



# The LibPENN

The Official Newsletter of the  
Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

## Upcoming

### Events:

LPPA Board Meeting  
June 12th, 12 pm  
Ted's - Dauphin County

LP County Meetings,  
Pg. 8

Primary Day -  
May 18, 2010,

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### Trivia question for this issue:

What are LPPA dues  
for full-time students?

Answer on next pg.

The Libertarian Penn

May 2010

## Progress Report with Dr. Julian Hecklen

By Dr. Julian Hecklen  
*Libertarian Party and NJLP Member*

### *FIJA Distribution of April 8, 2010*

James Babb, Michael Molloy, and Julian Hecklen arrived at the U. S. District Courthouse at 601 Market Street in Philadelphia on Thursday April 8, 2010, at 11:15 am. The weather was warm and sunny—a beautiful spring day. We sat on a bench and started talking. Almost immediately three Homeland Security police officers arrived and started questioning us. What are our names? Why are we there? Show us identification. We refused to answer any of their questions or show identification. Hecklen purposely does not carry identification to these events. Hecklen said that is was none of their business. Furthermore Hecklen demanded that the officers provide their names and badge numbers, as they are required to. They refused. One of the officers seized Hecklen's sign, which read **JURY INFO.**

(Cont. on Pg 2)



Dr. Hecklen with  
Homeland Security  
Officer in Philadelphia

## Montgomery Co. Libertarians Rally Against Eminent Domain

By Ken Krawchuk  
*Libertarian Member— Montgomery County*

It was a dark and stormy morning. Fifteen of us milled about the parking lot in the windswept, 40-degree October rain awaiting the appointed moment when the day-long rally was scheduled to begin. Given that we were being pummeled by the second big Nor'easter storm in as many days, fifteen represented a great start; and before the rally was over, the rain would abate and the crowd swell, with total attendance estimated to be seventy-five, making it the largest rally organized by the Montgomery County Libertarians since 2002.

The issue was straightforward: the Abington Township commissioners voted to steal an 80-year-old widow's storefront property via eminent domain. They want to convert her place into a neighborhood library, even though the township's main library is approximately one mile away. Worse yet, there is a similar-sized building across the street from the stolen property that's already for sale – in fact, it even once hosted the library in its basement – but they voted to take the widow's building instead. Of course they offered her far below fair market value; the appraised price was almost 30% higher than the township's best offer. The commissioners' actions were simply indefensible – and with four of them up for re-election, the opportunity was too good for us to pass up.

We thought big. The plan was to stage a demonstration at the stolen property itself, then march on the township building (torches and pitchforks optional) to hold a second demonstration on its front lawn featuring speeches by local dignitaries. And if that wasn't enough, we were also going  
( Cont. on Pg 3)



## Progress Report with Dr. Hecklen (Cont.)

Heicklen demanded that it be returned. The officer refused. Heicklen wrestled it back into his possession.

Meantime Babb and Molloy were taking pictures. At 11:30 am an officer said to Michael Molloy "If you get too close with that camera, I will rip it out of your hands and shove it down your throat." A fourth officer joined the group and informed Babb, Molloy, and Heicklen that it was not permissible to distribute literature on federal property without a permit. Heicklen responded that he had a permit. He pulled a U. S. Constitution out of his pocket and showed the officer Amendment I. He said that was his permit. The officer said that was not sufficient. Heicklen pointed out that the Amendment started with "Congress shall make no law..." Heicklen asked the officer what is it about the word "no" that he does not understand.

At this point the officers left the scene and went into the courthouse. At 11:45 am, we started distributing FIJA flyers. Three additional Tyranny Fighters joined us. These were: George Donnelly, Adam Ochonicki and Richard Schwarz. Some distributed fliers, some took notes, some took pictures, and one person held our **JURY INFO** sign. A passerby, Jean Fung, had his picture taken with Heicklen holding the **JURY INFO** sign.

