



Lone Star Liberty

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Texas

September 2004

Peterson Will be in 19th District Debates

LUBBOCK -Libertarian 19th Congressional District candidate Richard Peterson will be included in debates set for Oct. 5 and Oct. 12 in Lubbock and Abilene.

The debates, hosted by the chamber of commerce of each city and co-sponsored by the League of Women's Voters and local universities—came after "weeks of wrangling," according to the *Avalanche Journal*.

Richard hopes the debates

will allow him to bring issues to light. His main issues will be his opposition to resumption of the military draft, the need to fix Social Security, and the erosion of constitutional rights and personal freedoms through recent government laws and regulations.

"If, through the debate process, I can convince the other candidates to support appropriate policies, I will feel my campaign has been successful," he said.

In addition to being included in the debates Richard has received front page coverage of his candidacy in the *Avalanche Journal* and will be appearing on *Viewpoints*, a local TV show.

To help on Richard Peterson's campaign please contact him at 806-799-6531. Or email cpeterson35@cox.net. LP attendance at the debates is encouraged—contact Richard for tickets.

Incumbent in 18th Ducks Debate W/LP

HOUSTON - A week after agreeing to debate her stance on a proposed new draft bill, Democratic Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee's campaign refused to schedule the debate, according to one of her opponents in the November 2 election.

Brent Sullivan, Libertarian nominee for the 18th Congressional District of Texas, challenged Lee to the debate at a Democratic rally held on Saturday, August 21. Lee accepted the challenge in front of about 200 witnesses. Lee had previously called for "a national debate on the draft" on a local television program.

Now, according to Sullivan, the two dates proposed by the Lee campaign—October 5 and October 12—have been withdrawn by Gerald Womack, Lee's campaign manager—and refused to provide any alternate dates for holding the debate. Womack also refused to discuss other details such as location or debate format—and further refused to commit to any discussion of the debate in the future.

"I hope you'll agree that if a

Congressperson accepts a challenge to a debate, they have a responsibility to the voters in their district to keep their word," said Sullivan, who still hopes that Lee will honor her pledge and agree to a time and location for the draft debate.

Shelia Jackson Lee was one of fourteen sponsors of House Resolution 163, the Universal National Service Act, authored by New York Democrat Charles Rangel to reinstitute the draft—and make it universal, and not limited to military service.

"It is the obligation of every citizen of the United States, and every other person residing in the United States, who is between the ages of 18 and 26 to perform a period of national service..." begins Section 2 of the proposed Act. If enacted, the Act would require a minimum of two years of service, either in the military or in such civilian tasks as the Federal government may choose. The bill does not provide in any way for payment to those serving, nor does it allow for choice of service for the person to be

drafted.

Supporters of HR 163 claimed that the bill was intended to encourage public service and eliminate racial injustice in the military. They claimed that, since a disproportionate number of those serving in the current all-volunteer military were persons of color, conscription was necessary to relieve the burden on minorities.

Opponents of the bill claim that the bill constitutes involuntary servitude—in effect, slavery—and deprives American citizens of liberty unjustly. They also point out that drafted soldiers serving against their will weaken, not strengthen, the military—as was demonstrated during the Vietnam War.

The text of HR 163 may be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. An identical bill was introduced in the Senate as Senate Bill 89.

Those wishing to support Brent can visit his website at sullivan4congress@sbcglobal.net for information on upcoming events or volunteer needs. He may also be reached at 832-971-1802.



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The October issue will be online the first of the month and should be mailed to Texas National Party members.

Submissions of party news, meeting minutes, photographs, bios of candidate, suggested websites, letters to the editor, etc. is encouraged. Send to Laura@libertyworks.org to submit.

Around the State: Activist Update

August 9, 2004 LP Activist **Clark Simmons** of Round Rock died. Clark was in a serious car accident June 21 and was not able to recover from his injuries.

Clark was a longtime activist and candidate in the 2000 and 2002 elections. He also had sought the nomination in 2004 for Congress. Clark is survived by his wife Lillian Martinez-Simmons and a daughter. Condolences may be sent to the family at 2008 Frontier, Round Rock Texas.

James Werner, LP candidate for Congress District 25 held a meet the candidate night August 10.

The Travis County Libertarian Party named **Gary Johnson** Volunteer of the Month for August. Gary is honored for his "tireless work for many years producing the cable access show Live and Let Live."

Smith County Chair Val Finnell resigned his office August 22. Val has an increasing work schedule and has to care for his elderly parents. **Eric Rathbone** of Flint may seek appointment as Chair. Eric is new to the LP, but has had experience in the Republican Party both as a party officer and as a candidate.

