



# LIBERTY **VA**

## Libertarian Party of Virginia

APRIL 1981

VOLUME 2 NO. 4

### VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION JUNE 27 - 29

#### ED CLARK IN RICHMOND

The 1981 Convention of the Libertarian Party of Virginia will be held in Richmond on the fourth weekend in June.

While planning is still underway, speakers will include Ed Clark, Walter Williams, Eric O'Keefe, David Bergland, Bill Evers and others. There will be a discussion on the future of the LP by David Nolan and Chris Hocker as well as a discussion between the candidates for the National LP Chair, according to Michel La Vean, the 1981 Convention Agenda Chair.

There will be a full schedule of workshops, luncheons and dinners as well as the above speakers. The business meeting is being planned for Sunday, June 29th, to amend the LPVA Constitution, to elect new State Officers, to choose delegates to the National Convention and to conduct any other business.

The Richmond Convention is open to all Libertarian Party of Virginia members. Each member is a voting delegate and all members are encouraged to attend.

The impressive array of speakers and workshops has resulted in several other State Libertarian Parties co-sponsoring the Virginia Convention, making it a "Southeast Regional Convention". Participation is expected from Delaware, Maryland, Washington D. C., North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.



### A TRIBUTE TO LPVA ACTIVISTS



*Jim Turney* has devoted much of his time and expertise to furthering the Libertarian position in the Third District. Jim gained respect for the Libertarian Party by running a serious campaign for Congress: he made himself available to the press and all groups interested in Third District Candidates - he made numerous speaking engagements, appearing before the Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, the Richmond Independent Tax Association, numerous civic associations and other groups.

Jim made every effort to bring the Libertarian position to the public. He set up fair booths for the Clark Campaign and his own at both the Virginia State Fair and the Chesterfield County Fair; he made advertising tapes for both radio and television; and he participated in a TV forum for the Third District Congressional Candidates. When the local CARD demonstrated against registration at the Main St. Post Office, Jim was there and, when interviewed by the media, voiced the Libertarian opposition to the Draft.

In addition to serving Libertarian interests through his candidacy, Jim has made his expertise in reproducing media available to Libertarians. He made the Clark tapes and the "Incredible Bread Machine" tapes for the educational mailing to all secondary schools in Virginia last fall. Jim has also shared his experience of taping various Libertarian functions around the country and has willingly taped

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## FROM THE EDITOR:

From the beginning, the main goals of this newsletter have been recruitment and education. To meet these goals, it has been our practice to send 2-3 issues to every potential libertarian without charge.

While this does not cost a lot of money, it does cost. The main source of money has been contributions collected from the Clark campaign last year, paid subscriptions and some advertisements.

Since we have only a 10% subscription rate, our money has been steadily disappearing, with the current balance just enough to pay for printing this issue. For a while, it looked like this issue was in doubt, but passing the hat at the SCC meeting, a \$25 contribution and a full page ad has gotten us out of the red this month.

Hopefully we will soon see the start of many campaigns across the state. That will require even more money and should generate lots of new potential libertarians requiring even more money.

If you haven't subscribed yet, please do. Ask your friends—many old activists have not subscribed. Most of all, if you can afford to contribute, please do. If you can't send money, donate time. TANSTAFL

*Jerry Sklute*

## Libertarianism

LIBERTARIANISM IS NOTHING MORE NOR LESS THAN THE POLITICS OF LIBERTY. WHILE OTHER PARTIES AND GROUPS SEEK TO USE THE TOOLS OF POLITICS TO GIVE SOME GROUPS POWER OVER OTHERS, TO ENRICH SOME AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS, OR TO IMPOSE SOME SET OF VALUES ON THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH THOSE VALUES, LIBERTARIANS SEEK NOTHING MORE THAN LIBERTY.

LIBERTARIANS PROPOSE TO END THE CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BY ABOLISHING THEIR POWER TO DISPENSE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES.

LIBERTARIANS SEEK THE END OF CONFISCATORY TAXES - AND ALL TAXES ARE CONFISCATORY - AND REGULATIONS ON PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGES OF ALL TYPES. WE SEEK THE ELIMINATION OF ALL RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF EMPLOYMENT.

