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Lone Star Liberty newsletter

December 2007

WE NEED YOU HELP FOR A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

The Libertarian Party of Texas currently has 2 full time workers. Executive director Wes Benedict was placed under contract in 2004, and he has an assistant Art DiBianca. Their efforts have been crucial to the growth and results the party has achieved the last 3 years. In 2006 the party recruited more candidates and achieved higher voting results than in the entire history of the party.

Due to this growth, Wes and Art struggle to keep up with the demands and opportunities presented. The 2008 campaign will magnify the workload.

Additionally, Wes has indicated his interest in returning to the private sector following the November 2008 election. The party does not want to lose the growth achieved with Wes and revert back to previous levels.

The party solicited for candidates interested in joining the staff under Wes. An applicant named Patrick Barton stood out among the rest. He is a student at the University of Richmond, has political campaign experience, and is very interested in coming to Texas to help the liberty movement. Patrick visited the state committee meeting in Austin on Nov 10 to meet with committee members and leaders.

Bringing Patrick on board will allow him to work under the guidance of Wes through the 2008 campaign and be ready to hit the ground running in 2009.

Thus far, 14 people have pledged \$10,270 to bring Patrick on board. This includes one generous donor who pledged \$5,000 over the next 12 months for this purpose. The party is working to achieve the funding required to meet the budgeted staffing for 2008.

The party recently mailed a letter to the state membership. Please reply to the letter with your best contribution to help ensure the long-term success of the Libertarian Party of Texas. You may also contribute at lptexas.org/membership.shtml or call 512-442-4910.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CANDIDATES

In 2006, the Libertarian Party of Texas had more Libertarians on the ballot (168) than ever.

Most of these candidates did not run active campaigns. All that is required is to file a couple of simple forms. There is no cost and the state party staff is ready to help.

Some have been critical of such candidates. It is recognized that many of our supporters are understandably busy and have obligations that do not permit full time campaigning. Of course active candidates that raise funds and knock on doors are great, but many voters simply appreciate having a choice when they vote. The party benefits greatly from the exposure of having so many Libertarian candidates on the ballot.

The party's goal for 2008 is 250 candidates.

The deadline for filing an application for nomination is January 2. Thus far approximately 40 candidates have stated their intent to be a Libertarian candidate in the 2008 election.

Please call 512-442-4910, 800-422-1776, or email Director@LPTexas.org to help 2008 be another record year for the Libertarian Party of Texas.

WANT TO BE DELEGATE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION?

The Libertarian Party National Convention (www.lpconvention.org) will be held from May 22-26 in Denver. That comes before the Libertarian Party of Texas state convention, which by state law has to be held on the second Saturday in June (June 14, 2008).

Normally the delegates from Texas to the national convention would be selected at the state convention. But since the national convention comes first, the party's by-laws require that the delegates shall be chosen by an open meeting of the State Executive Committee.

That meeting is tentatively planned to be in the Dallas-Fort Worth area on Saturday, February 2. An official notice of the time and location will be placed on the state website (www.LPTexas.org) and communicated via this Lone Star Liberty newsletter.

As many items of interesting and important business occur at these conventions, most in attendance desire to be credentialed as delegates so that they can participate and cast votes. Texas typically has a large allotment of seats for delegates and has not filled its delegation at

previous conventions.

If you would like to be a delegate to the national convention, please contact members of the state executive committee (LPTexas.org/leadership.shtml) prior to the February 2 meeting. You are not required to physically attend the meeting as long as you have submitted your name in advance.

BILL OF RIGHTS DINNER - SATURDAY, DEC 15TH, 6:00 PM, HOUSTON

Come out for a special evening that includes three primary events ...

A reading of the Bill of Rights will be held as a celebration of the 216th anniversary of their ratification - December 15th, 1791. This is the LP's 2nd annual Bill of Rights celebration dinner.

For the 3rd year, four political parties will participate in an event called "Common Ground - the US Constitution". This year's event will include a panel discussion between the Harris County Chairpersons from the following political parties <alpha order>:

1. Constitution Party
2. Libertarian Party
3. Reform Party USA
4. Green Party

Send questions to panelists in advance to Crystal Meadows: crystalmeadows@yahoo.com
Entrance fee includes a fajita (choice of beef, chicken, or vegetable) buffet dinner complete with fruit cobbler for dessert!

Entrance Fee:

\$20 Adults

\$15 Students

\$7 Age 6-12

FREE Age 5 or Under

Send Prepayments to Crystal's Paypal email address: crystalmeadows@yahoo.com

Schedule:

6:00 to 6:30 Social & Dinner

6:30 to 7:20 Read Bill of Rights

7:20 to 7:30 Intermission

7:30 to 8:30 Common Ground Panel Discussion

8:30 to 9:00 Guest Speaker & Wrapup

RSVPs: Please arrive no later than 6:15 PM to assure seating.

