal agencies like the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms and the Department of Transportation would be abolished.

Instead, the country would enter into a new era of privatization, personal responsibility and, to use one of Sturzenacker's favorite phrases, "the legalization of work."

Sturzenacker, chairman of Pennsylvania's 8,000-member Libertarian Party, visited Pittsburgh Monday to help local party members organize their annual tax day demonstration.

Come April 15, volunteers from Allegheny County's Libertarian Party will gather at post offices Downtown and on the North Side to distribute "million-dollar bill" membership leaflets.

"We hand these to people who are mailing in their federal tax returns and we ask them if they'd like a million dollars to help pay their taxes. They laugh at first, but a few minutes later, some of them drive back around the block and want to talk to us," Sturzenacker said.

Sturzenacker — a U.S. Army veteran from the Vietnam era who lives in Catasauqua, Lehigh County — said the leaflets, which ridicule the federal government's current spending tally of $1 million in tax dollars every five seconds, are among the Libertarian Party's most effective proselytizing tools.

"Some people will go home and later, there'll be one thing that the federal government does that just makes them angry and they'll call us," he said.

New Libertarian voters are increasingly under 40 years of age, many of them "Generation X" or younger voters searching for alternatives to the two-party system, Sturzenacker said.

Other adherents of this nationwide anti-government group, like Allegheny County member Harold Kyrilii, learned of the party's philosophy through the writings of novelist Ayn Rand.

Rand dramatized modern man overcoming life's obstacles through an almost Nietzschean application of self-reliance. The message has resonated with many Libertarians, including Sturzenacker, who has served as a state chairman in Illinois and Arizona.

Though vehemently anti-federal government in doctrine, Sturzenacker said Libertarians do not endorse the actions of separatist or militia movements such as Montana's Freemen who are currently involved in an armed confrontation with federal agents.

"Freedom is a package deal and you can't fight for your freedom when it infringes on someone else's," he said.

Part of that freedom includes greatly reducing government disability and welfare rolls by drawing public assistance from charitable donations and enticing disabled Americans to go back to work.

He also envisions a future where immigration would be open to "all newcomers who are willing to work."

However, he is careful to stress that creating a political utopia is not an option in a Libertarian society.

Even so, Libertarians continue their struggle to have candidates entered on ballots on all levels of state and federal government.

The Libertarian national convention is to be held in Washington, D.C., July 3, which is when Sturzenacker said the party will choose a candidate for president.

"I think going to Washington — to the belly of the beast, so to speak — is the best thing," Sturzenacker said.

Ken Sturzenacker, chairman of Pennsylvania's Libertarian Party, makes a point in his visit to Pittsburgh

Libertarians fight arrest of two members during tax protest

TOM HAYDON

John Paff of Franklin and James Konek of Spotswood were among hundreds of members of the Libertarian Party to stage informational protests at post offices across the country Monday. But Paff, 38, and Konek, 24, were the only party members arrested as they tried to pass out leaflets to taxpayers rushing to file tax returns at the East Brunswick Post Office, according to a township police report.

"I think I have a right to be here. This does not comport with what we understand this country is about," said Paff, who along with Konek was charged with disorderly persons offense for refusing a police officer's order to leave. Each April 15, the Libertarian Party distributes information to protest federal tax law.

Paff said members of the Somerset and Middlesex counties branch of the party sent a letter to East Brunswick Postmaster Steven Leddy last week stating plans to hand out the leaflets and requesting that he inform them if he had concerns.

Five members went to the post office Monday evening to hand out information to taxpayers as they left the building on Cranbury Road. Within minutes, Leddy told the protesters to leave, claiming they were blocking the door, Paff said.

Paff denied Leddy's claim and said the group had the right to continue. The postmaster then called police, who also ordered the protesters to leave, stating they could continue their activities at the curb on Cranbury Road, according to a township police report.

The two were held several hours at the Middlesex County Adult Corrections Center in North Brunswick until friends and relatives posted $5,000 bail for each of them. No court date has been set, Konek said.