IN ECONOMICS, LIBERTARIANS ADVOCATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PURELY FREE MARKET, THAT IS, A MARKET UNHAMPERED BY GOVERNMENT INTRUSIONS. WE ADVOCATE THE FREE, VOLUNTARY EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

IN CIVIL LIBERTIES, LIBERTARIANS BELIEVE INDIVIDUALS MUST RESPECT THE RIGHT OF OTHERS TO LIVE DIFFERENT LIVES, TO READ AND ENJOY DIFFERENT COMMODITIES, TO SHAPE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS, SEXUAL AND OTHER, TO LIVE THEIR LIVES IN THEIR OWN WAY, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE AND RISK, NEVER FORCING OTHERS TO PAY FOR THEIR MISTAKES.

IN FOREIGN POLICY, WE ARE NON-INTERVENTIONISTS. WE ADVOCATE THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, BELIEVING THAT AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES HAVE NO BUSINESS OUTSIDE OF AMERICAN BORDERS. WE ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE CONSCRIPTION AS BEING A FORM OF SLAVERY - IN PEACE OR WAR.

WHEN THE AMERICAN COLONISTS HEROICALLY RISKED THEIR LIVES, THEIR PROPERTY AND THEIR SACRED HONOR TO REBEL AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF BRITAIN, THEY SET AN EXAMPLE FOR US ALL. AMERICANS TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO KNEW THAT ETERNAL VIGILANCE WAS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY, AND WERE PREPARED TO PAY THAT PRICE. WHETHER WE ARE WILLING TO PAY THAT PRICE TODAY IS A QUESTION WHICH MUST BE ANSWERED INDIVIDUALLY, BY EACH OF US. BUT WE OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY HAVE MADE OUR CHOICE. MOVED BY A PASSION FOR JUSTICE, BY COMPASSION FOR THOSE OPPRESSED BY STATE POWER AND PRIVILEGE, WE HAVE RAISED THE BANNER OF LIBERTY.

ADAPTED FROM LIBERTARIANISM, LIBERTARIAN PARTY POSITION PAPER #1, AVAILABLE AT \$3.50/100 FROM THE LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, 2300 WISCONSIN AVE., NW, SUITE 201, WASHINGTON, DC 20007.

## JIM TURNEY *continued*

speakers and debates for local libertarian meetings. Without the contribution of his "super" typewriter to the editor of this newsletter, the first issues would not have looked so professional.

To be one of the youngest Libertarians in the state, Jim Turney has made one of the greatest contributions. We are very fortunate to have him as an activist in the Third District.

*Carolyn Paulette*

# CONTACTS **VA**

Virginia Chair: Scott Bowden....703/356-0750  
Membership: Jo Ann Willis....703/548-3286  
Secy/Treas: Jerry Sklute.....804/458-4279  
1st District: Stew Engel.....703/663-2279  
2nd District: Henry Thrasher....804/424-9857  
3rd District: Carolyn Paulette..804/232-6644  
4th District: Pete Berzanskis...804/424-3881  
5th District: Diane Harrison....804/794-7583  
6th District: Wayne Staton.....804/384-8252  
7th District: Matthias Mitman...804/293-7021  
8th District: Richard Gardiner..703/569-6782  
9th District: Mark Marcucci.....703/552-8919  
10th District: Julie Floyd.....703/920-3552  
Arlington: Scott Royce.....703/920-3552  
Blacksburg: Kathy Rice.....703/953-1013  
Linda Wahrman....703/961-3366  
Charlottesville: Sondra Stallard...804/973-6579  
Fredericksburg: Stew Engel.....703/663-2279  
King William: Graham Evans.....804/843-2093  
Lynchburg: Frewen Wilson....804/384-5996  
Newport News: Ray Johnson.....804/877-2922  
Richmond: Ron Courtney.....804/222-1421  
Mary Godsey.....804/232-6644  
Jim Turney.....804/231-7379  
Chuck Walton.....804/353-3307  
Roanoke: George Wade.....703/774-4213  
Northern Va.: Kathleen Taylor...703/442-0798  
Southwest Va.: Ray Smith.....703/597-8180  
Tidewater: Henry Thrasher....804/424-9857

