

L P I N E W S L E T T E R

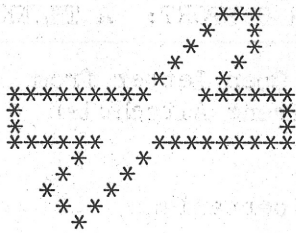
is defunct!

The name, anyway. It's too...

"pedestrian-sounding."

We need a new name for the newsletter. Got any suggestions? It might win you money. How? See the last page for details.

The Libertarian Party
of Illinois
P.O. Box 1776
Chicago, IL 60690



Volume I, Number 1

"All the news that gives 'em fits."

January, 1975

LPI GENERAL MEETING FOR JANUARY

IRENE ALTSCHULER TOPS
CARBONDALE BALLOT

When-- 7:00 Sunday evening, January 26th.

Where-- The Eagle Pub, 5311 S. Blackstone Ave., Hyde Park (south Chicago to all you furriners).

Why-- To decide the following:

Who shall be the Party's mayoral write-in candidate in this spring's city-wide election?

Shall we transfer control of the Party treasury to the newly incorporated Libertarian Association of Illinois?

Where is the newsletter going? (And how is it getting there?)

Who shall draft the Party and corporate by-laws?

Which is the superior drink-- a Pim's Cup or bass ale?

Members (and friends) are urged to arrive promptly at 7:00 to ensure that dinner will be out of the way by 8:30, at which time we will get down to business; persons wishing to skip the dinner should plan on arriving sometime after 8:00. See you there!

The Jackson County Libertarian Party announced that Irene Altschuler will hold the top ballot position in her Carbondale race against incumbent mayor Neil Eckert. Mrs. Altschuler will be Eckert's only opponent.

Off to an early start, Mrs. Altschuler's campaign has already generated considerable publicity as the Jackson County organization picketed the local IRS offices in 37-degree weather. Mrs. Altschuler remarked, "When the IRS collects money, it does so at gunpoint. We don't need a big brother here in Carbondale."

John Hiland, Jackson County Chairman, notes that Gary Patrick has been appointed campaign treasurer. Because of the support from LPI (see Irene's note elsewhere in this issue), Gary will be keeping LPI posted on campaign expenditures. For those who would like to contribute, the address is:

The Jackson Country
Libertarian Party
P.O. Box 255
Carbondale, IL 62901.

FOR YOUR SUPPORT: A THANK YOU

An Open Letter from
Irene Altschuler

Dear Fellow Libertarians,

Although I was unable to attend the LPI Convention, I was overwhelmed by your confidence and generous support. Thank you for your contributions. They gave us a tremendous morale lift, aside from helping us with our expenses.

We are all gaining experience, but it is the stand that Libertarians take on the issues at hand that helps most. We've been getting quite a bit of local interest, both in my candidacy and in the Libertarian Party.

John Hiland, our Jackson County Chairman, was on WGCH radio, Marion, Illinois, two weeks ago with me, and again this morning with George Kocan and Jorie Julian, some of our other members.

Various local groups, including the Jackson County Taxpayers Association and the Steering Committee for the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce, have asked me to address them later in February--which is perfect timing, as it's just before the primary.

My sincere thanks to you all,

IRENE ALTSCHULER

Another note of thanks:

Please express my sincere thankyou to the Illinois LP for inviting me to speak. I enjoyed it and I'm amazed at the growth that has taken place in just a year. Keep up the good work.

KARL BRAY

And a note of complaint:

As a recent addition to your membership ranks I feel compelled to speak out on a number of things that I have observed

since joining the Libertarian Party of Illinois.

First I would like to make clear that my own ethical beliefs have been "libertarian" ones for some time, and I have little doubt about their validity. I am in concert with the basic tenets of the LP in every respect that I am presently aware of. However, the attitude and tone of many members that I have encountered is an offense to my intelligence. That attitude is one of messianic zeal, and it is reflected in your newsletter as well.

Since I am normally in agreement with the things you get religious about, it is easy for me to disregard the tone of such statements in most instances. But for someone who is just getting his feet wet with libertarian ideas, such emotional pulpit pounding is going to turn him off. It isn't a very becoming reflection on the membership itself, either, for the devotees of reason to be acting like a bunch of high school rah-rah's.

I don't have the newsletter which announced the Hyatt House conference; it was particularly offensive. But let me give you an example from the Dec. letter: "Libertarians must become masters of the deep intellectual errors of History, to refute them!" Now really, I am a journalist and I am well versed in the way of words, and that statement sounds like it ought to be in some socialist save-the-world-from-democracy pulp sheet. I am also tired of hearing that all us comrades in the Party are the reincarnation of the Spirit of '76...

