The New Rules! LPCO has New Membership Program

By Rand Fanshier
Outreach Director
Libertarian Party of Colorado

The Libertarian National Committee voted to end the dues requirement for National Party membership last month, which will help the State party in several ways.

Did you ever hear the old Chinese proverb, “He who cuts his own wood warms himself twice?” This principle will work in a similar way for us here in Colorado, as we roll out the new membership program (see page 15).

Under the Unified Membership Program (UMP), the old rules were, when a party member in Colorado sent in

(Continued on Page 14)

Debunking the Myths of Referendum C & D

By Richard C. Randall
LPCO Legislative Director

Supporters of Big Government are aggressively attacking TABOR using both spin and out right lies. Their attacks are both general and personal. What started as a personal insult toward TABOR author, Douglas Bruce, has grown into their battle cry to “De-Bruce”!

Supporters of Ref. C believe that government bureaucrats are more capable of making informed decisions about how and where to spend your money and your neighbor’s money.

Referendum C (“C” is for Con) was designed to convince Colorado that government bureaucrats know best, and to trust them to more wisely spend our money. By convincing enough people to willingly vote to give their money to the government, the government would be empowered to TAKE back the refunds owed to those who object.

The Libertarian Party believes the people of Colorado know best when making decisions about how and where to spend their money, and oppose Referendum C!

The Employment Spin

The recent recession hit Colorado hard. Our business downturn was worse than what most other states experienced. Colorado lost thousands of jobs in our state’s most vital business sectors: technology, construction, tourism and agriculture. Many economists say the recent recession was more severe in Colorado than previous busts. Businesses cut back on investment more quickly and shed more jobs than during the downturn of the late 1980s. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that Colorado suffered the nation’s second-largest job loss, more than 115,000 positions from March 2001 to January 2004.

The Employment Truth

This is exactly why we need TABOR! Colorado did experience an increase in unemployment from 2000 until 2003. However, the unemployment rate in Colorado has improved significantly; and continues to improve. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that, as of June 2005, Colorado ranked 28th in unemployment with 4.9% of the workforce unemployed.

Clearly, it would be irresponsible for government to continue to grow during difficult economic times. If the people of Colorado have to tighten their belts, so should state government! TABOR did exactly what it was designed to do, LIMIT government growth.

(Continued on Page 6)
Letter from the Chairman

By Travis Nicks
LPCO Chairman

Fellow Friends of Liberty,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and your new board of directors and describe our current achievements and future direction. I apologize for the delay in the newsletter’s delivery. We have changed vendors and formats for this newsletter to improve quality and believe that it was worth the wait.

Leah Kelly is our Campaigns Director responsible for providing support and direction to our candidates and is currently working with Doug Anderson’s campaign. Richard Randall is our Legislative Director and he has been working on building relationships and coalitions within the Colorado political environment. Sean Ayers is our Media Director and is in continual contact with our allies in the press. Rand Fanshier and Debbie Schum are our “people on the press. Rand Fanshier and Debbie Schum are our “people on the press.

Doug Anderson (Larimer County Affiliate) has been working on building our Legislative Director and he is in continual contact with Doug Anderson’s (Larimer County Affiliate) support and direction to our website. Mike Spalding is our Media Director and is in continual contact with Doug Anderson’s (Larimer County Affiliate) website.

Gallant has volunteered to be our Records Director in charge of our mailing lists and contacts. And Steve Front Range) helping affiliates increase participation. Bad Martin, as the Treasurer, makes sure we don’t spend all our money on candy. Patrick Esser has kindly organized and published this newsletter as our Publications Director as well as maintaining the website. Michelle Pogue is our Fundraising Director and will be organizing fundraising events and mailing. And Steve Gallant has volunteered to be our Records Director in charge of our mailing lists and contacts. And Steve Front Range) helping affiliates increase participation. Bad Martin, as the Treasurer, makes sure we don’t spend all our money on candy. Patrick Esser has kindly organized and published this newsletter as our Publications Director as well as maintaining the website. Michelle Pogue is our Fundraising Director and will be organizing fundraising events and mailing.