During this time ten Homeland Security Officers and three Philadelphia police cars appeared. Altogether there were 15 officers present. Their behavior was much changed. (My guess is that they received some legal advice while in the courthouse.) They left us alone and even became friendly. One officer even offered his name as Gary. We distributed about 100 pamphlets and left at 1:15 pm for lunch. We invited the Homeland Security police officers to join us, but they declined. We went across the street for Chinese lunch.

For full progress reports email [jph13@psu.edu](mailto:jph13@psu.edu) and please help spread the word.

**Have you  
seen the new**

**LPPA  
website??**

**Visit  
[www.lppa.org](http://www.lppa.org)**

*Thank you all for making the  
LPPA 2010 Convention a huge success.  
Until next year...*



**Trivia Answer:**

**\$5.00**



Marakay Rogers and Ken Krawchuk debate for the LPPA Governor Nomination



Andrew Hill, Chuck Boust and Ron Goodman work registration at the LPPA Convention

## Montgomery County Libertarians Rally Against Eminent Domain (Cont.)

to picket in front of the homes of all eight commissioners who voted in favor of the taking. Visiting eight targets scattered across a township of 56,000 takes time, so to fit everything into a single day we scheduled three of the visits prior to main rally, three afterwards, and two during the march on the township building.

It was an awesome sight to see. Starting at 10 AM, fifteen of us advanced through the rain from Roychester Park to zero in on the Ward 10 home of Commissioner James Ring. I had a brand-new megaphone for the occasion, and we put it to good use. We called on him to come out and face us, chanting, "Change your vote! Change your vote!" We did a few Woodstock-like "fish cheers", except the letters were T-H-I-E-F and T-Y-R-A-N-T. (What's that spell!) My favorite soundbite of the day was "Their vote is like a baby's diaper... It needs to be changed, and for the same reason." And so we went, from home to home to home, repeating the performance at all eight of the commissioners' houses. When we'd arrive, Jim Babb would call each of them on the phone to let them know there was an angry mob outside waiting to see them. (Jim even carried a sign that read, "ANGRY MOB".)

Unsurprisingly, none of them came out to speak with us. However, one did emerge from his house – and he had a buzzing chainsaw! But "Commissioner Jason" ignored us and proceeded to cut firewood instead. Talk about a lack of respect!

One thing that surprised everyone was the size of the turnout, especially on a day that was predicted to be cold, rainy, and miserable. There were likely a lot more who would have attended, had the weather cooperated, but the list of those who did attend was impressive enough as it is. Curious, I walked around and asked each person what group they were part of, or how did they hear of us; and among the answers I received were:

- Student Liberty Front of Drexel University in Philadelphia;
- Chester, Delaware, Luzerne, and Montgomery County Campaigns for Liberty;
- Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey Libertarian Parties
- Upper Montgomery County Republican Club
- Northeast Pennsylvania Libertarians
- Committees of Safety
- Ron Paul Meetups #54, 251, and 972
- Valley Forge Revolutionaries
- Delaware Valley Voluntaryists
- PA4ICE (an anti-immigration group)
- Abington Citizens Network
- Alliance for the Libertarian Left
- Ordinary citizens.

Talk about a big tent! There were also several children there as well, learning an invaluable civics lesson.

Participation in the rally waxed and waned through the day, beginning with 15 at Commissioner Ring's residence, 16 at Commissioner Benzak's, 17 at President Commissioner DiJoseph's, 42 at the Stolen Property, 50 at Commissioners Schreiber's and Carlin's, 28 on the march on the township building, 39 at the township building itself, then 14 at Commissioners Mike (not Jay) O'Connor's, Kline's and Peacock's houses. People came and went all day long, with an estimated total attendance of about 75.

Of course we were not alone in our travels. The Abington police dogged us every step of the way. Before you scowl, let me sing the praises of the sergeant in command. His first words to us on that cold, rainy morning were, "I promise no one is going to get arrested today. You have the Constitutional right to do what you're doing, and I'm here to make sure that you get to do it." I turned to the person next to me and said, "Pinch me."