Thanks to **Rose Mercer** Libertarian activists have organized at the University of Texas-Arlington. Rose led the group in handing out LP literature and signs at the UT-Arlington Activity Day August 25. Contact Rose at mercero@maclp.com.

Yvonne Kelly reports that she and **Drew Parks, Guy McLendon and Jimmie Vaughn** and many other libertarians and friends attended **Ron Paul's** Annual Birthday Party August 28 in Brazoria County.

Yvonne called Ron's speech "Texas Straight talk" covering many topics that "we would otherwise not get the indie story on." Jimmie donated a signed electric guitar to the auction for Ron's campaign.

Congress for Peace an-

nounced their endorsement of six Texas Libertarian candidates for Congress: **Kevin Anderson** in District 4, **Stephen Schrader** in District 6, **Stacey Bourland** in District 9, **Jeffrey Blunt** in District 11, **Clyde Garland** in District 17, and **Christopher Claytor** in District 27.

Richard Phillips, LP candidate for Justice of the Peace District 5 in Harris County has been endorsed by the Harris County Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

Harris County Chair Jeff Daiell represented the LP at a September 8 debate at the political fair and voter registration drive sponsored by the Art Institute of Texas for their students.

Brent Sullivan, LPCandidate for Congress District 18, was an organizer for Libertarian activists at the 1,000 Soldier Candlelight Memorial for Peace held September 10 in Houston. The vigil attracted between 800 and 1,000 participants and was covered by all four local television networks.

It was "a great place to have very natural conversations about Libertarian principles and Libertarian candidates," Brent reports.

Williamson County Chair Jack McKinney reports that the dates for county meetings will change as a result of increased interest among local activists. See the calendar page for the new time and location or contact Jack at jackmc@lorenz.com.

Kevin Tunstall of Sugar Land has announced his intention to reorganize Fort Bend County. Kevin is seeking appointment as County Chair, but has already set up a post office box for the county party and is working on a website. A planning meeting for all Fort Bend activists and members is in the works—if you are interested contact Kevin at ktunstall@stic.net.

Next month's LSL is a printed version--county parties, candidates, and activists please send submissions now on any activity!

Volunteers and Donors Needed Today!

Check any that apply:

- _____ I will volunteer with a local campaign Contact me with details.
- _____ I can design or host a website for a candidate or county party.
- _____ I am willing to serve as an appointed County Chair.
- _____ I want information on how to be more active in the party.

My best donation: _____\$35_____ \$75_____ \$100_____ \$150_____ Other

Name: _____
Address: _____
City & Zip code: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____
Occupation: _____
Employer: _____
Precinct #: _____
County: _____

Please make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. Include this form with any donations and Mail to: PO Box 27932 , Houston, TX 77227.

Donations can also be accepted online via PayPal at the State Party website: www.lptexas.org/donations.

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The Libertarian Party of Texas also submits finance reports to the Texas Ethics Commission.

HCLP Endorsement

HOUSTON—August 25, The Houston RevCap campaign fresh off its kick-off reception was pleased to receive the endorsement of the Harris County Libertarian Party today. Jeff Daiell, chairman of the county party, pledged support along with the endorsement.

"The property tax is basically the City charging property-owners rent on their own land, a situation libertarians abhor. We therefore are always supportive of limitations on the property tax. Since the City of Houston has been reckless with its taxation and expenditures, this is especially true today. Therefore the Libertarian Party is happy to support and encourage all Houstonians to support the RevCap in November." Co-Chairman of Let the People Vote Jeff Daily, the PAC that secured signatures to get RevCap on the November ballot said, "We are ecstatic about this endorsement. The Libertarian Party has been a grassroots

force in the United States for years, and we know RevCap is closer to being passed with their support" Houstonians will vote on RevCap November 2.

Bumperstickers

TheBumpersticker.com, a Libertarian company, has more than 200 Libertarian themed bumper-stickers—many promoting Michael Badnarik for President. Richard Campagna reports the company is giving a 10% discount for orders using the discount code "camp."

T-shirts

The Brazos County LP has t-shirts remaining from the State Convention. The shirts promoting the LP of Texas come in royal blue or charcoal gray with white lettering. Sizes XL, XXL and some size XXXL are in stock. All shirts cost \$15 and benefit the Brazos County Party.

To get yours contact Sherry Garland at sgarland123@aol.com.

Daily Texan Covers Badnarik

"Libertarians Challenge Bush," headlined an article on Michael Badnarik appearing in the August 25 Daily Texan. The UT paper quoted Patrick Dixon and Michael Badnarik.

