



Alabama Liberty

Volume 15, Number 4

August 1996

Alabama Delegates Impressed by LP National Convention

Alabama was well-represented at this year's Libertarian Party National Convention, held during the week of the Fourth of July in Washington, DC. LPA Chair Mark Thornton arrived early for the preconvention meeting of the Council of State Chairs. When the Convention opened Wednesday morning most of the Alabama delegation had arrived: Carl Case and his family, Steve Dow, and Jim Albea from the Huntsville area, Woodrow Albea from Anniston, and Phillip Mundhink and Mark Thornton from Auburn. Phyllis and Jessica Wilson joined us later from Montgomery.

On the opening day the Alabama delegation was seated in the very front rows of the convention hall, where we found ourselves in the midst of thunderous roars of approval from the nearly 1000 attendees as Jacob Hornberger delivered a stirring keynote address. (Portions of his speech and other details of the convention appear in the August LP News.) In addition to speeches on the convention floor and in parallel sessions, much of the first two days was devoted to platform debate. This was the first national convention at which a new procedure took place whereby all planks of the current platform had to pass an item-by-item vote to remain in the platform. All planks passed this test; however, the controversial plank on children's rights was subsequently dropped and changes were made to several other planks as individual recommendations of the platform committee were taken up.

Saturday was the big event; as readers of this newsletter are undoubtedly aware, the LP nominated Harry Browne for President and Jo Jorgensen for Vice President. CSPAN covered major portions of the convention live, including much of the platform debate, but during the main event the level of press activity was clearly heightened. After we spotted syndicated columnist and news commentator David Broder on the convention floor, Jim Albea went over, introduced himself and took a few minutes to answer Mr. Broder's questions about the LP. Broder wrote a fairly even-handed commentary article about the LP which appeared in major papers shortly after the convention.

In a less electrified atmosphere Sunday, Gene Cisewski graciously accepted defeat to Steve Dasbach in a hard fought campaign for LP national chair. Shortly before leaving we met with other Region 3 delegates and elected Candi Copas as our regional NatComm rep. All in all the Alabama delegation was pleased with the professionalism, energy and sense of common purpose shown at the convention.

Alabama Libertarian Candidates Off and Running

1996 promises to be a banner year for the LPA as candidates across the state offer a real alternative to the big government message of both the Democrats and Republicans. With the Harry Browne presidential campaign leading the way our candidates are receiving unprecedented attention and acceptance in the media and from the voters. This issue of Alabama Liberty profiles four of our candidates who will be on the November ballot for U.S. House and Senate seats.

Mark Thornton - U.S. Senate

Heading up the 1996 LPA ticket is our candidate for the U.S. Senate, Mark Thornton, a 36-year old professor of economics at Auburn University and prolific author on free market issues. Mark hails from Geneva, New York, the Capitol of the Finger Lakes region. He received his undergraduate degree in economics and business from St. Bonaventure University and his Doctorate in economics from Auburn University. He has been awarded fellowships by the Ludwig von Mises Institute, Earhart Foundation, Institute for Humane Studies, Americanism Educational League, and the Heritage Foundation. Mark served as editor of the Austrian Economics Newsletter from 1983-1992 and has served on the Graduate Faculty at Auburn University since 1991. He is currently the O.P. Alford III Professor of economics at Auburn University, the Coordinator of Academic Affairs at the Ludwig von Mises Institute, and a contributing editor of the Free Market newsletter.

His publications include: The Economics of Prohibition, published by the University of Utah Press, more than ten academic journal articles, and more than ten contributions to books and academic encyclopedias. His writings have appeared in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Daily Oklahoman, Dallas Morning News, Galveston Daily News, Houston Chronicle, Investors' Business Daily, New York Times, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Tampa Tribune, USA Today, Vital Speeches of the Day, Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, and all the daily papers of Alabama. Mark served as Constable of Lee County from 1988-1992. He is also the current chairman of the Libertarian Party of Alabama.

Mark's campaign touches on all the major libertarian themes, but as you might expect from an economist he proba-

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Alabama Libertarians Running

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bly hits hardest on the pocketbook issues. "I am for balancing the federal budget, but I also want to help you balance your budget by eliminating the income tax and social security taxes," Mark says, and his message is getting out. His initial press release was picked up by several papers and was put out on AP and he has been quoted recently in various Alabama newspapers.