## Committees

1981 Convention: Michel La Vean..804/355-1923  
Fund Raising: Michel La Vean....804/355-1923  
Publicity: Vincent Drosdik III..703/979-9145

NatCom Rep: Jule R. Herbert.....202/543-1300  
National Libertarian Party.....202/333-8209

*why not add your name?*



## SECOND DISTRICT NEWS

On February 11, Tidewater libertarians met for their monthly dinner meeting at Bentley's Steak House in Virginia Beach. the night's guest speaker, Dr. Michael Knox, Director of the Western Tidewater Mental Health Center, gave an informative and critical talk on "involuntary commitment", the state's practice of institutionalizing, against their will, people thought to be "mental deviates".

The state of Virginia, you see, has this wonderful little system set up for locking up the "crazies". They've even made it easy to use! It's not necessary, of course, that the lunatic in question have committed some crime, only that he/she has shown some behavior clearly "socially deviant" and that someone has filled out a simple one-page form attesting to the fact. The judge then, on the advice of a "mental health expert", (which can be the local general practitioner) can decide to send the person to Maryview, where of course, they are eager to accept him, and to keep him, because the more "patients" they have, the more state funds they get!

*John C. Alluisi*

## TENTH DISTRICT NEWS

Organizing will be the focus of the 10th C.D. LP activity during March and April. Meetings in McLean, Reston and Falls Church currently being scheduled, and Arlington seems destined to become the LPVA's first official local unit.

The Arlington LP Organizing Committee, chaired by Scott Royce, set March 28 as the date for its mass meeting. In addition to the somewhat tedious but necessary business of adopting Bylaws and electing officers and a county committee, Arlington has scheduled several speeches by prominent Libertarians. At least two of the three National Chair candidates, for instance, are tentatively expected to attend.

At a Feb. 26 meeting arranged in part by local LPers, *LIBERTARIAN REVIEW* editor Roy Childs out-debated Lincoln Oliphant, administrative aide to Sen. Jake Garn (R-Utah) regarding victimless crime laws and related issues. The event, sponsored by the Alexandria Conservative Club, drew a good Libertarian crowd in addition to about 50 right wingers. Audience response forced the ACC Chair to agree to a future libertarian-trad debate on defense and foreign policy.

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## THIRD DISTRICT NEWS

Third District Libertarians have been fortunate to have the chance to hear two Libertarian speakers who are "experts" in their particular fields: Jim Hainer on Economics and Michael Emerling on The Technology of Freedom.

On March 5th, Jim Hainer presented economics in laymen's terms while he discussed Reagan's budget and tax proposals. He proposed changing the income tax to eliminate all of the deductions and credits which subsidize various special interest groups, and to have one standard deduction for each dependent and a flat percentage on the remainder. This would allow everyone to easily recognize changes in the tax rate and would force the government to stop hiding subsidies to individuals.

On March 17th, the VCU Libertarians sponsored Emerling, and the Third District had their bimonthly meeting with them. Emerling presented his "new" speech, the Technology of Freedom. He proposed that advances in technology, especially in the media (alternative communication systems, radar detectors and cable television) will allow more freedom for individuals by providing more choices and interfering with central control of media.

At the March 5th meeting, Donald Cooper of the Richmond Independent Tax Association asked Libertarians for input on a mass anti-tax demonstration in Washington. Cooper felt that a march in Washington on July 4th would serve as a mandate to Congress to support tax cuts; he is trying to organize tax groups and Libertarians throughout the State to support an anti-tax demonstration. If any Libertarians have interest in taking part in this march, please let it be known by writing to *LIBERTYVA*.

*Carolyn Paulette*

## STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The State Central Committee met at Blacksburg on March 7th. Two new interim district chairs were appointed: Diane Harrison in the 5th and Richard Gardiner in the 8th.

The District Chairs reported on activities in their areas, which included informational, organizational and social meetings, fund raising and plans for organizing at the city and county level.

The Publicity Chair reported a 6% response  
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## FREE MARKET ADULTS PROPOSED

In response to Vincent Drosdik's article in the March issue, I think that we can find a reasonable objective standard for children's independence without resorting to arbitrary age standards.

