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# The Libertarian Party of Virginia

## Virginia Liberty

Volume 6, Issue 6    Bimonthly Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Virginia

Nov / Dec 2001

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**Virginia Liberty** is published for the members of the Libertarian Party of Virginia (LPVA), Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Libertarian Party or the editors unless so stated. Libertarians favor returning government to its proper and limited role of protecting individual rights and ceasing all other activities inconsistent with that goal.

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Deadline for submissions for the Jan/Feb issue of **Virginia Liberty** is December 1, 2001.

Editors: E.T. and Marc Montoni, 703-715-6230.

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### ***Lawsuit Win!***

RICHMOND - For the first time ever, Libertarian candidates for offices other than President will be identified as Libertarians (they will get the letter "L" under their names on the ballot)."

Historically, Virginia ballots have not identified candidates for offices OTHER than president by party affiliation. For the better part of the last century, Democrats controlled the Virginia legislature and apparently were so ashamed of their party affiliation that they wrote ballot law so that Virginians wouldn't know what they were either.

Shortly after control of the legislature passed into the hands of the Republicans, the new legislature decided truth-in-labeling would be better -- as long as it only applied to Democrats and Republicans.

Many Libertarians lobbied for a better ballot-labeling bill, but our bill -- sponsored by Delegate Marshall -- was killed in committee.

Shortly afterwards, LPVA filed suit, with the help of the ACLU -- and we won. The state paid the ACLU for \$25,000 in legal expenses.

The judge who heard our case ordered the State Board of Elections to provide a reasonable procedure to allow third-party candidates to receive a single-letter "label" - just like the D's and R's -- to identify them as adherents of other political parties, such as the Libertarians, Greens, and others.

A few days after the decision, LPVA Chairman Marc Montoni hand-delivered the list of candidates endorsed by the LP for Governor, Lt. Governor, and House of Delegates -- ten in all -- to the State Board of Elections. See "The Libertarian Slate" on this page (some of the original candidates did not have enough signatures to make the ballot, and so do not appear).



**Shelley Tamres, Coordinator  
LPVA Ballot Access Committee**

Special thanks for our new status goes to Shelley Tamres, Ballot Access Coordinator, who helped with the paperwork, the lawsuit, and many other details of making this happen this year.

What really makes the Libertarian Party's success in this project all the more remarkable is the fact that none of the other "alternative" parties assisted with any part of this effort - not the lobbying, nor the lawsuit. It makes more than one Libertarian wonder why non-participants such as the Greens receive ten or twenty times the media coverage that Libertarians are granted.

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### *On The Campaign Trail*

William Redpath, running as a Libertarian for the governor's seat, can tell you - running as a Libertarian just isn't a picnic.

Redpath survived a motion at the August 20 SCC meeting to that would have rescinded the Party's endorsement of his candidacy. Redpath raised the ire of some Libertarians when he outlined his positions on gun laws at a firearms training class - positions which he admits were not 100% in keeping with official LP positions.

After that storm died down, Redpath proceeded to make some notable progress on the campaign trail.

The Redpath campaign team has done an impressive job of making lemonade out of lemons. An amusing, and biting, media release from the campaign pointed out the hypocrisy of the NAACP for that organization's refusal to include Redpath in the debates it sponsored between Warner and Earley.

Redpath supporters have also made it a point to stage protests at the debates where he has been excluded, and media coverage was generated as a result.

All in all, the Redpath campaign has been active and effective - on a shoestring.

Gary Reams, running for Lieutenant Governor, has been making political hay of his campaign theme - "The Reams Reeferendum". The Reams campaign has earned a substantial amount of media coverage; including a top-of-page-one article that appeared in the Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax Journal newspapers on August 13.

Reams is critical of the state's lack of an initiative & referendum process - the procedure that many other states have which allows citizens to introduce and vote on new laws (or repeal old ones) directly - without the "approval" of stubborn, set-in-their-ways politicians.

So, Reams has made his campaign a de facto Referendum - one about Marijuana Prohibition. Reams points out that in every other state where Marijuana referenda are allowed on the ballot, voters have chosen reform. Indeed, he notes, many entire nations are abandoning the War on Drugs as a lost cause. In that sense, the United States is behind the curve; refusing to learn that the War has already been lost.

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### *Opinion: Justice, Not Revenge*

by J. D. Tucille



Sirens shriek, smoke billows and people die in what appears to be the worst terrorist attack in history. "Who could have done such a thing?" people ask as they watch live video of the utter destruction of the World Trade Center and the flaming ruins of one wing of the Pentagon. The obvious answer is that homicidal madmen bear responsibility for the attacks. Equally obvious is that these homicidal madmen probably acted out of anger at the United States.