But the man was serious. He'd make a few safety suggestions from time to time (good ones, too), but other than that he was pretty invisible. Whenever we visited a commissioner's home, he stationed a cruiser at either end of the block; a prudent move, if we were going to make trouble (which we didn't). But the most-remarkable moment

(Cont. on Pg 4)



***“We (still need) to get our statewide candidates on the ballot in 2010...though it’s the lowest requirement faced in years”***



## Chair’s Corner, with Michael “Mik” Robertson

I would like to thank all of our members who took the time to attend the LPPA convention in Harrisburg in March, and I would like to welcome our new LPPA executive committee treasurer Kat Valleley, and secretary Art Farnsworth. I would also like to congratulate Jim Fryman and Lou Jasikoff on their election to Western and Eastern vice-chairs, respectively.

We have a lot of great candidates trying to get on the ballot this year, including candidates for Governor, US Senate, a lot of Congressional Candidates and candidates for the General Assembly. The statewide signature requirement this year is lower than it has been for a long time, but it is still 10 times the number of signatures an old party candidates has to get for their publicly funded nomination election.

We have an all-volunteer effort this year to collect signatures for our candidates to be on the ballot, so we will need everyone’s help! There is a downloadable nomination paper with instructions and the statewide candidates pre-printed available on the [LPPA.org](http://LPPA.org) website. There is also a list of district candidates to add for your particular area.

We need everyone who possibly can to put in a few hours at the polls on Primary Day, Tuesday, May 18, 2010 to help get our candidates on the ballot! If 200 people can each collect 100 signatures that day, our drive will be successful in one day. Thank you in advance for all of your efforts, and I know we can be successful if we all work together.

Michael J. "Mik" Robertson  
Chair, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

## Mont. County LP Rally Against Eminent Domain (Cont.)

came when the sergeant stepped up alongside me late in the day, and the conversation went something like this: "I have some concerns about you guys going to the next commissioner’s house," he said. Warily, I replied, "What’s that?" "There’s no sidewalk out front. It’s a two-lane highway with forty-mile-an-hour traffic." I was lost, so I asked, "What would you suggest?" He looked at me and flatly said, "We can close down the highway for you." I stared back. "I can't believe you just said that!" He smiled and shrugged. "It's a matter of public safety, isn't it?" I kid you not. And so they closed the road for the half an hour we picketed.

Another interesting phenomenon that day was that some of the rally's participants came armed, open carry. No one cared, least of all the cops. See what I mean about the police? They sure have come a long way since I was at the first Earth Day rally at Independence Hall in 1970 when Richard Nixon was compiling his "enemies list".

Speaking of Independence Hall, across the street from it are the studios of *the* most-listen-to radio station in the Philadelphia market, KYW 1060 news radio, with gazillions of listeners. I sent them our press release, and apparently they listened. Every half-hour that Saturday, our rally was number three in their list of top stories, behind only the Phillies playoffs and the twin Nor'easters. Twice an hour all day long they aired soundbites of me arguing with sound bites of the township manager, telling the tale of how the commissioners stole the property of an 80-year-old widow. You can't BUY that kind of media coverage!

*(Cont. on Next Page)*

## Mont. County LP Rally Against Eminent Domain (Cont.)

But you can buy other things. For example, one man at the rally (not a Libertarian) shook our flyer at me, saying "Everyone in the township should be reading this!" I pointed out that to mail it to the citizens, just in the wards being contested this year, would cost about \$2,000. He pulled out his checkbook on the spot and asked, "To whom do I make out the check?"

All in all, it was a great day for Liberty, and only the opening salvo in a continuing battle, because the following month we held a second rally; I'll save that story for the next issue.