The positive article lead: "Libertarian Presidential candidate and Austin native Michael Badnarik has been vigorously campaigning in crucial battleground states over the summer, plugging a strong message of a better future for the American people and a call to change in the November election."

In August Badnarik participated in a rally in New York City prior to the the Republican National Convention. He also participated in an August 31 debate with Green Party candidate David Cobb that was shown on C-SPAN September 6.

For updates on the campaign visit www.Badnarik.org. Check out <http://Badnarik2004.meetup.com> for local organizing events.

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

Sept. 14 (Tues.) 7 p.m. Williamson County LP Meeting, Saradora's Coffehouse and Cafe, 101 E. Main St., Round Rock. Contact Jack McKinney at jackmc@lorentz.com.

Sept. 16 (Thur.) 7:30 p.m. P.J. O'Rourke in Austin at the Hogg Auditorium, UT campus. Tickets and information at www.utpac.org or charge by phone 512-477-6060.

Sept. 17 (Fri.) 7 p.m. Hays County LP Meeting, at Motley Menagerie, 602 W. Center St., Kyle.

Sept. 18-19 (Sat.-Sun.) Art of Libertarian Persuasion Workshop in Dallas. Harry Browne and Michael Cloud will lead a two day workshop in communication skills for Libertarians. \$250 at the door or \$195 with advance registration. Visit www.theAdvocates.org/seminars.htm or call 1-800-932-1776 for more information or to register.

Sept. 18 (Sat.) 1-5 p.m. Fort Bend Voter Registration Outreach at Oyster Creek Park in Sugar Land. Contact Kevin at ktunstall@stic.net to volunteer.

Sept. 19 (Sun.) 4 p.m. Austin Distinguished Speakers Series hosts Bob Schulz of We the People Foundation at Threadgil's, 301 W. Riverside. Free and open to the public. Contact Rick McGinnis at 512-413-5928.

Sept. 25-26 (Sat.-Sun.) Houston area voter registration outreach at Pasadena Gun Show. Contact Yvonne Kelly at ykellydsl@earthlink.net.

Sept. 25 (Sat.) 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Austin area voter registration at East Communities YMCA. Contact Kevin Pearson at kevinpearson@austinyymca.org.

Oct. 3 (Sun.) Noon to 6 p.m. Houston outreach/campaign event Heights Parade and fair. Contact Brent Sullivan at sullivan4Congress @sbeglobal.net

Oct. 4 (Mon.) Last day to register to vote for the November General Election.

Oct. 4 (Mon.) Deadline for financial reports with the Texas Ethics Commission. All statewide, state senate and state representative candidates must file. Some County Parties are required to file. Visit the TEC online at www.ethics.state.tx.us or call 1-800-325-8506.

Oct. 7 (Thur.) 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Escapees RV Club Political Forum, Opportunity for Libertarian State-wide, US Congress 8 and local Polk County candidates. Contact Cathie Carr with the Escapees at 936-327-8873 or Polk County LP Chair Kris Overstreet at 936-685-4992 for information.

Oct. 9 (Sat.) 1 p.m. SLECT Meeting, at Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin contact Pat Dixon for information at tlppatjdixon@earthlink.net.

Oct. 16 (Sat.) 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Polk County Freedom Bowl in Livingston. Fundraiser for candidates and local party. Contact Kris Overstreet at redneck@wlpcomics.com or 936-685-4992.

Oct. 16-17 (Sat.-Sun.) Harris County Outreach at the Westheimer Street Festival, Houston. Contact Jeff Daeill at Daiell@yahoo.com

Oct. 18 (Mon.) Early Voting for November Election begins.

Oct. 25 (Mon.) Deadline for financial reports with the Texas Ethics Commission. See above.

Oct. 29 (Fri.) Early Voting Ends for Nov. Election.

Nov. 2 (Tues.) Election Day. Contact your local party for information on getting out the vote, campaign events, parties, etc. County Chairs and SLECT representatives are listed on the www.lptexas.org website.

Nov. 18-21 (Fri.-Sun.) Victory Institute, New Orleans, LA. Campaign training for GLBT candidates, campaign workers, community activists. Workshops on fundraising, budgets, campaign plans, etc. See www.victoryinstitute.org/training.

Nov. 19-20 (Sat.-Sun.) Campaign 2004 Debriefing in Austin, from the New Politics Forum at UT. Top analysts will discuss results of the presidential election. \$50 registration. More information at www.newpoliticsforum.org or call Emily Balanoff at 512-471-7214.

Dec. 11 (Sat.) 1 p.m. SLECT Meeting in Austin. Contact Pat Dixon at tlppatjdixon@earthlink.net.