In a column I wrote in 1998, I suggested that "[t]errorist incidents are Justice, Not Revenge usually a response to something this country has done or been perceived to do, the allies that it's picked, and the fights that it's muscled it's way into." At the time, U.S. bombs had just rained on Baghdad, and I feared the consequences for the U.S. -- and the U.S. response to any violent action.

I wasn't peering into my crystal ball at the time, but looking back into the past instead. Ivan Eland of the Cato Institute had just produced a study of 20th Century terrorist attacks against the United States. The incidents ranged from the bombing of the Senate reception room in 1915 in response to arms sales to France and Britain, through the assassination of Robert Kennedy by Palestine-born Sirhan Sirhan, to the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania over American involvement in the Middle East. Said Eland: "All of the examples of terrorist attacks on the United States can be explained as retaliation for U.S. intervention abroad."

In pointing to the obvious connection between adventures overseas and violent attacks on Americans, we need not take a position on whether or not the U.S. government is on the side of the angels or the devils in the conflicts in which it intervenes. No matter which side one takes, the losers will hate the intruders -- and will likely seek bloody vengeance against outside interference. An activist foreign policy has consequences that can be measured in human lives.

Which brings us back to the events of September 11, 2001. While the identity of the people behind the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon remain uncertain, the likeliest suspects make the list because of the active role played by the U.S. in the Middle East. By picking sides in long-simmering feuds, U.S. officials have made Americans targets for murderers who are willing to sacrifice themselves to satisfy their thirst for revenge.

So how should the United States react?

Finding the murderers and bringing them to justice is a logical option. Once they are positively identified, mass murderers must not roam free. But will U.S. officials stop there?

If the past is any guide, the U.S. government may respond to this attack in two counter-productive ways. American intervention overseas is likely to be stepped up, and the authorities can be expected to impose authoritarian curbs on domestic liberties.

Increased interventionism overseas will just feed into the cycle of violence that brought us the worst terrorist incident to-date. As Ivan Eland concluded after his survey of 20th Century terrorism, "The extensive number of incidents of terrorism linked to U.S. foreign policy implies that the United States could substantially reduce the chance of catastrophic terrorist attacks if it lowered its military profile overseas."

That's a fancy way of saying that we can reduce America's attractiveness as a target by minding our own business.

But if intervention overseas breeds terrorist attacks by foreigners against Americans, curbing domestic freedom should be seen as terrorism against ourselves. If we respond with measures that systematically violate the rights of our own people, we only compound injury with more injury. Through our own acts, the terrorists will then hurt everyone in the country far more deeply than ever they could on their own.

Among other infringements on our liberty, past legislative reactions to terrorism have turned airports into virtual prison camps, with travelers subject to searches and interrogations. The law now allows the Secretary of State to arbitrarily tag private groups as "foreign terrorist" organizations and forbid Americans to provide

them with support of any kind, including food and medicine. The feds have even introduced the use of secret evidence against terrorism suspects that leaves people jailed in unconvicted limbo for years, with defense attorneys unable to even review the evidence against their clients.

While these measures have gnawed away at the American tradition of liberty, they did nothing to prevent the horrors of September 11, 2001. New security precautions will make it quicker to drive to most destinations than to fly. New controls could allow the police to paw through your email and investigate your political affiliations at will. But those restrictions won't prevent dedicated and suicidal terrorists from doing their worst.

In a warning that sounds as appropriate today as it did when written, Reason magazine's Brian Doherty said of the last round of anti-terrorist legislation:

More laws can't make us safe from the tragedies that are the inevitable result of freedom, and of living around other people. Life is real, life is uncertain, life is inevitably unsafe. Measures to make it safe at all costs come with dangers of their own.

There's no way to absolutely prevent acts of terror against America -- especially when the perpetrators are willing to sacrifice their own lives in order to murder others. But if we want to reduce the likelihood of such incidents, we need to steer clear of other people's conflicts. There's no good reason to barge into fights that don't concern us.

Two centuries ago, in his first inaugural address, Thomas Jefferson urged Americans to pursue "peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, --entangling alliances with none."

Today, Jefferson might well be derided as an isolationist. But to ignore his advice doesn't just spurn the wisdom of one of one of the nation's founders. Entangling alliances -- intervention in other people's battles -- have a price measured in blood.

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### *We Need More Strength*

By Elias Israel

When I was young, my parents often told me, "Never let them tell you that it can't happen here."

