



The Utah Liberator

The Monthly Voice of the Libertarian Party of Utah for the Enlightenment of Our Members & Friends

Vol. 1, No. 10

May 1996

State Convention Hears Ponte, Tables New Constitution, Watches Larsen Defeat Himself

May 4 was a beautiful day. The sun was out, the birds were singing, and Utah Libertarians met to decide many important issues at the 1996 State Nominating Convention. As our friends Back East might say, "Youse shudda bin dere." Held at the Salt Lake County Commission Chambers, the convention began at 10:01 a.m. when state chair Jim Lorenz gavelled the meeting to order.

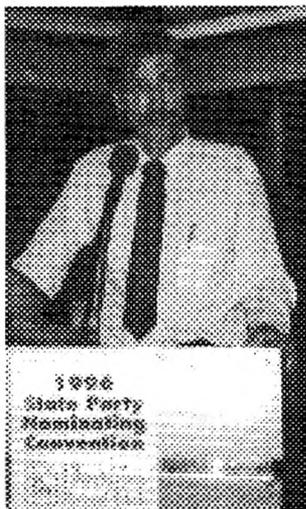
The agenda was immediately challenged by Larry Livingston who, because of his personal schedule, wanted to move discussion of the new Constitution to an earlier time. His motion was defeated and the meeting proceeded as planned.

State & County Reports

After Lorenz's opening remarks, state officers and chairs reported on their individual portfolios. State vice-chair Jim Dexter admitted to being the "typographic error creator" of this publication, then asked everyone present to please fill out membership attitude surveys before they left. (Those surveys will be tabulated and the results reported in the June issue.) He also announced the state party will run a candidates' school in July or August. State treasurer Jim Elwell reported, to everyone's gratitude, that we actually had money in the bank. State legal counsel J. Robert Latham summarized his finding of the legality of fusion candidacies. State membership chair Andrew Howard then reported that paid membership stood at 140... a fantastic 47% jump in just one year!

Next the county chairs reported

on the activities of their organizations. Fred George, Salt Lake Cty chair, talked about his organization's many achievements this year. Jason Gallentine described the Utah Cty party's activities. Wasatch Cty chair Peter Budnick's report was enjoyable for its humor and remarkable for its candor. (But then integrity is a key element of Libertarianism.) And Dave Jensen let us know that Libertarians are alive and well on the BYU campus.



Will Marshall
Tells Kane County Story

Ponte's Talk

Longtime Utah Libertarian Will Marshall held the delegates' rapt attention as he related "The Kane County Story," describing how he helped Alex Joseph convert the entire town of Big Water to Libertarianism, virtually overnight. Unfortunately, times have changed and the Republicans and Democrats are now ganging up on Big Water and the local government has reverted to the

control of traditional politicians. With the agenda proceeding ahead of schedule, keynote speaker Lowell Ponte went on at 11:00 a.m. He covered a wide variety of topics and then focused on his idea for a "taxpayer democracy." Simply stated, taxpayers would decide the state and federal budgets by indicating on their returns how they want their taxes distributed (e.g. X% for Defense, Y% for Judiciary, etc., etc.). He noted that certain cabinet departments could sim-



Lowell Ponte
Wants "Taxpayer Democracy"

ply disappear for lack of funding.

Before breaking for lunch at noon, Jim Dexter shocked the assemblage by announcing that Kaylin Robinson had been very badly injured in an automobile accident the night before, and that attendees should be sure to visit the nearest ATM during lunch because the hat would most definitely be passed for Kaylin when we reconvened.

New Constitution Tabled

At 1:30, the meeting was again called to order. Lowell Ponte resumed his place at the podium for a freewheeling Q&A session with the audience. But the main purpose of a convention is not to hear reports and speakers, but to let the delegates debate and vote on the issues and candidates that come before them. It was time to get down to business.

But first Dr. Ken Larsen begged the delegates indulgence and asked to be excused to attend two other parties' conventions (Republican and Independent-American). He promised to return no later than 4:00 p.m. for the candidates' election.

The first item of business was the proposed new Constitution for the LPUtah. The version distributed in the convention program was slightly different from the one mailed in the April issue of *The Utah Liberator*. The discussions, which centered mostly on the proposed membership requirements, went nowhere. When the period allotted for the debate came to a close, the chair accepted a motion to table further discussion pending the formation of a Constitution Committee. The committee is to report its findings and present a new draft no later than March '97. All volunteers are welcome. Watch for formation details in the next issue.