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All of these things are needed to advance liberty but we aren’t done yet. We still have many hurdles to cross. The LNC has decided to halt the unified membership program dues. This means that we will no longer be receiving our monthly disbursement of dues from the national office. In response to this we have decided to set up a “Contributing Membership Program”. This will provide many benefits to the LPCO. We will be in more direct contact with the state’s membership and all money sent to the state party stays in the state. We need your help to continue advancing liberty and getting candidates elected. A monthly pledge aids us in budgeting and providing a stable income for the party so that we may continue advancing. We not only need funds but also volunteers. Please consider helping in any way you can. The most important thing you can do is become a contributing member to the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

While we still face many challenges we are making leaps and bounds. We are succeeding in the state of Colorado and we will continue to succeed with your help. The wave of voters is coming. Many people are disgruntled with their current party (either the Democrats or the Republicans) and we have the ability to give them a real choice in politics. The future of the Libertarian Party of Colorado is bright and our children’s future will be secured by the efforts of all of us today.

Thank you for your participation,

Your friend in Liberty

Travis L. Nicks
Chairman, Libertarian Party of Colorado.

A P P L I E T E  C O N T A C T S :  

Arapahoe County Affiliate (Forming): Chair: To be announced
Website: arapahoe.lpcolorado.org Email: arapahoe@lpcolorado.org

Boulder County Affiliate: Chair: Bo Schaffer (303) 776-3007
Website: boulder.lpcolorado.org Email: boulder@lpcolorado.org

Montrose County Affiliate: Chair: Lane Mills
Website: westernslope.lpcolorado.org Email: westernslope@lpcolorado.org

Pueblo County Affiliate (Forming): Chair: To be announced
Website: pueblo.lpcolorado.org Email: pueblo.lpcolorado.org

San Miguel County Affiliate: Chair: Dr. Marc Gutman
Website: sanmiguel.lpcolorado.org Email: sanmiguel@lpcolorado.org

Ouray County Affiliate (Forming): Chair: To be announced
Website: ouray.lpcolorado.org Email: ouray@lpcolorado.org

CSU Campus Libertarians (Forming): Chair: To be announced
Website: csu.lpcolorado.org Email: csu@lpcolorado.org

Larimer County Affiliate (Forming): Chair: To be announced
Website: larimer.lpcolorado.org Email: larimer@lpcolorado.org

Delta County Affiliate: Chair: Debbie Schum (970) 234-8056
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Website: elpaso.lpcolorado.org Email: elpaso@lpcolorado.org

Pueblo County Affiliate (Forming): Chair: To be announced
Website: pueblo.lpcolorado.org Email: pueblo.lpcolorado.org

Saguache County Affiliate: Chair: J.W. Burton (719) 588-4854
Website: saguache.lpcolorado.org Email: saguache@lpcolorado.org

Ouray County Affiliate (Forming): Chair: To be announced
Website: ouray.lpcolorado.org Email: ouray@lpcolorado.org

CSU Campus Libertarians (Forming): Chair: To be announced
Website: csu.lpcolorado.org Email: csu@lpcolorado.org

Send Articles, News, Letters, Editorials, Cartoons, Pictures, address changes or advertising to:

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The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party: “To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office.”
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n Kansas City, during the last LNC meeting, many things were decided but the biggest, widest reaching decisions were the reduction of dues to zero and the elimination of the Unified Membership Program. This move was motivated by several things but the biggest factor was the need of our organization to move forward toward the goal of electing Libertarians to public office.

According to our National Bylaws, anyone who signs the pledge is a member and remains a member until that person revokes his pledge. However, for the purpose of delegate counts and for the purpose of funding the National LP organization, dues were put in place. The amount of those dues were to be set by the LNC. What we have found as of late is that almost 48% of our members only pay the $25 and another 4% donate even less than that amount. Our office staff has spent too much time chasing membership dues and dues paying membership numbers that there has been no time left to do what our mission statement says: Effect public policy by electing Libertarians to public office.

According to Michael Dixon, our National Chairman:

“For nearly 35 years the primary function of the party has been the counting, selling and managing of memberships. The activities of data entry, of membership solicitation, and of member support crowded out all other activities in our national office. When our candidates and activists asked for support they were told we were busy buying and selling membership lists and creating the next great pitch. In the bold new world, the national office will focus on raising money and performing services for affiliates and candidates. This is beginning immediately with training initiatives for state leaders and will continue later this year with several very exciting initiatives intended to provide broad-based activist training. At the same time there will be a radical change in the relationship between the national and state organizations. For many years most states have been funded by the national LP. These payments, referred to as UMP have provided significant base-level funding for state parties. With the end of the national membership this program will also come to an end.

While the UMP was a collection of both state and national dues, many states ceased trying to renew or bring in new dues paying membership. National spent all the money brought in by these dues trying to collect dues. There was no money left for candidate training or support. With this bold move toward a donor based organization, we will be raising money to support candidates, campaign managers, and outreach. Some of that support will be in direct funding, most will be in training.