...I know that there are a lot of libertarians who I would not classify as religious zealots, and it is that knowledge that keeps me from quitting the LP in disgust. Just don't let that kind of irrationalism become a general program, and the Libertarian Party will continue to prosper as rapidly in the future as it has in the past few years. To insure that success locally, you might begin by getting someone else to write your newsletters.

VICTOR F. KRAMBO

[Note: We're workin' on it!]

IDEOLOGICAL POLITICS--

IT DOES NOT ASSUME
THAT WE ALL THINK ALIKE

by Steve Nelson, Chairman

Frank Oliva's letter of 12/74 demands some hard thought on the nature of the Libertarian Party, and aptly describes one of the pitfalls of ideological party formation. Mr. Oliva says, in effect, that if we abandon principle and adopt a "circus tent" approach to recruiting, we may have a political party--but it won't be a Libertarian party.

This is perfectly true. But it ignores the other horn of the dilemma: If we go in for ideological super-purity and rigidly reject all those views which do not correspond to some particular school of Libertarian thought, we may have a social club, a chataugua--maybe even a conspiracy; but we won't have a political party, as the phrase is understood in contemporary America.

Clearly, some middle course is needed...

and that middle course is provided by the "Statement of Principles" of the Libertarian Party--it is this that is intended to state the common principles that underlie all Libertarian political thought, and thereby distinguish Libertarians from others. Let us see what the Statement of Principles says:

"We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose."

This may reasonably be said to be the central and crucial idea of Libertarianism. The statement above expands to cover only three important extensions:

"(1) the right to life--accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others;

"(2) the right to liberty of speech and action--accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and

"(3) the right to property--accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation."

To sum up, the Statement of Principles is written on a minimum requirement basis...

It defines those principles--and only those principles--necessary to distinguish Libertarians from other people. Within the framework established by these very broad principles, Libertarians can and do debate thousands of variations, practical applications, and tactical nuances.

To summarize even more broadly...

the Libertarian Party is a political party --and therefore seeks to convince a maximum number of people that our principles are correct. But, it is an ideological political party, and must therefore draw a line somewhere, and say: "These ideas are not Libertarian, and we cannot welcome you as long as you believe them to be true."

* * * * *

THE ODD HALF OUNCE

Being an intimate and slightly subjective look at the LPI Officers Party... er, Meeting of
January 7, 1975

by Bob Osterlund, Sec'y

The leadership of the LPI met on the cold and drizzly night of January 7th (just 9 days prior to the Night of January 16th) at the Vice Chairman's law office in Elmhurst to debate, decide, and make merry.

(contd. on page 4)

C A L E N D A R

HALF OUNCE (contd. from page 3)

22 Jan. (Wed.), 8 PM. The very first meeting of the LIBERTARIAN SCIENCE FICTION CLUB. To be held at the residence of Bonnie Kaplan, 7820 Nordica - 2A, Niles, Ill. (For directions, call Bonnie at (312) 967-1339.)

23 Jan. (Thurs.). A meeting of the "NORTHERN-NORTHWESTERN COOK COUNTY-LAKE COUNTY LIBERTARIANS" (help us choose a new name). For time and place, call Bonnie Kaplan (see above).

24-26 Jan. (Fri. thru Sun.), Ann Arbor, Mich. A SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION. Bonnie Kaplan (What, again?) suggests we host a libertarian hospitality suite ("Heinlein Haven"?).

26 Jan. LPI GENERAL MEETING (see first page).

28 Jan. (Tues.), 2-5 PM, University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus, Circle Center Building, on Halsted Street. ROBERT NOZICK, Professor of Philosophy at Harvard University and author of the recently published Anarchy, State, and Utopia, will give a talk on the philosophy of science. (Though Prof. Nozick will not be speaking on the particular topic of libertarianism, still this is a chance for Illinois Libertarians to see and hear this up-and-coming libertarian scholar.)

29 Jan. (Wed.), 8 PM. A meeting of the LIBERTARIAN CLUB OF DUPAGE at the residence of Don Parrish, 5536 E. Lake Dr. A, Lisle, Ill.

4 Feb. (Tues.). LPI OFFICERS MEETING.

(If you know of any happenings or events within the Midwestern area that would be of interest to libertarians, please send notice of them to the Editors or to the Party Post Office Box.)