Let us rely on the market. If a child of any age shows him or her self to be willing and capable to operate self-supportingly, then he or she should be allowed to leave the home and behave as a free agent.

I think that we must be willing to agree that anyone living within the confines of an institution should obey whatever rules the institution lays down. If one doesn't like the rules, one has the choice of leaving.

But not in the case of children. To leave they must have a source of income; anyone familiar with minimum wage debates realize that conditions for emancipation of youth are not favorable.

This system outlined, allowing freedom should the child show himself or herself responsible through the market test, is equitable and reasonable, and, as a further indictment against our culture, our government, and our political orientation; it is unthinkable for most people.

*Gerard B. Reith  
Sheridan, Wyoming*

## SUPPORT SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS!

The General Assembly will soon reconvene to redraw Congressional and State Legislative District lines. As it carves up the Commonwealth based on 1980 census data, the House of Delegates should follow the example of the State Senate - that body succeeded a decade ago in abolishing all but one of its multi-member districts.

A shift to single-member districts would greatly benefit both the state's voters and the fledgling LPVA. Why? Let me suggest just a few reasons.

Ideally, each of the 100 House members should represent approximately 53,500 people. Some current Delegate districts, with five or more members in them, are so large as to approach the size of Congressional ones. This significantly raises campaign costs and decreases the ability of the individual candidate to interact directly with a substantial portion of the voters.

Single-member districts would also tend

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## LOCAL LP'S KEY TO PROGRESS

The key unit of major political parties is not the National Headquarters, nor the State Central Committee, nor even the Congressional District apparatus. Rather, it is the city and county organization.

The local group is closest to the basic unit in our republic, the citizen-voter. It is that person's mind we attempt to reach and influence.

Not only is this the practical reality, it is also a legal necessity. For it is the local party units which nominate or endorse candidates for county and city offices, and for General Assembly seats. These positions are for the vast majority of all elective posts, far outnumbering statewide or Federal offices.

At the same time, new candidates - or - parties, have their best chance for success at the local level. Here the individual candidate is best known by the voters, has the smallest territory to cover in the campaign, and can spend the least. If we can succeed anywhere, it is locally.

While having no party designation on the ballot in Virginia can have its drawbacks, for new candidates and a new party, this may actually work to our benefit, at least locally. There, your personality and community credentials count as much as ideology in your campaign.

What this means is that if you win, not all your votes will have been for ideological reasons. No matter - once in office, it's then up to you to prove that the libertarian political philosophy works - and then get yourself re-elected.

Alaska has been an invaluable proving ground of the above theory. As large and successful as the Alaska LP has been, it has yet to run a candidate for governor or for Congress. With several elected officials in local offices and in the Legislature, it is now strong and credible enough to look seriously at the governorship next year. Had that LP run statewide candidates from the start, the abysmal early showing might well have impeded future party growth.

It's time now for all congressional districts in Virginia to have open conventions and elected representatives on the State Central Committee. But beyond that, we must work quickly to establish county and city units throughout the Commonwealth, appropri-

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"THE COUNTRY WHICH ALLOWS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FAMILY, WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR NOT, ALLOWS ITS OWN DESTRUCTION." -ABRAHAM LINCOLN-



THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
has condoned the destruction of the American Family by:

- Penalizing married couples via the "marriage tax".
- Endorsing abortion through Federal Funding
- Creating financial incentives enticing low-income families to break-up to gain financial relief.

YOU CAN STOP FUNDING THESE AND OTHER INJUSTICES!

YOU ARE ABLE TO CONTROL THE AMOUNT OF TAXES YOU MUST PAY!

## *The American Family*

- Will show you how to reduce your taxes by 70%!
- Will share successful tools which strengthen the family and marriage!

Michael Levean, State Vice-Chairman: "Two of my very close associates in the Libertarian Party, Greg Gallagher and Former State Chairman of Virginia, Jim Crowe, agree that 'THE AMERICAN FAMILY' has been a most valuable asset to both their families and their financial existence. It has been a most rewarding association."