Resolutions & Platform

Next on the agenda were eight resolutions. Rather than bog the proceedings down with a tedious reading and discussion of their relative merits, the chair ac-

Continues page 2

Convention — cont'd

cepted a motion to pass all eight by acclamation as printed in the convention program. Before the vote, Dwight Steffner offered a small wording change in his Bosnia Resolution which was immediately accepted and all resolutions were passed en masse.

Then the proposed platform was brought up for approval. Since it was the exact same platform adopted by the Party for the last umpteen years, it too passed without comment or dissent.

Election of Candidates

The first part of the nominating procedure went smoothly. The convention unanimously approved all candidates for local offices as nominated by their respective county conventions. Then the three Congressional candidates (G. Arthus, CD 1; D. Steffner, CD 2; and A. Lassen, CD 3) were nominated without opposition. Previously announced candidates for state offices were nominated and given five minutes each to make statements. Hugh Butler was nominated for State Treasurer and W. Andrew McCullough for State Attorney General. A new member, Tony Bereshnyi, volunteered to run for State Auditor and was so nominated.

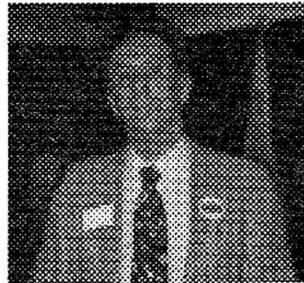
At this point the convention was running well ahead of schedule and it looked like the delegates would enjoy a decent break period before the Karl Bray Memorial Banquet. The only positions left open were Governor and Lt. Governor.

Larsen Defeats Himself

But our only declared gubernatorial contender, Dr. Ken Larsen, had not yet returned from his other conventions. Noting that it was not yet 4:00, delegates asked the chair to delay any further action until 4:00 or Dr. Larsen's return, if sooner.

At 4:00 p.m., the chair asked for nominations for governor. Ron Amos was nominated and then elected as our nominee. Then at 4:15, Dr. Larsen returned. He,

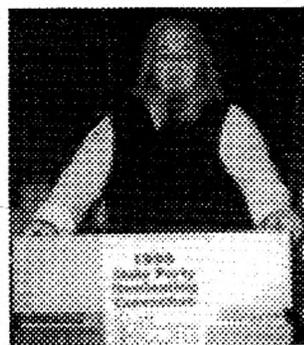
Ron Amos and several other delegates huddled for a hurried conference. Then Ron Amos resigned his nomination and asked that nominations for Governor be reopened.



Ron Amos

Gives up top spot on ticket

Dr. Larsen was nominated for the gubernatorial slot and it looked like he'd walk away with it. But Jim Dexter rose to nominate NOTA (none of the above). Noting that this was a presidential election year and the importance of the top-of-the-ticket nominee in influencing votes for lesser offices, Dexter said NOTA was far preferable to Dr. Larsen. He cited several personal and political issues he felt rendered Dr. Larsen's candidacy unacceptable to the party and to the electorate at large. Dr. Larsen was then given time to rebut Dexter's points.



Ken Larsen

Tries to prove he's a better candidate than NOTA

After an inconclusive voice vote, a show of hands indicated a tie. The chair then ordered a roll call. The individually-pollled delegates again split evenly 16-16. Lorenz offered to flip a coin but was urged by the assembled delegates to "make a decision."

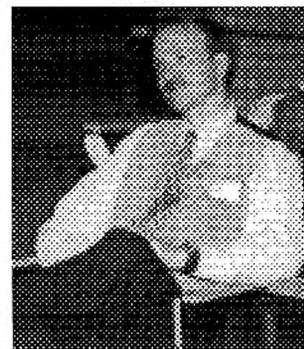
Lorenz said, "I vote a conditional 'Ye' for Dr. Larsen." He then

turned to the governor wannabe, who was attired in his Brigham Young costume, and said, "Dr. Larsen, do you agree to conduct your campaign in a responsible manner befitting the dignity of the office you seek and the Libertarian Party of Utah?" Larsen immediately responded, "No. I will not have my religious freedoms interfered with," a reference to his recent controversial public appearance as a 'high priest' of his so-called Church of the Hemp Goddess, a marijuana-based 'religion' he founded.