* * * * *

ODDS AND ENDS: 3, 5, 9, 100 to 1, fifty-fifty; Paul Warfield, happiness, Finis.

In attendance at the meeting were the Chairman, Steve Nelson; the Vice Chairman, John Reis; the Secretary, yours truly; the Secretary's secretary, Joe Cobb; the Party Gadfly, Bonnie Kaplan; and an eight-pack of Miller High Life (with assorted appetizers).

The Chairman opened the meeting by motioning for a pretzel, after which, pretzel in hand, the same gave the Treasurer's Report (for the regular Treasurer, Fran Holt, who unfortunately couldn't make it): "We have in the Treasury over \$1,000--Hot-diggety-dog!" Whereupon this time he reached for a beer.

The first item on the list of Old Business concerned the reimbursement of the Chair for the expense of maintaining the Party telephone line at his home. That done, the group then gave its approval to a letter composed by the Chair and addressed to Dr. R. S. Jaggard, who was a featured speaker at last month's State Party Convention and who had written to complain of the Party's relatively clumsy handling of

(contd. on page 5)

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POET'S CORNER

This month's poem is by the libertarian librettist and poet laureate of Japan, Giuseppe Hideyoshi (whose operatic works include "The Barber of Sasebo," "Son of Madama Butterfly," and that ever-favorite libertarian classic, "The Lazy Fairy"). Signore Hideyoshi's piece is in the form of a haiku, and is entitled

UNTITLED '75

Hark!

The spring lark's cry:

"Tippe

Canoe

And Altschuler

Too

Cuckoo..."

HALF OUNCE (contd. from page 4)

the Convention and Clambake that followed. In his letter, the Chair attributed that clumsiness to "just a certain amount of inexperience, coupled with a public response that totally overwhelmed our plans at times. We are sorry for the inconveniences you suffered, and would like to thank you for your help."

At about this time, the Secretary piped up with: "What about the newsletter?"

Which brought the reply: "That comes under New Business"; and the Secretary sank back into his seat.

The third order of Old Business was probably first in terms of potential importance--incorporation. The Vice Chair gave a report on the virtues and vices of incorporating, among which are (vices first): (1) the possibility that the Party will entangle itself in a web of corporate by-laws; and (2) the \$25 registration fee (Sec'y of State Michael Howlett's take). The virtues of the Party incorporating in this state include: (1) under certain circumstances, individual members may be held responsible for when an unincorporated organization gets into trouble, whereas with an incorporated body only the officers are held liable; (2) tax advantages, namely that membership dues and other payments would not be considered personal income and would therefore be untaxable; and (3) incorporation would give the Party

a copyright over its name, and thus LPI would have exclusive use of the name "Libertarian" within this state.

It was decided that the virtues outweighed the vices, so the group then went on to discuss (1) a name for the corporation(s), (2) incorporators (at least three), and (3) governing officers. These issues were debated at great length, with the Chair proposing a multi-layered corporate structure, Mr. Cobb proposing a much simpler organizational form, and the Secretary proposing a toast. Meanwhile, the Vice Chair was busy fondling his leather-bound, gold-embossed law volumes, from which he read and read pages and pages of corporate law minutiae. Ms. Kaplan fretted. Mr. Osterlund dozed. A memorable moment: "Joe, you [expletive deleted]!" "[expletive deleted], Steve!!" "zzzz... uh!... but what about the newsletter?" "Later!"

The group finally agreed upon a name-- "The Libertarian Association of Illinois, Inc."; a purpose (as required by law, from a pre-specified list)--"civic, patriotic, and political"; a list of incorporators--the persons at hand, less John Reis (who, as a lawyer, was ineligible) and Bonnie Kaplan (who didn't cough up her share of the \$25); and a Board of Governors--the current leadership of LPI. The group also agreed to table selection of a by-laws committee (to be chaired, presumably, by Ms. Kaplan) until the general Party meeting later in the month. (contd. on page 6)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE IN OUR RAPID ROUNDUP? This is a telephone calling network in which one individual quickly passes on timely information to the next individual in the network.

If you are interested, please fill out this coupon. Send it to LPI, Box 1776, Chicago, IL 60690.

NAME _____

PHONE NO. _____

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE LISTED IN OUR LIBERTARIAN DIRECTORY? This listing will help you get into the Libertarian social swim.

If you are interested, please fill out this coupon, and send it to LPI, Box 1776, Chicago, IL 60690.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION _____

INTERESTS _____

