Bill Winter Hired as Director of Communications

The Libertarian Party has hired Bill Winter to work full-time at the national headquarters as the Director of Communications. Professionally Bill has worked as a "stringer" reporter, a graphic artist, and most recently as an art director.

Many Libertarians will recognize Bill's name because of the spectacular work he did as state chair of New Hampshire. Bill served as chair from 1987 to 1992, a time in which membership in the New Hampshire LP increased twentyfold, over 20 Libertarians were elected to public office at the town level, the party obtained major party status, and four Libertarians were elected to the New Hampshire House.

Bill will be working on both internal communications projects (working with state officers) and external communications tasks (working with media contacts and groups that are working to implement parts of our platform).

Aiken County Libertarians Challenge Election Results

The Libertarian Party of Aiken County, South Carolina, is challenging the results of Doug Green's election for County Council, which he lost by 5 votes.

A number of registered Libertarian voters were not permitted to cast their ballots for him, even though South Carolina law expressly requires that they be given the opportunity of voting "challenge" ballots pending resolution of their eligibility.

The local LP appealed the election to the county and state election boards, where they lost. They are now gearing up to appeal to the South Carolina Supreme Court. The national party has provided financial support for their effort.

Stuart Reges Testifies in Favor of Penny Debates Bill

National Director Stuart Reges testified before the House Subcommittee on Elections on June 17th outlining the Libertarian Party's position on the issue of presidential debates.

Reges made it clear that the LP opposes the entire system of public financing of campaigns, but he argued that if the current system is to be retained, then presidential candidates who accept federal money for their campaigns should be required to debate all viable challengers.

Other witnesses argued that this would lead to a "circus" that would resemble "the Gong Show." "Flakes don't get on the ballot in all fifty states," Reges countered, citing statistics provided by ballot access expert Richard Winger, including the fact that only eight candidates in this century have managed to get on all the ballots with electoral votes, two of them Libertarians (Ed Clark in 1980 and Andre Marrou in 1992).

Frank Fahrenkopf of the Commission on Presidential Debates argued that third parties did have the opportunity to get their message out because C-SPAN invited them to a special debate. Subcommittee Chairman Al Swift also pointed out that even members of Congress don't get as much media coverage as they would like.

Reges replied that we are not looking for guaranteed coverage. "The point Mr. Fahrenkopf missed is that Bush and Clinton didn't show up for those debates. If they had shown up, and even if only C-SPAN covered them, at least our members would feel that the candidates who are spending our tax dollars to fund their campaigns had made a reasonable effort to address the issues of concern to us. That's the main point."
Alamo plays host to Libertarians

By BEVERLY MCCUTCHEON
Daily News Staff Writer

A small gathering of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico gathered in Alamogordo Saturday for their annual state convention. About 50 people from around the state attended the convention, which was going very well, Alamogordo resident and state chairman, Ray Stone, said. "We have had a good turnout from all over the state," she said.

A variety of speakers was on the party’s agenda for the day, including the Senate, Whip Sen. Billy McKibben, R-Curry, Lea and Roosevelt counties.

McKibben’s self-described conservative feelings fit well with the Libertarian Party’s beliefs, Stone said. "I believe we should let people take control of themselves and let the government come out of it," McKibben told the audience.

"We have a major enemy in every state and state that is a threat to individual efforts and to the free enterprise system," McKibben said. "It’s not government that wants to be a giant tumor growing on this country and state that is a living, breathing being kept on hand to protect the country against threats."

The scientific project near Waco that Draheim calls the "super colliding wall extractor" should not be funded, he said. Concerning education, the Libertarian candidate believes that there should be more parental choice in schools and he opposes the proposed state constitutional amendment on school finance, called the Robin Hood plan.

"We believe we should let people take care of themselves and let the govern- ment stay out of it," McKibben told the audience.

CONCORD — The issue of whether checks written to legisla- tors for testimonial banquet tickets for an exten- table, which would cost more than the $250 guideline, will be allowed, according to the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee.

With testimonial banquet tickets for House Speaker Harold Burns, former state Democratic leader Rick Trombly, D-Boscawen, the question was to be answered in the state House of Representatives.

The committee took the matter under advisement after a wide range of testimony was presented. The committee has already adopted the guideline that legislators should not accept gifts of more than $250 from any one individual.

But deputy Democratic leader Raymond Buell, of Muncy, underwrote a gift under the commit- tee’s guidelines isn’t clear.

For instance, he said, what about purchasing testimonial banquet tickets for an exten- table, which would cost more than the $250 guideline, and what about reimbursement of expenses, according to the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee: the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee.

Libertarian House member Donald W. Gorman of Deerfield said he would rather have the gift remain as is, but simply where it comes from and how it is used.