Send your inquiries or contributions to Thornton for U.S. Senate, 404 Blake Street, Auburn, AL 36830 or email him at mthornton@business.auburn.edu.

Michael L. Probst - U.S. House, District 2

Mike Probst was born in Lubbock, Texas and reports that he moved around a lot growing up (his father is a retired Major in the US Air Force) before settling in Montgomery in 1976. Mike is a Navy veteran with 7 yrs active duty (3 1/2 years on the USS England CG-22, a guided missile cruiser) and 2 yrs active reserve duty. He served as an electronics technician and left the Navy with an honorable discharge as an E-6. Since 1990 he has been working for Rad-Tech X-Ray as a processor service technician.

Mike joined the Libertarian Party in 1991, has served the LPA as Executive Director and State Chair, and has made numerous media appearances on behalf of the party. He is the host of a cable access talk show called "Liberty Forum" that airs in Montgomery.

The main planks of the Probst campaign are a free market in education, privatization of Social Security and making it voluntary, and a more sensible drug policy which would include ending drug prohibition.

Send your inquiries or contributions to Probst for Congress, 6787 Canter Trail, Montgomery, AL 36117, 334-270-8643, or email 73654.460@compuserve.com.

Ralph Stokes - U.S. House, District 3

Ralph Stokes is a 46-year old father of 3 and grandfather of 2 residing in Millbrook, AL. He has been married for 26 years to the former Sandra Kay Robinson of Apopka, Florida, where they both grew up. Ralph (or R.E. as he is known to friends) has read Harry Browne's book, "Why Government Does Not Work" and found nothing in it with which he disagrees. He forcefully states that "ALL federal agencies should be dismantled, and the federal government should only have those duties CLEARLY enumerated in the Constitution." R.E. adds that as a candidate "who knows what it is to work for a living, as I've done all my life, I strongly oppose the income tax, which steals from me what I've labored for." If elected R.E. promises no freebies to anyone but does promise to work to put the federal government back into its cage where it belongs.

Send your inquiries or contributions to Stokes for

Congress, 419 Hillcrest Dr., Millbrook, AL 36054, 334-285-5135, or ralphs@mont.montspring.com.

Craig Goodrich - U.S. House, District 5

Craig Goodrich is a senior network programmer at LJI Enterprises in Huntsville. He lives with his wife Annie and 2 young children in Elkmont (north of Huntsville near the Tennessee border). Craig's background includes a Master's Degree in Linguistics from Indiana University, a six-year stint teaching at Ripon College (in Ripon, Wisconsin), and ten years in the vicinity of Washington, DC writing software for Bechtel. He moved to Elkmont in the fall of 1991.

A member of the National Rifle Association since 1954 (when he was 10), Craig started reprinting and distributing Second Amendment-related articles more than ten years ago. In the course of his gun rights studies, though, he came to realize that this issue was just one aspect of the growing loss of personal liberty throughout American society.

Craig says he is running for Congress because he "has been following and listening to all the political discourse coming from the Democrats and Republicans, and I haven't heard anyone stand up and shout 'Freedom Matters!'" Craig has been doing just that in his campaign so far, issuing a steady stream of press releases on topics in the news such as the minimum wage, the right to keep and bear arms, and others, all based around the simple premise that "your money is yours, your life is yours, and what you do peacefully with either one is no business of the government's."

Send your inquiries or contributions to Goodrich for Congress, P.O. Box 432, Elkmont, AL 35620 or craig@airnet.net.

Help Get Browne into Debates

An important goal of the 1996 campaign is to get Harry Browne in the Presidential Debates or at least try hard enough to draw significant public and media attention. Try to mention this issue in every letter to the editor or political conversation you can. Also please contact the Bi-Partisan Commission on Presidential Debates at 202-872-1020 and express your interest in having Harry Browne included. Their mailing address is 601 13th St. NW, Suite 310 South, Washington, DC 20005. They will make a decision in early to mid September so lets turn up the heat!!!!

About the newsletter

Alabama Liberty is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Alabama. Stephen Dow serves as newsletter editor. Please send comments, articles, or informational items to him at 221 Evalyn St., Madison, AL 35758 or, better yet, send your items as email to StephenDow@aol.com.