Lorenz then faced the delegates and declared, "With that response, the chair votes for None of the Above." He then directed the state secretary to report no candidate for governor to the Lt. Governor's office.

NatCon Delegates Chosen

It was then time to elect delegates for the LPN's national convention in Washington, D.C. in July. Since the honor of being a delegate carries a large personal financial burden, the chair asked for volunteers. There were six for the five slots we're allotted by the national party. Dr. Larsen confided that he had been offered all NatCon expenses by Lawrence Rey Topham, a recently announced Libertarian presidential contender, if he (Larsen) were elected a delegate. Jim Dexter promptly volunteered to be an alternate so Dr. Larsen could be one of the five official delegates. Our delegation includes: Jim Lorenz, Ken Larsen, Richard Barnes, Marsha Butler and Will Marshall.



His Master's Voice

Andrew Howard listens in rapt attention to L. Ponte

Our Candidates

State Offices:

Treasurer: Hugh Butler
Atty Genl: W. Andrew McCullough*
Auditor: Tony Bereshnyi

U.S. Congress

1st District: Gerry Arthus
2nd District: Dwight Steffner
3rd District: Amy Lassen

State Senate:

District 5: Maury Modine*
District 16: Carol Williamson
District 27: Will Marshall*

State House:

District 8: Walter Abbot
District 11: Donald Whiting
District 14: Norman Parker
District 16: Blair Hampshire
District 17: Theda Judd
District 25: Ben Valdez, Jr.
District 27: Arthur Reilly
District 28: Mark Lewon
District 31: Charles Pearce
District 37: Brian Swim
District 42: Curt James
District 46: Alan Hepner
District 49: ~~Chris Shouse*~~
District 50: Kathryn Burnham
District 52: Kaylin Robinson*
District 56: David Piccus
District 59: Jason Gallentine

SL County Commissioner

K. Brent Olsen

*fusion candidate, running on two or more party lines thanks to a loophole discovered by J. Robert Latham. Chris Shouse is reported to have repudiated her Libertarian nomination to run as a Democrat.

The Utah Liberator

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All submissions are welcome. Send neatly typewritten hard copy and/or disk (ASCII [text] format, Word, or Word Perfect) no later than the first of the month to:

The Utah Liberator
P.O. Box 526025
Salt Lake City, Utah
84152-6025
801/534-8872
1-800-280-7900

Or, if you're on-line, submit them electronically to:

UtahLib@aol.com

Submissions may be subject to editing for fit, but will otherwise be printed as submitted. . . . if we have room in the issue.

LPUtah Ejects Dr. Ken Larsen

The Libertarian Party of Utah has revoked Ken Larsen's party state and national membership. Following a trial-like proceeding, the state executive committee meeting in extraordinary session on Wednesday, May 15 voted unanimously to cancel Dr. Larsen's membership for misrepresentation, a violation of the Statement of Principles, Article Two of the 1983 Constitution, which says in part "We . . . support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation." This action was taken based on the complaints state officers received from those who received the letter Dr. Larsen sent to members immediately following the rejection of his candidacy at the state convention on May 4, which included the following [emphasis and comments ours]:

Dear Fellow Libertarian,

As you may know, I was repudiated as the Libertarian candidate for Governor at the State Convention, May 4, 1996 . . . As a result of this decision, no one [sic] was nominated for or approved as the Libertarian candidate for Lieutenant Governor. In spite of Saturday's action, I remain the legal candidate of the Libertarian Party for Governor on the November ballot. The State Election Code specifies that I nominate a candidate for Lieutenant Governor [but it does not permit anyone to run a private election]. If the Party does not ratify my nomination, then I nominate again until the party approves of my nominee.