I thought I understood what they meant. Now, we all know. On Tuesday, September 11, madmen plunged us into a nightmare that none of us ever thought we would see.

More than 20,000 Americans may be dead, killed in a single hour. Ten times the fatalities at Pearl Harbor. Twice the number that died on D-Day at Omaha Beach.

The World Trade Center, a jewel of capitalism, has been wiped off the map. The Pentagon, the seat of the most fearsome military in the world, and the largest office building in the world, has had a slice cut out of it.

Four airplanes hijacked simultaneously, two from my own hometown. Air traffic was shut down everywhere. When it came back, we saw significant new restrictions on Americans' freedom to travel.

We are, by every appearance, in a state of war.

I knew that the task before us as Libertarians would never be easy. But our tasks have just become tremendously harder, not just for Libertarians but for all Americans.

On Tuesday, September 11, America had to grow up the hard way. Gone is the illusion that terror happens to other people. Gone is the illusion that we can conduct the same old foreign policy with impunity. And gone is the illusion that it can't happen here.

And the Libertarian Party must grow up, too. Because our country has never needed us more than it does today.

The pointless bickering that has been the bane of our party must stop TODAY. The lack of focus, the lack of willpower, the lack of determination that have plagued us must stop TODAY.

We can no longer afford them. They are the last remnants of our party's adolescence and we must put them behind us.

We have an important job to do, perhaps the most important job that belongs to anyone in the country.

It falls to us to remind Americans to cherish and protect their constitutional rights, even and especially through these difficult times. Some are trying to erode our Bill of Rights in the name of safety. Some forget that the only thing worse than what was done to us on September 11 would be to lose our heritage of Liberty.

We must remind them.

We must stand up for and protect our communities.

We must teach our fellow citizens to protect themselves, and to take charge of their own self-defense.

We must speak the language of Liberty and Tolerance through our candidates, our state and local parties, our activities, and our whole beings.

We must demand absolute punishment for the guilty, and resolute protection of the innocent.

We must fight to elect more Libertarians, so that we can rapidly bring about the day when we make government small and such things can never happen again. We must have a government that protects the people instead of burdening them, one that performs only its constitutional functions, with clarity, efficacy, and economy.

We must, once again, aggressively build our party, to make sure that support for Liberty always grows.

We must work together, as one party, with unshakable support for each other, and unflagging belief in the beautiful principles for which we fight.

We must work together with our fellow citizens, to rebuild what was taken from us, and prevent any more loss.

We must each recommit ourselves to the Libertarian Party. We cannot leave the job of restoring Individual Liberty to Democrats or Republicans. We dare not.

Nothing else matters now. If we fail, there is no telling what could become of the dream that is the United States, as they were meant to be. Our greatest challenge has come. It will be harder than we imagined. But our parents and grandparents were up to the challenge before.

And we will master this one.

In our history, nothing has been able to stand against American determination. We, no less than any other Americans, are the heirs and recipients of that determination.

We will protect our way of life. We must.

Libertarians do not need lighter burdens or an easier task.

We need more strength.

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Elias Israel <eisrael@lpma.org>

[www.eliasisrael.org](http://www.eliasisrael.org)

Editor's Note: Elias Israel is currently the Chairman of the LP of Massachusetts, and is seeking the chairmanship of the National LP for the 2002-2004 term.

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### ***Some Choice!***

By I. N. Fellenzer

The race for the post of Virginia Attorney General is heating up. Both the Republican and the Democratic candidates have begun the usual practice of mudslinging and misinformation that usually accompanies elections, leaving voters with a bad taste in their mouths.

The latest brouhaha involving these two would-be tyrants in three piece suits is over an eight year old bit of insanity commonly referred to as the Virginia "one-handgun-a-month" law.

Recently Republican attorney general candidate Jerry W. Kilgore found himself on the defensive. Why? Because apparently his stance on gun control isn't politically correct enough for his opponent, Democrat A. Donald McEachin, whose views on Second Amendment rights fall somewhere between Al Gore and Josef Stalin.

You see, McEachin fully supports Virginia's "one-handgun-a-month" law, among some other unconstitutional and oppressive legislation. And he accused Kilgore of \*GASP!\* wanting to repeal said law!

And Kilgore, in true form of a politician with lots of hot air and very little intestinal fortitude, wafted, vacillated and weaved but refused to confirm nor deny this "heinous" accusation. Instead, he simply said, "That's not a priority of mine."

Why not, Mr. Kilgore?

Why is repealing a tyrannical, nonsensical and unconstitutional law not on your list of priorities? It certainly should be.

For one, it imposes unconstitutional limitations on law-abiding citizens.