Theme of Panel Discussion:

Common Ground - The US Constitution Discussion Panelists

As a grand finale, a very special candidate for President of the United States will send a speaker bearing a message for this event's participants.

Location:

Rice University, Ley Student Center - Farnsworth Pavilion
6100 Main, Houston, Texas

Info at:

<http://www.tx.lp.org/harris/>

RSVP at:

<http://libertarian.meetup.com/276/calendar/6675357/>

CONCLUSION OF 25 CITY TOUR

Executive Director Wes Benedict and State Chair Pat Dixon recently concluded their 25-city tour of Texas. From Beaumont (east) to El Paso (west) to Amarillo (north) and Brownsville (south) and many points between, the state leadership reached out to its supporters.

Over 300 supporters of the party attended these mini-conferences. At the meetings, the leaders explained the principles and goals of the Libertarian Party and its progress over the past several years. They answered many questions and handed out literature, signs, and bumper stickers.

Many who attended said they really appreciated the visit, and often several people would stay after the meeting and discuss how they could improve their local organization.

Additionally, 2 more elected Libertarians were discovered. Larry Bush attended the meeting in Temple (Bell County). Larry was elected to the Jarrell City Council on May 12, 2007. We also found that Brett Hall is currently serving as president of the Miami Independent School District and was first elected in November 2001.

The tour was very successful and will likely be repeated in future years.

RESULTS OF NOV 6 ELECTION

On November 6 Texas voters considered 16 proposals to amend the Texas constitution. The Libertarian Party of Texas formally adopted its positions on these proposals and issued a press release (lptexas.org/release-20071019.shtml). The results of the election were that of the 10 proposals where the state party took a position, voters sided with the Libertarian Party on 4 of them. On the remaining proposals, at least 34% of voters sided with the Libertarian Party.

Most notably, 38% of voters sided with the Libertarian Party on Proposition 15. This was Governor Perry's plan to spend \$4.6 billion to create a new state agency for cancer research.

The party opposed this proposal for the following reasons:

- The enabling legislation for this proposal, HB 14, was passed by the legislature without a quorum present for the vote, which is a violation of the state constitution.
- Organizations that depend on donations for research on Alzheimer's, AIDS, and heart disease (the deadliest disease) will be hurt when Texas donors incur higher taxes and have less discretionary money
- Libertarians believe in an individuals freedom to choose where to spend their money
- The history of government bureaucracies is waste. Libertarians support the non-profit organizations that compete with one another to provide the best service to earn the support of donors.
- Higher tax burden hurts everyone

It can be deduced that at least 34% of Texas voters are more closely aligned with the principles of the Libertarian Party than the Republican or Democratic parties. The incumbent Republicans and Democrats in the Texas executive and legislative branches jointly placed these proposals on the ballot and encouraged their passage. The fact that a sizable 34% of the voters oppose the wishes of the incumbents suggests that only the Libertarian Party represents the wishes of these voters.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Fellow Libertarians,

As we near the end of a very busy 2007, I want to thank you for your support and wish you the best for the holidays.

The most critical need at this point is to secure the long-term survival of our party. As many of you are aware, our executive director Wes Benedict has been a major reason for our success. He and his assistant Art DiBianca recruited a record number of candidates in 2006 which resulted in our best performance ever. Before Wes came on board in 2004, phone calls went unanswered, websites had outdated information and broken links, requests by the media were not responded to, and numerous opportunities were not acted upon. These fundamental issues were addressed by Wes so that now we are able to capitalize on our opportunities.

As you can understand, Wes has an interest in going back to the private sector in 2009. He has sacrificed significantly as he has deferred much higher income earning opportunities.

I know that you do not want us to go backwards. You want us to continue our growth and success. That is why many of you pledged over \$48,000 in January and February of 2007 to keep our staff funded.

It is imperative that we have someone in place to work with Wes for a very busy 2008 campaign so that we can keep ourselves going in 2009. That is why we solicited for an

additional staff member. Out of the applicants that contacted us, Patrick Barton impressed us a great deal. We flew him in for our state committee meeting on Nov 10, and we are even more impressed after meeting him.

We do not want to bring someone to Texas without knowing we can meet the required staffing budget. I called several of our supporters for help and thus far have 14 donors pledging \$10,270 to help bring Patrick to Texas, including one donor pledging \$5,000 over the next 12 months. This will provide approximately 1/3 of the additional funding to meet our staffing budget.