Local Media Coverage Increasing

Although we still have a long way to go, there are signs of progress in the effort to get the libertarian message out to Alabama voters through the local media. Here are some of the articles and letters which appeared in Alabama newspapers in July:

7/1 Opelika-Auburn News, "Minimum Wage Shows Maximum Difference," article by Mark Thornton.

7/1 Montgomery Advertiser, "Old Parties Have Nothing to Offer," letter by Mark Thornton.

7/6 Birmingham News, "Libertarians pick candidate for president," interviews with Carl Case and Mark Thornton.

7/7 Decatur Daily, "Libertarians elbow way into Spotlight" Andrew Blasko, FRONT PAGE.

7/7 Montgomery Advertiser, "Libertarians hope to muscle way into national election spotlight, Andrew Blasko, Associated Press Writer.

7/7 Birmingham News, "Browne gets Libertarian

nomination for president," Andrew Blasko.

7/8 syndicated, "Clinton, Dole don't offer much," Charles Reese, discusses the Libertarian Party.

7/10 Decatur Daily, "Libertarians spread word on Internet," David Broder.

7/10 Anniston Star, "Libertarian Support," letter by Margaret Crook.

7/24 Anniston Star, "Third Party - Libertarians gaining visibility, influence," Joseph Perkins.

In late July Mike Probst posted a letter on the LPA email list which he sent to television networks and which began "I am writing to ask that you consider dedicating some of your coverage time to the campaign of the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate, Harry Browne. Harry Browne is the only candidate with a message fundamentally different from all the other candidates running for president." There is not space to reproduce the whole letter here but you get the idea. Let's keep up the pressure for a fair share of media coverage and let's make news with a level of activity for our candidates that journalists will not be able to ignore.

National, State Membership Lists Merging

The Libertarian Party of Alabama has signed up with the National LP to participate in their new program of handling membership and mailing lists for state parties. As part of that program, current LPA members will automatically be given National LP membership and vice versa. New memberships will be handled by National, who will send back a portion of the \$25 annual dues to the LPA along with names and addresses to be used for this newsletter and other mailings. The LP NEWS subscription cost of \$25 as well as subscription to ALABAMA LIBERTY is included in your annual dues. The LPA will continue to handle our own monthly credit card pledge program, which provides the core of support needed to keep the party going; if you are interested in becoming a pledger (minimum \$5 per month), please contact the state party using one of the phone numbers or address on page 4. To join the LPA, join the national party by filling out the form below and sending it along with \$25 or more to the address below.

_____ I wish to be a member of the Libertarian Party

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$_____

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

Signature _____

Name _____ Street or POB _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____ E-mail address _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Libertarian National Headquarters
Watergate Office Building
2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037
1-800-682-1776 (new member inquiries)

Contributions are not tax-deductible. Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Contacts and Events

The North Alabama Libertarian Supper Club meets at 7pm on the last Wednesday of the month at the Mr. Gatti's Pizza, 4315 University Dr., Huntsville. Call Steve Dow (205) 772-0888 for more information.

Montgomery area Libertarians meet at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Sundown East Restaurant at the Forest Hills Shopping Center on Atlanta Highway. Call Phyllis Wilson (334) 277-8893.

Gadsden area Libertarians meet the first Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Shoney's on McClellan Blvd in Anniston. Contact Margie Crook (205) 568-5814 for the latest info.

Madison Street Festival, Libertarian Booth, Saturday, 9/28, downtown Madison.

League of Women Voters Candidate Forum, 10/16, Mobile, Mark Thornton and Bob Burns to participate.

Auburn University Libertarian Club, Faria Khan, 821-7055 khanfar@mail.auburn.edu,
http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/libertarians/au_libert.html

Other area contacts:

Auburn: Phillip Mundhenk (334) 499-2331

Birmingham: Mark Bodenhause (205) 833-5012, 73347.1016@compuserve.com

Dothan: Cliff Ohlenburger (334) 735-5075

LPA new inquiries: (800) 207-1770 Other messages: (334) 826-1166 Web Site: <http://iquest.com/~lpa>

Libertarian Party of Alabama

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