Gorman said the committee’s guidelines should narrow its duty of determining a gift, not restricting it. "I don’t care if you are going to Bermuda, I just want to know it," Gorman said. It was argued that gifts and testimonial money help defray the costs of running for office and functioning in an unpaid citizen legislature, and that too many restrictions could discourage some from seeking office.

Several journalists, including John H. Folsom, said the committee should consider the issue of whether fees can be imposed on lobbyists.

Noting that gifts and testimonial tickets are a lot of campaign and personal expenses, former state chairman Jim Shebourne of Deerfield suggested that the Legis- lature be paid to avoid ethical questions raised by gifts from in- dividuals and political action committees.

The Libertarian Party’s main concern is that county poll managers refuse to allow challenged ballots and improper counting of votes going to Greene. In the appeal the Libertarians allege that the decision by the county board was "not based on the evidence of record and the findings of the election committee." The party board’s decision to uphold the election was a slap in the face to all voters in District 3 who were denied their right to vote, said King. Although the state board is also a political appointee body, we hope they will rectify the situation.
Lawmakers’ impasse stalls election reforms

By Ed Vogel
Donny Capital Bureau

CARSON CITY — An impasse between Democratic and Republican legislators over absentee voting could doom passage of election reform bills awaiting action in the Legislature.

Senate Republicans are poised to pass a bill later this week that would require people who register to vote by mail cast their initial ballots in person.

Senate Bill 250, developed by Secretary of State Cheryl Lau, was drafted to prevent a recurrence of allegations that last November's election was marred by voter registration fraud in Clark County.

Election reform proponents have said that people could register family pets by mail and then request absentee ballots in the pets' names so they could vote. But Assembly Democrats are preparing to remove the mail-in requirement once the Senate bill reaches the Assembly, where Democrats hold a 29-13 advantage.

“It seems to me we want to increase voter participation, not decrease it,” said Assembly Elections and Procedure Chairwoman Myrna Williams, D-Las Vegas. “I know there have been allegations about voting fraud, but I haven't seen any real problems.”

Williams may have her committee vote Thursday on Assembly Bill 145, her election reform plan.

It contains no requirement that people who registered by mail vote in person the first time they go to the polls. Instead, election workers would be required to verify by mail, telephone calls and utility bills whether people who register by mail live at the addresses on their applications.

“I don't care if people are R (Republican) or D (Democrat), we need to make it easier for them to vote,” Williams said.

The partisan conflict could jeopardize any chance of a meaningful election reform package coming out of the Legislature, said Tamara Clark, a Libertarian who lost a Senate race in North Las Vegas last fall.

“The Democrats are going to make a play to kill it,” Clark said. “We feel Myrna is going to try to butcher it. The unions are pushing the Democrats not to make any changes.”

Clark and Judy DuBois, whose husband, Republican John DuBois, also lost a Senate race last year, have been gathering information that they maintain shows absentee voting fraud could have changed the outcome of several elections.

“I feel the absentee voting and the mail-in regulations benefited the Democrats,” Judy DuBois said.

Until recently, DuBois said Las Vegas police investigators did not look at their election information, which she said cost more than $50,000 to compile.

Clark said, “I can show you incident after incident where people who didn’t request absentee ballots went to the polls and were told they requested absentee ballots.”

But Williams said the national trend is to make voting easier, not more difficult. In some states, she said, voters can register on the day of the election and cast their ballots in supermarkets.

In contrast, Senate Government Affairs Chairwoman Ann O’Connell, R-Las Vegas, said Republicans during party caucuses have agreed there needs to be an in-person, first-time voting requirement to ensure voting is done by registered voters.

“It is something we believe strongly in,” O’Connell said.

State Rebuffs Libertarians On Election Appeal

By CARL LANGLEY
Staff Writer

COLUMBIA — The state Election Commission, after 2 1/2 hours of questioning and testimony, voted 3-1 Wednesday to deny an appeal involving the District 3 election for the Aiken County Council.

The commission’s action was the second rebuff of protesting Libertarian Party officials, who had hoped to overturn Doug Greene’s 628-623 loss to Democratic incumbent LaWana McKenzie.

During the hearing, Libertarian Chairman Tom King and Greene repeated assertions that the election was tainted because voters were not allowed to cast challenged ballots.

In an appearance before the Aiken County Registrations and Election Commission last week, the Libertarians focused on that claim because of an estimated 14 votes involved.

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Garry Baum, press information officer for the commission, said only Commissioner Roger Leaks sided with the Libertarians in their bid to win a new election.

Leaks’ reasons for supporting the appeal were not given.

Voting to deny the appeal were Libertarian voter and party worker Mary Lou Seymour said the challenged ballots were of sufficient number to turn around the election, and on that basis the county should have ordered a new vote.

The Libertarians also argued that three write-in votes for Greene were not counted in his race. The votes were cast for Greene as chairman of the County

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