I hereby nominate Ron Amos for Lieutenant Governor of Utah . . . I will tabulate the yeas and nays I receive within 10 days of this mailing. Ron Amos will be the nominee of the Party if the yeas are in the majority. If Ron Amos does not receive the majority vote, I will nominate again. At this time, I intend my second nominee to be Ron Amos. I intend to continue nominating

Ron Amos until he receives the majority vote. Thank you for your participation in the cause of Liberty. [*"Liberty" does not mean 'my nominee or else.'*]

Explaining this rare "excommunication" or "disfellowship" in the organization's 25-year-old history, state chair Jim Lorenz said, "Article Six reads 'Membership in the Libertarian Party of Utah shall be all those persons manifesting their agreement with the Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party of Utah.' Dr. Larsen's claim to be 'still the legal candidate' of the party is contrary to current Utah election law as verified by the Lt. Gov.'s office. Therefore he is guilty of misrepresentation, an automatic 'demanifestation' of agreement with our principles. He also tried to conduct his own private election for a lieutenant governor candidate. His methods are completely unacceptable to the LPUtah's principles and to our membership."

Unclear on the Concept

Larsen began his participation in the May 15th executive session by reading a Montana Freeman-like declaration in which he refused to recognize the authority of the state executive committee. His statement began:

- "1. My presence here does not constitute acknowledgment by me that any person or group of persons in this room has any authority to remove my name from the November 5, 1996 Ballot as the Libertarian Party Nominee for Governor of the State of Utah.
- "2. My presence here does not constitute acknowledgment by me that any person or group of persons in this room has any authority to remove my name from membership in the Libertarian Party of Utah."

The statement was immediately entered as further evidence

against him. After the evidence was presented, Dr. Larsen was offered an opportunity to resign his membership and receive a pro rata refund of his dues, but refused to do so. Then the state executives voted 4-0 to oust him from the party.

State vice-chair Jim Dexter believes Dr. Larsen's ejection should prove relatively popular. "Many members who voted for Ken at the convention were appalled at his subsequent attempt to represent himself as our candidate. His filing as impeccable, whether justified or not, is repugnant to our principles because it requires taxpayers to pay his filing fee. Furthermore, Libertarianism is not anarchism. We believe in the rule of law. The LPUtah's elected officers are the guardians of its principles. Ken may think he follows our principles, but his actions betray him."

State chair Jim Lorenz sent copies of all relevant documents to LP National HQ in Washington, D.C. to confirm the state party's action. [If you would like a copy of the documents, please send a check for \$3.50 to cover copying and postage to: LPUtah, P.O. Box 526025, SLC, 84152-6025.]

One major side effect of Larsen's expulsion is that he loses his delegate status to the LPNatCon.

Dr. Larsen is quoted as saying, his "trial" was a contradiction of the fundamental Libertarian philosophy of personal responsibility. If anything, it is an affirmation. He was found responsible. Now Dr. Larsen must learn to accept the full personal consequences for his actions.

Larsen claims to still be the gubernatorial candidate of the Independent-American, Taxpayers, and Reform Parties. However, he was recently heard on Bob Lesh's show on KTKK claiming to be "the libertarian" running for governor.

A Short Thank You from Kaylin

Dear Libertarians,

I wish I had the space to thank each of you by name for all the love and support shown me and my family after my accident by members of the Libertarian Party. Your cards, calls and visits have meant a great deal to me in recovering my health and happiness.

I have a special place in my heart for each of the very special people who were there for me during this trying ordeal. I thank each one of you in my heart, and as soon as I can, I will communicate with each of you personally.

Thank you sincerely for the comfort and help I received after my accident. I am getting better, slowly, and am lucky to be alive. I'll be back causing trouble again soon, I promise.

Again thank you all for the support (including money, which really helped) and love.

Sincerely,

Kaylin Robinson



¡Esta Uno Milagro!

It's truly a miracle that Kaylin Robinson is alive today. The photo above shows her car after the accident that wrapped her and it around a UP&L pole around 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 4. Despite cracked ribs and vertebrae, multiple contusions and a fractured skull and wrist, Kaylin returned home on May 10th.



Notes from the Vice-Chair

by Jim Dexter

Wow! What a month! As most members are painfully aware, a lot has happened since our last issue. As we go to press, Jim Lorenz is on vacation. So it's my turn. This brief recap will try to follow the main events as they happened:

SL Cty Convention: Salt Lake County chair **FRED GEORGE's** ambitious plans for a full day of Libertarian activities on April 20 were thwarted by bad weather. A blinding snowstorm meant no I-15 cleanup in the morning and ended Fred's plans for a march from Liberty Park to the convention. Nonetheless 17 or so hardy souls braved the whiteout conditions to attend the county convention.