I hope you will consider replying to the letter we recently sent, or contact us at 512-442-4910 or Director@LPTexas.org. You can make a secure online donation at lptexas.org/membership.shtml.

We also have a very important deadline coming up. If we do not have candidate nomination forms by January 2, we lose the opportunity to place candidates on the ballot for 2008.

Many of you remember how difficult it was to collect petitions to stay on the ballot in 2004. It was very hard work and costly. As hard as we worked, it would be a shame to leave spots blank on the ballot. We want to offer voters a choice. Voters appreciate having choices and more of them are casting votes for our candidates.

I hope you will consider being a candidate for the 2008 election. It is much easier than collection petitions and our staff can help you. We have an ambitious goal of a record 250 candidates on the ballot. Please consider helping us as a representative for our party.

At our Nov 10 state committee meeting, we considered a recommendation to our representative on the national platform committee Guy McLendon. I personally would like to see a change to wording in the party's statement of principles. The wording in the very first sentence is that Libertarians "challenge the cult of the omnipotent state". This is the original wording that has been in place since the founding of the party.

Many Libertarians, including the founder of the party David Nolan, have commented that this kind of language is not helpful to our cause. It is possible to state our principles in ways that are both persuasive and principled.

Any change in the statement of Principles requires support of 7/8 of the delegates at the national convention. I support this rule, as I believe that it establishes a culture that our party places a higher priority on principles than politics. In 2006 my effort to change this wording was narrowly defeated.

Our committee passed a resolution asking Guy to express our wishes to have this language addressed. I believe that by presenting our principles in a persuasive manner we will advance our cause effectively.

Now that we have concluded our 25 city, 9 week tour of Texas, I can actually watch football

on weekends. The tour was very successful. We recruited candidates, raised funds, got media, trained volunteers, and organized local activists. A few disappointments were that we had some underwhelming turnout in a few locations. I would have expected better turnout in Austin and Dallas. We had nobody show in Sherman and only 2 show in Midland. We promoted these conferences through our website, LP News, Lone Star Liberty, emails, phone calls, postcards, and several newspaper ads. Also disappointing was that many in attendance did not patronize the restaurants where we had our meetings. I think this is not very considerate to these businesses that provided wait staff and a room for us. On the positive side, I was very happy with the turnouts in Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Abilene, Lubbock, and Amarillo. I was also encouraged by many young people that attended. We had a high school class in College Station and in Georgetown. We had a freshman at Baylor attend our Waco meeting and 2 students from Rice attend our Houston meeting.

During the tour we had many questions about the Ron Paul campaign. I have supported Ron Paul and the past and have reached the federal limit on campaign donations for his current campaign. However we also have candidates seeking the nomination for the Libertarian Party (www.lp.org/libertydecides/).

The fact is that it is unknown how Ron Paul will fare in the early primaries in New Hampshire, Iowa, and other states. Long before our national convention in May, the results will be in and Libertarians can make an informed choice at our convention.

Understand that we will have candidates for local, state, and federal offices in 2008. The presidential campaign is not the only office that will be decided in 2008. We need Libertarians on the ballot to represent you at all levels.

The only restriction is that state law prohibits someone from voting in the Republican primary and being a candidate or leader for another political party. However, Brazos County activist Clyde Garland suggests the best way to promote another candidate is to be a candidate yourself and publicize your support. The attention you get as a candidate can affect many more votes than the single vote you cast in a primary.

I think this is a great time for the Liberty movement. You might be interested in reading our executive director's opinion on this (wesbenedictforlnc.blogspot.com/2007/05/my-600-says-ron-paul-presidential.html)

I have been asked by the University of Texas to make a presentation to approximately 150 people about the Libertarian Party. The presentation will be in February. In order to help with my presentation, I would appreciate it if you would tell me what person you think represents the far left and the far right. I am looking for one individual on each side to use as examples to the audience. Please send your extreme left and extreme right examples to me at Chair@LPTexas.org.

Shortly we will have our annual report posted at LPTexas.org. It will cover our annual goals and the results of our efforts in 2007.

I wish you a great Christmas, an enjoyable holiday, and a new year with a new staff member and a record number of candidates. Thank you for your support.

Patrick Dixon
Chair, Libertarian Party of Texas

SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES:

Dec 15: Bill of Rights dinner, Houston, TX, contact crystalmeadows@yahoo.com

Jan 2: Last day to file for office for the 2008 elections

March 15: County conventions

March 22: District conventions

May: Municipal elections

May 23-25: LP national convention, Denver CO, www.lpconvention.org

June 13-15: Texas LP convention, location TBD

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