Dr. James Hainer, Professor of Economics and Former State Chairman - Clark for President, states, "The IRS disallowed my charitable contributions which completely supported a school for 30 illiterate children. 'THE AMERICAN FAMILY' has allowed me to redefine what I consider to be a worthwhile charity. Through 'THE AMERICAN FAMILY' I am now able to support three of these schools with monies untouched by any taxation whatsoever. This organization is concerned, and effective. They assure you do everything legally!"

## *The American Family*

A National Organization Dedicated to the Preservation of  
the Family

9401 Lee Highway  
Suite 101  
Fairfax, VA 22031

800/336-3700

In Virginia 703/385-0430

CALL OR WRITE US TODAY FOR INFORMATION PRESENTING OUR  
ORGANIZATION.

YOUR LIBERTARIAN COLLEAGUES AGREE THIS IS THE MOST LUCRATIVE  
STEP THEY HAVE EVER TAKEN FINANCIALLY  
TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE FOR YOUR  
FAMILY



## VIRGINIA SIXTH IN NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

The 1981 National LP Membership Drive closed February 28th with Virginia ranked sixth, behind California, New York, Texas, Illinois and Alaska.

This will result in Virginia having at least one member on the National Platform Committee as well as 23 delegates (and 23 alternates) to the National Libertarian Party Convention in Denver at the end of August.

The Platform Committee member, delegates and alternates will be chosen at the LPVA Convention in June.

## 10TH DISTRICT NEWS *continued*

Since the General Assembly may radically alter the 8th/10th boundary line in the upcoming special redistricting session, 10th C. D. Central Committee members have been conferring with 8th District Chair Richard Gardiner about Northern Virginia organizing.

*Julie Floyd*

## LPVA SCC MEETING *continued*

from the 346 media outlets in Virginia. Those responding will get complimentary copies of the newsletter.

The Newsletter Editor reported that LP state parties from Washington D C, North and South Carolina were considering adding pages to *LIBERTYVA* and using it as their newsletter also. This was approved by the Committee.

The Fund Raising Chair reported on plans for a fund raising mailing. The Convention Agenda Chair detailed plans for the 1981 State Convention (see page 1). The Committee agreed to join in the current National fund raising project based on Dick Randolph's letter.

The next State Central Committee Meeting will be held in Lynchburg in early May.

*Jerry Sklute*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

## LOCAL LP'S KEY *continued*

ately publicized by news releases both before and after the founding mass meetings.)

The mere fact of the existence of many local units will add credibility to the party's efforts everywhere.

Thus, all attention should shift to the localities after the June State Convention. If we do that, the LPVA may be in a position to run an attractive candidate for the U. S. Senate in 1982.

*Vincent A. Drosdick*  
*Arlington*

## HOUSE OF DELEGATES CANDIDATES

The State Board of Elections now has packets of information available for candidates. Call them at (804) 786-6551.

Qualifications are simple: Qualified to vote, at least 21 years old, resident of the Commonwealth for one year and a resident in the election district that you want to represent.

Since the LPVA is not officially a "Party", we must follow the rules for independent candidates: By September 8, 1981 you must present petitions with 250 signatures and by Sept. 18, you must file a simple form attesting to the above qualifications and a written statement of economic interests and relationships showing no conflict of legislative interest.

The packet contains petitions, all other forms and information on filing.

## DRACULA WAS A BUSH-LEAGUER.



Compared to America's tax collectors, the old boy from Transylvania was an amateur.

Taxes now bleed away more than one-third of our nation's productivity.

Tax-fed programs consume more than \$3,000 for each man, woman, and child in the country. The average American family now pays more in taxes than it spends on food and clothing combined.

Taxes are destroying individual initiative and retarding capital formation — weakening our economy more with each passing year.

And still, the politicians — Democrat and Republican alike — continue to vote for ever-costlier programs and ever-higher taxes.

(In 1980 alone, individual taxes will rise by nearly \$100 billion.)

The Libertarian Party is committed to ending this massive theft of our earnings. We support radical reductions in government spending, and the taxes used to finance that spending.

Our long-range goal is to eliminate taxation entirely, and achieve prosperity for all through a free-market economy.