The moral of the day? Emotional arguments always trump logical ones, and by focusing on individual issues rather than the entire party platform, we can make great strides without compromising any our principles. Go to your local meetings, watch for your chance, then act. Remember the mantra of the grassroots activist, ten words of two letters each: *If it is to be, it is up to me.* Make it so.

*The rally on the web — [www.TinyURL.com/AbingtonRallyPartOne](http://www.TinyURL.com/AbingtonRallyPartOne) and [www.TinyURL.com/AbingtonRallyPartTwo](http://www.TinyURL.com/AbingtonRallyPartTwo).*

## What Am I?

By John Stossel

I used to be a Kennedy-style "liberal." Then I wised up. Now I'm a libertarian. But what does that mean? When I asked people on the street, half had no clue. We know that conservatives want government to conserve traditional values. They say they're for limited government, but they're pro-drug war, pro-immigration restriction and anti-abortion, and they often support "nation-building."

And so-called liberals? They tend to be anti-gun and pro-choice on abortion. They favor big, powerful government -- they say -- to make life kinder for people.

By contrast, libertarians want government to leave people alone -- in both the economic and personal spheres. Leave us free to pursue our hopes and dreams, as long as we don't hurt anybody else. Ironically, that used to be called "liberal," which has the same root as "liberty." Several hundred years ago, liberalism was a reaction against the stifling rules imposed by aristocracy and established religion. I wish I could call myself "liberal" now. But the word has been turned on its head. It now means health police, high taxes, speech codes and so forth.

So I can't call myself a "liberal." I'm stuck with "libertarian." If you have a better word, please let me know. When I first explained libertarianism to my wife, she said: "That's cruel! What about the poor and the weak? Let them starve?" I recently asked some prominent libertarians that question, including Jeffrey Miron, who teaches economics at Harvard. "It might in some cases be a little cruel," Miron said. "But it means you're not taking from people who've worked hard to earn their income (in order) to give it to people who have not worked hard."

But isn't it wrong for people to suffer in a rich country? "The number of people who will suffer is likely to be very small. Private charity ... will provide support for the vast majority who would be poor in the absence of some kind of support. When government does it, it creates an air of entitlement that leads to more demand for redistribution, till everyone becomes a ward of the state."

Besides, says Wendy McElroy, the founder of [ifeminists.com](http://ifeminists.com), "government aid doesn't enrich the poor. Government makes them dependent. And the biggest hindrance to the poor ... right now is the government. Government should get out of the way. It should allow people to open cottage industries without making them jump through hoops and licenses and taxing them to death. It should open up public lands and do a 20th-century equivalent of 40 acres and a mule. It should get out of the way of people and let them achieve and rise." (Cont. in next issue of LibPENN)

## Mann-Made Global Warming

By Henry Haller

*LPPA Member — Allegheny County*

The above title was recently used in a commentary by the Commonwealth Foundation. It is a clever play on words that leads the reader to understand that while global warming may not be caused by human activity (“man-made”), the global warming alarm is “Mann-made,” i.e. driven by the work of Penn State Professor Michael Mann.

It was Dr. Mann who in 1999 published the now-discredited “hockey stick” depiction of the history of global temperatures over the past 1000 years. This graph showed global temperatures as essentially constant up until the latter part of the 20th Century, and then abruptly heading upwards. This depiction totally ignores the Medieval Warm Period, which is generally considered to have been warmer than any time in the 20th Century. When asked to share the data on which he developed this graph, Dr. Mann refused.

The work of Dr. Mann, as well as that of other global warming alarmists, was recently brought into question by the release of more than a thousand emails and other documents from the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia in England. These emails suggest that these “scientists” have manipulated data, hidden data that did not support their theses, and tried to suppress the publication of articles by so-called global warming skeptics.