Dues are at zero starting in January. I have been asked if people should renew their dues this fall. Yes, you should renew your dues this fall if your dues paying membership expires for the following reasons:

1) Delegate count for this upcoming or for any future meeting will be based on the number of dues paying members. National spent all the money in these dues trying to collect dues. There was no money left for candidate training or support. With this bold move toward a donor based organization, we will be raising money to support candidates, campaign managers, and outreach. Some of that support will be in direct funding, most will be in training.

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2) While the LNC has set dues to zero starting in January, the LNC cannot eliminate dues. The convention delegates of ’06 will decide whether to keep the dues paying membership model or not. If the delegates chose not to eliminate dues, the LNC will then have to set some amount of dues. Your dues, if paid this Fall will be good until Fall of 2006, no matter what the new dues rate may be.

3) Your up to date dues will include a year’s subscription to the National LP News. Personally, I look forward to receiving this publication. As of January 1, 2006, this paper will be by subscription only.

Do you have more questions? Feel free to contact me at BetteRose@AOL.com.

They Libertarian Party

By BetteRose Ryan
At-Large Representative
National Libertarian Party

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The Bold New Move of the Libertarian Party

By BetteRose Ryan

Just when you thought Big Brother couldn't get much bigger, Colorado came up with a solution. Big Mother.

This past session, the Colorado legislature passed two bills from the playpen, otherwise known as nanny state bills, SB087&HB1161. SB087 expanded our already existing vaccination registry (CIIIS, Colorado Immunization Information System) and gave the health department the authority to directly contact us regarding our children's vaccination status. 48% of children are currently in this registry. They do not have to ask your permission before entering your information and you cannot truly opt out. If you try, you end up in an “opt-out table.” Amendments to make this system a true opt-out failed.

HB1161 actually takes money from purchasing vaccines to fund the tracking system. This makes a lot of sense when you realize that part of the reason for our supposed low vaccination rate was a vaccine shortage. Colorado couldn't afford to pay the higher price for DTaP vaccine during a period of national shortage, so the board of health suspended the fourth dose of this vaccine. It was the only category in which Colorado was low. For three years, our media kept blasting the “Colorado is dead last in vaccinating” lie all over the newspapers, the television, and anywhere they could. Now that the medical establishment got their way and passed both of these intrusive bills, the Colorado Health Institute issued a 64 page report which came to the conclusion that, guess what? Colorado is right where it should be with vaccination rates, except for that pesky fourth dose of DTaP. They also cite poverty as a reason for low rates in some categories.

The big question is this; how will a multi-million dollar tracking system funded by our tax dollars (thanks to HB1161) solve vaccine shortages and poverty? The answer is that it won’t. This tracking system was never about raising rates. It is about government control and the end of medical privacy and freedom of choice. If anyone truly wanted to raise vaccination rates, they wouldn't take money directly from the pool that purchases vaccines.

So what's next? The big lie that Colorado is last in vaccinating is being used to end TABOR.

In Colorado, we have the right to choose whether or not to vaccinate. Our law allows for three exemptions from school requirements. Most people however, including school officials, do not know we have the right to choose. HB1161 will NOT shy away from selling membership numbers and anywhere they could. Now will also come to an end.

Significant base-level funding for the biggest factor was the need of our organization to move forward toward the goal of electing Libertarians to public office.

And therefore, the Libertarian Party of Colorado has an absolute assurance. Sophisticated marketing and profit strategies, political agenda or is too controversial, they refuse to sell it. “Censorship is the tool of tyrants and oppressors. Who dares tell you what you are allowed to view?” claims BRP.

Co-owner Jesse Herron. “Many of our books are by authors who find it difficult to locate a publisher or, who may have paid out of their own pocket to have their books published but lack an appropriate outlet through which to sell their books or media. Regardless of their topic, we will NOT shy away from selling a book because of its content.”

BRP offers a wide assortment of genres from Art History to Political Science to UFO's. You'll find books about aliens taking control of our government, who the Illuminati are, the conspiracies against free energy and many other topics. Juicy literary works that are becoming more difficult to find.

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You can help the Libertarian Party expand this publication and your business at the same time.

Would you like to see the Libertarians expand their influence to become a more powerful proponent of justice, freedom and liberty? Do you like to see Libertarians making a difference within our great state, Colorado? Wouldn’t it be great to expand the Colorado Liberty, official publication of the Libertarian Party of Colorado to an outreach tool to encourage new people to join AND make it pay for itself so that donations can be used for other desperately needed areas? This is the goal of the LPCO and you can help by advertising your business, book, belief or campaign in the Colorado Liberty.