If this sounds like what you've been looking for, we invite you to join the hundreds of candidates and thousands of individual members who are working to build a real alternative in American politics.

The Libertarian Party, 2300 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20007.



to increase the degree to which Delegates would represent the views of their constituents. It is easier for a voter to watch and communicate with one individual legislator than with several. In multi-seat districts, too, political and racial minorities tend to lose representation. For years, state Democrats backed multi-member districts because they cut down on the number of black and GOP members in the Assembly.

In multi-seat districts, unpopular incumbents are far more likely to survive the electorate's wrath. It is harder to focus on one individual's position in such a race, and they can ride the coattails of more popular running-mates. Such political advantages are lost in a single-member district, where the legislator must squarely confront the voters with his or her record as the key issue.

The advantages to LPVA candidates in all this should be obvious. I urge all Party members to write their House of Delegates member(s) today and urge them to adopt a single-member district system.

*Scott Royce  
Arlington*

The purpose of the Libertarian Party of Virginia is to legalize freedom by political action because we believe that no person, group of people or government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group or government; with "force" meaning fraud, extortion, stealing, threats against life or property as well as physical aggression.

**Please send information about the Libertarian position on the following (check appropriate boxes):**

<input type="checkbox"/> Libertarianism	<input type="checkbox"/> The Draft	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health
<input type="checkbox"/> Gun Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Inflation	<input type="checkbox"/> Nuclear Energy
<input type="checkbox"/> Business and Government		<input type="checkbox"/> Victimless Crime Laws

☐ I'm already convinced! Sign me up as a member of LPVA.

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$6.00 enclosed, please send LIBERTYVA for one year.

☐ I would like to donate ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ to LPVA

I would like to join the National Libertarian Party (Sign oath):

☐ Student (\$5) ☐ Basic (\$10) ☐ Sustaining (\$20)

I would like to be active in the LPVA:

☐ LIBERTYVA ☐ Letters to the Editor ☐ Speakers Bureau

☐ Local Organizing ☐ Campaigning

Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Virginia and mail to: LPVA, P.O. Box 1449, Hopewell, Virginia 23860



# CALENDAR VA

## MARCH

- 28 Arlington Mass Meeting. 1:30 pm  
Holiday Inn, Rosslyn. Contact Scott Royce 703/920-3552
- 28 Libertarian Cocktail Party in Norfolk  
RSVP Robert Swann 804/440-0370
- 30 "The Incredible Bread Machine" shown by  
Manchester League at 336 Squires, VPI,  
Blacksburg, 7 pm call 703/953-1013

## APRIL

- 1 Patriotic Network Meeting in Washington  
contact Edith Bradbury 703/370-1586
- 1 VCU Libertarians Meeting. Contact Michael Large 804/358-0661
- 2 3rd District Meeting at 7:30 pm at  
4314 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond. Discussion  
of the CIA. Call 804/232-6644
- 4 Objectivist Discussion Group - Washington  
Hear N. Brandon's recording "Logic and  
Mysticism" Call Cynthia Leenert 703/241-2362
- 6 Manchester League Meeting at 7:30 pm  
308 Squires, VPI, Blacksburg
- 8 2nd District Meeting in Tidewater.  
Contact Henry Thrasher 804/424-9857
- 8 VCU Libertarians Meeting call 804/359-3969  
or 804/282-0266 after 10
- 10 Libertarian Social Club in Washington  
Mark Skousen speaking on Financial Privacy  
and the IRS. Call Jarret Wollstein at  
703/780-7605.
- 11 Jefferson's Birthday Party at Blacksburg  
Contact Kathy Rice at 703/953-1013
- 14 3rd District Meeting at 7:30 pm 4314  
Forest Hill Ave. Call 804/232-6644
- 20 Manchester League Meeting at 7:30 pm  
308 Squires, VPI, Blacksburg
- 30 3rd District Meeting

## MAY

- 4 Manchester League Meeting - Blacksburg
- 6 Patriotic Network Meeting - Washington
- 9 State Central Committee Meeting 1pm  
Virginia Baptist Hospital, Lynchburg  
Contact Kathy Rice 703/953-1013
- 12 3rd District Meeting - Richmond
- 13 2nd District Meeting - Tidewater

## JUNE

- 27-29 Virginia State Convention - Richmond

NOTE: VCU Libertarians meet every Wednesday



# Common Sense, II

by Jerry Sklute

## 1984 in five months !!!

Two hundred years ago a small group of people stood up and pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. From that small beginning a "great experiment" started, eventually resulting in the highest standard of living that human beings have ever known.