It also restricts said citizens' right to make a legal purchase.

It allows the state to decide how many handguns are enough for personal protection instead of leaving that decision to rational adults.

And finally, this ridiculous law does NOTHING to stop crime! Nothing!

So why is it that Mr. Kilgore squirms uncomfortably when he's asked about his intent to repeal this law?

And that's not the only inconsistency.

While Mr. Kilgore doesn't support Virginia's ban on concealed weapons in restaurants that serve alcohol, because "they're law abiding citizens and I don't want to infringe on their rights to carry firearms," he's apparently too afraid to confirm that he doesn't want to infringe on their rights to purchase said firearms.

Meanwhile, McEachin plans to push for a mandatory trigger lock law in Virginia, but he says he plans to include a tax credit so that the law doesn't inflate the cost of firearms.

WOW! Do we thank him now or later?

He plans to FORCE responsible, law-abiding adults to purchase trigger locks, which have not conclusively been proven to save lives, and can, in fact, cause injury or death, and then he promises to rob them of less of their hard earned dollars for their trouble.

So to summarize: Virginians' choice of candidates for attorney general includes either a man who plans to further erode their right to keep and bear arms - **OR** - a man afraid to admit he supports that right.

Some choice.

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*I. N. Fellenzer is a member of the Libertarian Party of Virginia who lives in Stephens City.*

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***Bring the 2002 LPVA Convention to Your City!***

Political Party conventions are frequently moved around a state by state political committees, to help energize the party faithful in different areas. It's always heartening to be in a room full of people who agree with you on your basic political goals. Libertarian Party conventions are no different.

Do you want your local LP members to be able to attend the largest Libertarian event in the state in their own back yard for once? Then prepare a proposal to bring the 2002 LPVA State Convention to YOUR city! A State Convention of the Virginia LP is required in 2002 by our Party rules. Under those rules, it must be held between March 4, 2002, and May 19, 2002.

While proposals need not follow the below guidelines, the LPVA State Central Committee is suggesting this outline as a "goal". We want a fun, interesting convention -- and we think you do, too!

## **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL**

### **FUNDING:**

The SCC allows the Proposer to choose either of two different funding formulas:

1. LPVA shall provide \$2000.00 of up-front funding, and shall receive all remaining funds after expenses; or
2. The Proposer shall provide all funding and retain all profits.

### **BONUS FUNDING:**

If the convention is attended by at least 1/15th or the membership of the LPVA, the Proposer shall receive a bonus of \$500.00.

### **DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:**

Proposals shall be submitted by 31 Dec 2001 for consideration at the January LPVA SCC meeting.

### **WHAT OUR RULES -- REQUIRE -- IN A CONVENTION:**

The Business Session MUST BE free to current, signed members -- non-members may be charged admission to the Business Session. Party business that MUST be scheduled includes:

- Election of Party officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer);
- Election of Delegates to the National Convention (July 3-7, 2002, in Indianapolis, IN);
- Consideration of any Resolutions;
- Consideration of a Party state platform; and,
- Consideration of any endorsements of candidates for statewide offices.

Note that if 1/15 of the current, dues-paid membership, attends the Convention, the Business Session must also allow time for consideration of proposed changes to the Party Constitution.

### **WHAT THE STATE COMMITTEE WANTS TO SEE IN A CONVENTION:**

### **ATTENDANCE GOALS:**

1. More than largest in past.
2. Preferably, 1/15th of membership.

## TIMING PREFERENCES:

Anytime between March 4, 2002, and May 19, 2002; UNLESS we have officially-endorsed local candidates running in the early May elections -- in which case, we would PREFER that the Convention be held AFTER those elections.

## LOCATION:

A place with:

1. Tactical significance, or 2) large local membership, or 3) a significant local attraction;
2. Quality -- not the "Ritz"; and
3. Low-price lodging nearby.

## PUBLICITY:

1. The convention will be announced at least twice in Virginia Liberty, at LPVA's expense;
2. The membership receives a direct mail piece specifically concerning the convention (ConComm cost); and
3. Media releases are sent 1) to each of the major outlets in each of the major markets in VA, at least 3 times; AND 2) to all the local area outlets, at least 3 times.
4. The Convention Committee may use the LPVA facilities to the maximum level practical, but the Convention Committee is responsible for the media releases.

## MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES:

1. Good A/V system; Video projection system / overhead; Music to fill gaps. Band?
2. Good backdrop - Decorations (bunting, flags, banners, etc); Photo Montage

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE/AGENDA:

### Friday

- Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
- Platform Committee.
- Friday evening registration
- Friday evening social activities. "Chairman's Reception", Candidate's hospitality suites.