Paff and Konek said they staged a similar protest at a post office in Somerset County last year without incident.
The high cost of government
$1 million every five seconds

Liberarians hope to grow

DON DAVIS
Bismarck Tribune

FARGO — "No Clinton" Roland Riemers said "no" to the entire Democratic Party Sunday, rejoining the less-government-is-good Libertarian Party.

Riemers, who won the state's non-binding Democratic presidential primary in February, was one of 18 North Dakotans gathered in a small Fargo Holiday Inn meeting room to try to get more people to follow his lead and join.

"Government doesn't solve problems, people solve them," the Beulah man said in explaining why he is going back into the party with an eye to the primary.

He met with others who want to build a state organization for the party supporting minimum government and maximum personal freedom. The party's stands range from eliminating gun control to allowing individuals to decide about abortions to legalizing drugs.

The Libertarian thanked the two major parties for shutting down the federal government in December, proving Americans can do without many of its services.

Greg Enerson, one of a few at the meeting from outside the Red River Valley, drove in from Bismarck. He said he likes the less-government principle of the party.

"I'm a strong believer in individual liberty and freedoms as long as they don't hurt anyone else," Enerson said.

State Chairman Martin Riske of Fargo explained his party's philosophy as taking the Democrats' personal freedom ideas and combining them with the Republicans' economic freedom feelings.

"We're really radically different," he said.

The Libertarian meeting followed by a couple of hours adjournment of the Democratic State Convention in Fargo and the Republicans' gathering in Bismarck. But the size of those two conventions compared to his convention didn't discourage Riske.

"It gives us the dimension of the job in front of us," he admitted, but starting small and growing can work.

Liberarians, with a 150-person North Dakota mailing list, will concentrate on local offices at first, Riske said. There is no timetable to put statewide candidates on the ballot, he said, although a national party official said it may take two to three years to build a functioning state party.

North Dakota's party is one of the five smallest, national Libertarian Communications Director Bill Winter said.

"It's a tremendous thing we are trying to do, taking on the Democrats and Republicans," Winter said.

Riemers hopes to fit into the party.

He was overruled at the Democratic convention earlier in the weekend when he tried to make a motion most saw as unfaithful to President Clinton. Riemers said he "had a moral obligation" to attend the convention and speak out against Clinton's re-election on behalf of North Dakotans who voted for him in the primary. Clinton was not on the ballot, avoiding it since the primary was not binding.

Now, Riemers said, he is considering running for the District 33 state House seat as a Libertarian.

He was elected treasurer of the party Sunday at what may have been the first-ever statewide Libertarian meeting.

By Cary Segall
Wisconsin State Journal

A state law passed to pay for a new Milwaukee Brewers stadium is constitutional, the Wisconsin Supreme Court decided Tuesday.

The court ruled, 4-5, that the law serves a public purpose in imposing a tenth of a percent sales tax in five southeastern Wisconsin counties to pay for the project.

The controversial tax will raise money to pay off $160 million in bonds issued by a taxing district created by the law. The Brewers are obligated to raise another $90 million for the stadium.

The law had been challenged by the Libertarian Party and several business owners. They raised 13 state and federal constitutional challenges, with the most serious arguing that the tax and borrowing were being done for a private business in violation of the state constitution, which requires that public money be used only for public purposes.

"No one is a tax dollar was expected to pay Hank Aaron or Joe Adcock," the opponents' lawyer, Doug Bartley, told the court, referring to former Milwaukee Braves stars. "For many, myself included, baseball is almost a religion. But just as we didn't have state-supported religions, we shouldn't have state-supported sports."

The court, though, noted most courts in other states considering a similar issue ruled such taxes valid, and it said it agreed.

It noted the Legislature concluded the stadium would serve a public purpose by promoting economic development and tourism and reducing unemployment.

"These are clearly public purposes and will provide direct, not remote, advantages or benefits to the public at large," the court said. "In addition, the fact that a private entity such as the Brewers will benefit from the stadium Act does not destroy the predominant public purpose of this act."

The Libertarian Party also has a challenge to the law pending before U.S. District Judge Thomas Curran in Milwaukee. But the state's lawyer, Assistant Attorney General Thomas Creoren believes Curran will dismiss the case in light of the high court’s ruling.