Many people think that our current way of life just happened - that we have been steadily progressing and that we will continue to progress. Some will parrot their public education explanation that America was "lucky" in having space and all the raw materials necessary, ignoring the fact that other countries, such as Russia, also have space and an abundance of raw materials, but they do not have our prosperity.

Most Americans now sense that something is wrong. Continual inflation and increasing government taxation and regulation of their lives have led them to cry out for a change. They think that the change is now happening, led by their new President. Soon they will be rationalizing the results by telling themselves the same old cliches that the president is only one man, that he can do very little about the bureaucrats, that you can't fight city hall, ad nauseam. The percentage of voters will drop even further as more people give up and drop out.

It was not luck, or divine providence that made America great; that raised our standard of living and made us the richest and most powerful country in the world in a little over 150 years. Nor was it luck that caused us to be accelerating downhill from our peak about 30 years ago.

Our motive power was individual liberty - fueled by the closest thing to capitalism that the world has yet seen. Most of our advancement occurred in the 19th century, even with the disruption of a civil war. The force was so great that our momentum continued for another 25 years, gradually slowing down as our government continually entangled us in an ever increasing web of regulations, restrictions and taxes.

The one advantage that our large land area gave us was the difficulty of control by government, especially at the continually expanding "frontier". But even in the cities, the radical ideas of Locke and Jefferson that human beings have natural rights and should be free restricted government to scattered acts of tyranny and compromises that did relatively little to restrict the actions of individuals. Since people could keep whatever they earned and since the government had little power to "sell", self interest led to an explosion of productivity. Women and children left the hard work of the farm to provide the labor for fledgling industries. Inventions

mushroomed since the inventors could keep the fruits of their ingenuity. Material goods increased, prices fell and the standard of living started its upward climb.

1984 is not far away. We have a lot of work to do in the next three years if we are going to have an impact in American politics.

If self-interest is the prime motivator of human beings, then people will have to learn that it is in their self-interest to stop saying "gimmie" to the government. They will not learn it in school, from the newspapers or TV or from the government.

No matter how appealing our ideals sound, the bottom line is going to be each individual's interpretation of what's in it for them. Human nature will tend to remember any aspect of real loss, cancelling out all of the "theoretical" good things they might see in libertarianism. Even worse, most people will discount any good long range effects which bring discomfort now. And to make matters worse, the majority of the people react mainly to emotional stimulus, and don't like to read. Most of the time, they don't even want to think about politics.

The most opportune time for people to think about politics is 4 - 6 weeks before an election and/or when something upsets their personal life enough that they look to (or at) the government for a solution.

At best, that gives us about five months spread over three years to reach the majority of the people, get their attention, get them to think and satisfactorily answer all of their questions and objections.

Make no mistake, this is not going to be easy. To start with, we must educate ourselves. We must have a thorough understanding of the libertarian solution to every possible problem or issue which is likely to come up. Then we must be able to explain this solution to people who know nothing about libertarianism. The explanation will have to be in simple language and will have to be in terms that can be associated with the individual's personal life. The solution will have to be relatively quick, at least in initial effects. And, the explanation should have emotional appeal to be most effective. And lastly, the explanation will have to be short. We will not have captive audiences or necessarily friendly listeners. There is sure to be some socialist opposition, full of trick questions and opposing views.

We need words with high emotional content which will quickly grab peoples' attention and persuade them to change beliefs they have held all of their life.

We need libertarian solutions to all the problems and we need to show how all of these solutions are consistent with our principle of Liberty For All, all of the time.

We need lots of work and lots of money, and we need it now! Will you pledge your life, your fortune and your sacred honor to LIBERTY? Stand up and do it now!

*"These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."*

TOM PAINE

## LIBERTY **VA**



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