An example of how Dr. Mann tried to hide his data is found in an email dated July 31, 2003, to a colleague, Dr. Osborn:

**“p.s. I know I probably don’t need to mention this, but just to insure absolutely clarity on this, I’m providing these for your own personal use, since you’re a trusted colleague. So please don’t pass this along to others without checking w/ me first. This is the sort of “dirty laundry” one doesn’t want to fall into the hands of those who might potentially try to distort things...”**

An example of how Dr. Mann tried to discredit those with views opposed to his own is found in an email dated July 11, 2003 in which he suggests a boycott of the journal Climate Research because it published papers of which he disapproved:

“I think that the community should, as Mike H has previously suggested in this eventuality, terminate its involvement with this journal at all levels--reviewing, editing, and submitting, and leave it to wither way into oblivion and disrepute.”

Under threat of this boycott, half the editorial board of Climate Research resigned, and people who authored papers critical of the global warming orthodoxy found it much more difficult to get their papers published.

A true scientist will sort through data with the objective of determining the relevant physical phenomena. It would appear that Dr. Mann first decided on the physical phenomena, and then sorted through the data to find those that supported his predetermined conclusion. Similarly, a true scientist welcomes oversight by his peers, including their findings of any flaws in his work. Apparently Dr. Mann is not at all open to any such oversight. This conduct is completely inconsistent with scientific methodology.

Penn State University has announced its intention to investigate Dr. Mann’s alleged misconduct. However, the Commonwealth Foundation questions whether this will be an objective investigation, given that Dr. Mann has brought considerable money in the form of research grants into the university. Accordingly, they have called for an investigation by the Pa. Legislature, in view of the fact that Penn State receives considerable state support. Anyone concerned with bringing these issues to light should contact their legislator and urge him to support such an investigation.

## Want to Contribute to the LibPENN?

Do you have something to say? Who am I kidding, we're Libertarians. So why not join the LibPENN, the LPPA Official Newsletter committee. There is minimal commitment and you can work from home on your own schedule. You basically write Libertarian articles that you feel other Libertarians in PA would enjoy reading, send them in and you're done. If you would like to help out, but not write an article, maybe serve as a proofreader or send in article suggestions to the committee.

What kind of articles are we looking for? Current events are always popular and even better if they are Pennsylvania-specific. To get you started, all I need is a title of your masterpiece and a due date. Interested? Contact [weneedjohnfalt9@yahoo.com](mailto:weneedjohnfalt9@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Thank you for supporting the LPPA!!

### The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Membership Form

#### Membership Options

- ◇ Full Membership / Renewal- \$15.00
- ◇ Associate Member - FREE (with valid e-mail)
- ◇ New Membership - \$15.00 (\$5.00 Full-Time Students)
- ◇ 1788 Society - \$12 / month or \$120 / year or more (includes full membership)

*NOTE: Full membership includes LibPENN Newsletter and voting privileges at the state convention.*

The Libertarian Party is the party of principal. To publically affirm what we believe - and to ensure that our party never strays from our principal - we ask our members to proudly sign this statement.

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

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (required)

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#### Member Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: The LPPA 3915 Union Deposit Road, #223 Harrisburg, PA 17109

*Visit [www.lppa.org](http://www.lppa.org) to join, renew or donate online*



## Local Libertarian Meetings Near You — *Get involved today*

ALLEGHENY CO.— 3rd Wednesday of Month, 7pm — Ritters Diner

LANCASTER CO.— 3rd Tuesday of Month, 6pm — Symposium

DAUPHIN CO.— September 7th, 6pm — Doc Holidays, New Cumberland

YORK CO.— 4th Monday of Month, 7pm — First Capital Dispensing Company

CLARION CO.— May 10th, 6pm — BJ's Eatery, High Point Road

MONTGOMERY CO.— 1st Wed. of Month, 7:30pm — Phila. Inquire Building

CUMBERLAND CO. — 2nd Monday of Month, 7pm — Market Cross Pub

For More Libertarian County Meetings, Visit the forum at [www.lppa.org](http://www.lppa.org)

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