Pledge Hassle: The SL Cty convention was disrupted when Rich Thomson decided to vent his long-standing opposition to the Pledge. Rich noticed Richard Barnes "swearing in" a new member. Instead of discussing the appropriateness of such action privately with Mr. Barnes, Rich had a public fit which, with the press in attendance, resulted in the erroneous headline in the *Salt Lake Tribune* "Party Swears Off Violence So Some Swear Off Party." We are trying to convince the press we are nonaggressive, not nonviolent.

Utah Cty Convention: The Utah County party also held its convention on April 20th and elected these officers: **JASON CALLENTINE**, county chair; **DAVE JENSEN**, county vice-chair; **STANLEY KING**, county

treasurer and **DAVID PICCUS**, county secretary. Congratulations and good luck in the coming year.

State Convention: We would like to thank all members who took the time to attend. Whether we agree or disagree on certain issues, your personal participation in Party activities helps make us stronger.

We especially want to thank our volunteer convention staff: Registration - **CHAUNA PIERCE** and **RICHARD BARNES**; Sergeant-at-Arms - **DAN BROWN** and **K. BRENT OLSEN**; Timekeeper - **SCOTT BERGESON**; and doorprize ticket sales - **KEN LARSEN** and **MAURY MODINE**.

Near Tragedy: **KAYLIN ROBINSON** was on her way home from my place after helping put together materials for the convention and the Bray Banquet. No one knows exactly what happened at 1:00 a.m. on May 4, but her car (see photo on page 3) wound up six feet off the ground wrapped around a UP&L pole just north of 27th West and 104th South. She has all our hopes and prayers for a speedy and complete recovery.

Fusion Candidacies Are Safe: On May 8, **JIM LORENE**, **HUGH BUTLER**, **J. ROBERT LATHAM** and I represented the LPUtah at a special meeting at the capitol to decide how fusion candidacies were to be handled on ballots. Despite the Weber Cty Clerk's antidemocratic approach ("I know it's not prohibited, but can't we prohibit it anyway?") Lt. Gov. Olene Walker was most cooperative. Sherrie Swensen, SL Cty Clerk, proposed a workable solution. As a result, fusion candidates' names will be listed individually for each party.

FYI: Dr. Larsen attended on behalf of the Independent-American and Taxpayers parties.

Dr. Larsen's "Trial": As related in the article on page 3, the state executive committee's only concern, despite the accusations circulating on the e-mail, was Dr. Larsen's blatant misrepresentation of his candidate status. We intended a closed session to spare Dr. Larsen any possible embar-

assment. We invited former state chair **DOUG JONES** to observe the proceedings. **KAYLIN ROBINSON**, despite her condition, had agreed to present the state party's case but was unable to attend because of a temporary relapse.

Invited to bring a "defender," the publicity-seeking Dr. Larsen chose instead to bring Dan Harrie of the *Tribune*. The result was another front-page article on the LPUtah. (See opposite page.)

Thank you, Dr. Larsen, we value such favorable publicity. And we also appreciate all the approving calls, letters, e-mails and financial contributions that have come in as a result of our actions.

This was as unpleasant a task as I ever hope to undertake, but necessary if the Party is to have any credibility with our members, our backers and, most of all, the electorate.

'Nuff Said

PS. KTKK has replaced Lowell Ponte with a real yokel but we hear a local Libertarian may soon be on the air.

Join or Subscribe!



Membership Form

Yes, I Want To Be a Utah Libertarian

Please check one membership category, sign the Pledge, fill in your name and contact information, include payment, and mail.

- Introductory** — For new members only, a one-year Introductory membership entitles you to all the rights and privileges of Full membership. **Dues: \$15.**
- Utah** — Provides annual membership in the Libertarian Party of Utah. Entitles you to our monthly newsletter, *The Utah Liberator*, invitation to all our social events and political functions, and voting rights at our state party and county organization meetings/conventions. **Dues: \$20.**
- Full** — Provides annual membership in both the Utah and national Libertarian parties. In addition to all the rights and privileges of Utah membership, you'll also receive the national party's monthly newsletter. **Dues: \$25.**

The Libertarian Party Pledge

I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signed: X _____ Date _____

Please type or print neatly. Thank you.

Name: _____

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