### Saturday

- Free Continental Breakfast in Vendor's Hall (with minimum paid convention package)
- Saturday registration
- Opening session with keynote speech.
- Split to at least two tracks, one talking heads, one training.
- Vendor's Hall
- Paid Saturday Luncheon with Speaker.
- Continue two track programming.
- Paid Saturday Dinner with Prime Speaker.
- Free Saturday Evening activity: Social/Fund-raiser (Reno Night?), or Candidate Debate.
- Alternate Saturday Evening Activity (Paid Tour?)

### Sunday

- Paid Theme Breakfast.

- Platform / Constitution business session.
- Elections / nominations Sunday morning.
- Meet the SCC / SCC training Sunday afternoon.

Please send all Proposals to: Libertarian Party of Virginia, PO Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228-0263. You may also fax your completed proposal to 540-984-4608.

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### ***Tim Belton: Lawsuit Update***

By Tim Belton

During the first months of my 1999 campaign for the Virginia House of Delegates in the 65th district, I placed some ads in a few high school newspapers; in an attempt to reach the district's younger voters - most of whom were hearing about the Libertarian Party and its message for the first time.

The first two ads went off without a hitch, and I received lots of positive feedback from a few of the students attending those schools. Several of these students actually joined my campaign as volunteers, handing out flyers and working the precincts for me on Election day.

It may well have been this positive response from the students that triggered the eventual crackdown response from the Chesterfield County School Board, and the school system's then-Superintendent, Dr. Boshier. The first action came in the form of a letter from Monacan High School Principal Debra Hinton. Ms. Hinton wrote to me claiming that policy 610 prohibited Monacan High School from processing my request and returned my campaign check. Upon complaining to Boshier, I was sent a letter which stated "Policy 610 does not prohibit political advertisements, rather the principal at Monacan exercised her judgement in not permitting your specific advertisement because its content was in conflict with school policies."

Now, my ad did not promote the use of any illegal drugs. Rather, it was a statement of my own political views and what I would seek to achieve if I were elected. Like any political statement, the issue of ending Marijuana Prohibition is subject to disagreement. Although government run schools do have a great deal of latitude in regulating the content of school newspapers, the First Amendment clearly prohibits school officials from only accepting the advertisements of political candidates whose views are consistent with their own.

After a few months of fruitless debate with Dr. Boshier's office I decided to address my concerns to the Chesterfield County School Board directly at a public meeting, only to be told that they stood behind Superintendent Boshier's decision and would never allow such ads to appear in the school's papers again. I immediately took my case to the ACLU, who have since agreed to take up the case. The ACLU has sent two letters to the Chesterfield County School Board and its new Superintendent, Dr. Billy Cannady, asking them to correct the constitutional error committed by Boshier. We are asking them to ensure that our candidates will not be singled out for special discrimination on the basis of our political views; and that he (Dr. Cannady) should provide us (Tim Belton and the Libertarian Party) with written assurances that our candidates will be allowed to advertise in Chesterfield County school newspapers.

In the event that they continue to behave like narrow minded petty tyrants, I am prepared to go ahead with a lawsuit against the county that should force their compliance. In light of the serious constitutional issues at stake, and considering the campaigns of any future Libertarian Party candidates I believe this issue must be resolved now.

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*Tim Belton is a member of the Libertarian Party of Virginia who lives in Richmond, Va.*

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# The Libertarian Party of Virginia

## Virginia Liberty

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### ***Member Profile: Gerhard S. Schoenthal***

**VL:** How long have you been an LP member?

**GS:** 4 years.

**VL:** What made you decide to become active in the LP?

**GS:** Disgust with the two major parties.

**VL:** What's your favorite thing about being a Libertarian?

**GS:** That I don't have to defend positions that my party holds that I don't believe in.

**VL:** Which Libertarian, or Libertarian-minded person do you admire most, and Why?

**GS:** Myself, because I actually decided to become one and because I actively participate in party functions.

**VL:** What Libertarian issue is most important to you?

**GS:** Ending the war on drugs.

**VL:** Let's say a person has been looking at the Libertarian Party for awhile, but so far hasn't joined -- because "there's just those two little things that I can't agree with" (i.e., replacing government schools with parent-owned ones, replacing courts with arbitration, replacing government police forces with neighborhood-hired security guards, etc). What would you say to that fence-sitter to encourage him or her to make the Libertarian choice?

**GS:** If you vote for either the Democrats or Republicans and look back after the end of the term of the person you voted for, you will see that government has become larger not smaller. I guarantee it.

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