"The Supreme Court indicated they were ruling against him on all of his claims and felt most of them were so lacking in merit they didn't need to address them," Creoren noted.

Justice Shirley Abrahamson didn't participate in the case.

A The Wisconsin State Journal
Madison, Wisconsin, April 10, 1996
JOE GILLETTE

Recognition
Libertarians' biggest need

Opportunity knocks. Answering, though, is something else.

Last weekend in Elk Grove Village, a couple hundred members of the Libertarian Party of Illinois came together for their annual state convention.

Among the high points of this presidential year's get-together was a radio and talk-radio host from Phoenix, Ariz., and Irwin Schiff of Las Vegas, Nev., another fine orator who, if granted the chance, could ante an endless string of Bill Clintons and grams and government handouts in ex-Bill Clinton and a barely breathing Bob Dull make proverbial mincemeat out of Bubba.

Social-interest bloc votes, Libertarians, change for both campaign funding and speeches proposed by past Libertarian Party Presidential candidates.

The convention will be held in Washington D.C., July 3 to 7. More than 700 delegates are expected to gather to nominate a presidential candidate.

Most of the convention will be broadcast live on C-SPAN.

Hornberger's keynote speech will be on Thursday morning, July 4, at 9 a.m. eastern standard time.

Born and raised in Laredo, Hornberger is a 1968 graduate of J.W. Nixon High School. He received his bachelor in economics from Virginia Military Institute and his law degree from the University of Texas.

He practiced law in Laredo from 1975 to 1982 in the law firm of Hornberger and Homberger and then moved to New York where he practiced law until 1987.

His father a San Antonio native, practiced law in Laredo for over thirty years.

His mother, the former Cordelia de Llano, was a member of one of Laredo's oldest families.

In 1987, Hornberger became program director at The Foundation for Economic Education in Irvington, New York, one of the country's oldest free-market organizations.

Hornberger is now president of The Future of Freedom Foundation, a national libertarian educational foundation that he founded in 1989.

For many years, Hornberger has spoken at the Libertarian Party state conventions all over the U.S.

He has served two terms on the Libertarian Party platform committee.

He has also delivered speeches on libertarianism in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, England and the former Czechoslovakia.

The Libertarian Party is already qualified to be on the ballot for the 1996 presidential election in 29 states and expects to achieve 50-state ballot status by November.

The Libertarian Party platform calls for vigorous and uncompromising defense of individual liberty, limited government, the Bill of Rights, free enterprise, free trade, individual responsibility, and private charity.

Among its specific proposals are the ending of social security, Medicare, Medicaid, public housing, the Internal Revenue Service, public schooling, trade restrictions, immigration controls, drug laws, gun control, and foreign interventions and foreign wars.

Libertarians' fake money giveaway calls attention to U.S. budget deficit

OSHKOSH - Late income-tax filers at the Oshkosh Post Office on April 15 will be getting $1 million bills handed to them.

The stunt is planned by the Libertarian Party of the Fox Valley to point out that for every five seconds the federal bureaucracy is open, the government spends $1 million.

"It's been said that Americans today don't want freedom; they want a benevolent master. We have to change that," Hornberger says. His strategy starts with noise.

Thus far this year, he has campaigned in 38 states, making heavy use of the popularity of local talk radio.

In June, he hopes to commission Gallup, Roper or another organization of polling renown to test his level of recognition.

"Anything in excess of the margin of error will do," he said.

"From then on, the polling organizations will include us in their own polls, with the result that our support could grow to that 7 percent at which the major parties in 1992 could not in good conscience keep Ross Perot out of the nationally televised debates."

That, practically speaking, is the ultimate Libertarian goal for this election — to draw enough attention to be included in the debates and, then, to draw from 5 to 10 to 20 percent of the popular vote.

That, Browne says, "would change the political landscape forever."

Will it happen? The odds are long, but the key rests with us — you, me, the guy next door, everybody at work, etc.

If we make enough noise about real change — to the point of mentioning the Libertarian Party and Harry Browne — media and political elites both will have to pay attention — to the point Libertarians no longer can be ignored as some obscure political footnote.

If that happens, anything is possible.