The Colorado Liberty is going to get a facelift starting with going back to newsprint with more information, articles, interaction and FUN. 5,000+ Libertarians could be reading your ad. The cheapest advertising in the state: $7 per column inch (at 5 columns per page) or for 12 column inches or more at $5 per column inch. Basically, you can advertise a business card size ad in the liberty for only $28 or a full page ad for $200. At least 5,000 copies of these are published, mailed or distributed. That is 4 cents per view for a full page ad. You cannot beat that price anywhere! The more advertising we sell, the more copies we make! We can work with you to make an excellent ad.

The Libertarian Party of Colorado needs your help—Please advertise! Contact Patrick Esser at (970) 275-0181 or email at advertise@lpcolorado.org

All cartoons provided by RUSSMO. For t-shirts featuring this great Libertarian cartoonist visit http://www.russmo.com

Website Facelift Coming

The lpcolorado.org website will be getting a new facelift in the coming weeks. The current site has a complex navigation structure which requires you to dig through the various menus to find what you want. Organizing this structure can make visiting the site a more enjoyable experience especially for those less web savvy.

The main index page will feature dynamic Colorado themed media. Headlining Liberty Alerts of current political issues with outreach events will become the website’s top priority. The site will also feature an interactive outlet for activists with an uncensored web forum to share libertarian topics and comments. A forum is an online chat and blog combined, where discussions of related topics and replies can be posted on the web. Anyone wanting to contribute ideas or volunteer efforts, please contact Patrick Esser at publications@lpcolorado.org.
Debunking the Myths of Referendum C & D

The Budget Spin

Ripple effects from Colorado’s recession fell directly on state government — and on services many Coloradans take for granted. The revenue shortfall forced a billion-dollar cut in state spending. A billion dollars in budget cuts is hitting Colorado families hard.

The State Truth

The 2005-06 Colorado budget is the largest in history! In fact, it is a 7% increase over the previous year. But less than half, $6.2 billion, is in the state’s general fund. There is another $3.3 billion in money paid by citizens but not refunded to them by government. That is in the state’s “funds exempt,” and thus not part of TABOR. That’s another $18 billion in potential savings. However, the legislature has failed to find efficient ways of reorganizing state government, and it has failed to cut wasteful and low-priority spending.

The Public School Truth

Despite Amendment 23—the voter-approved constitutional provision that mandates a base level of spending on K-12 education—Colorado’s public obligation to K-12 education, including the state’s obligation to public education such as preschool and mental education such as reading programs over the past two years, is up 7.3 percent from last year. That forces colleges to sharply increase tuition charges. Higher education is more important than government spending on K-12 education — Colorado’s public obligation to K-12 education, including the state’s obligation to public education such as preschool and mental education such as reading programs over the past two years, is up 7.3 percent from last year.

The College Myth

The state has (or will) cut Medicaid funding. The Medicaid Truth

During the recent years of slower economic growth between 2001 and 2005, Medicaid’s general fund appropriation Grew 16 percent. Medicaid and health care funding increased in the 2005-06 budget by $1.38 billion, up 8.4 percent. There is absolutely NO indication that Medicaid funding will be cut.

The Immunization Spin

Colorado is last in immunizations. The Immunization Truth

According to the nutrition program, Colorado was low. The reason for our supposed low vaccination rate was a vaccine shortage. Colorado couldn’t afford to pay the higher price for DTaP vaccine during a national shortage, so the board of health suspended the fourth dose of this vaccine, the ONLY category Colorado was low.

(Continued on Page 7)
The Highway Truth

While it is true that total transportation spending has decreased from almost $1.39 billion in 2001 to $822 million this year, under the new "Transportation Equity Act for Users" (TEA-LU) legislation (H.R. 3), enacted on July 29, 2005 and signed into law by President Bush Aug. 10, Colorado will receive more than $2.45 billion during the next five years in highway funding - an increase of more than 46%, the highest increase of any state. Considering that the 2005-06 Colorado Transportation budget reached $291.4 million, this new funding will be an increase of approximately $200 million per year for the next 5 years!

In 1998, Colorado's received a 90.5-cent return on its federal gas tax dollars. Under this new legislation, Colorado's rate of return increased to 92 cents on the dollar. We don't need Ref. C or D in order to fund adequate transportation in Colorado.

The Budget Truth

During the 2005 Colorado legislative session, the legislature passed a number of NEW spending bills in anticipation of the passage of Referendums C & D. If you add up all this new spending, and the automatic increases built into this new spending, over 5 years you'll get $2 billion of NEW spending! If Ref. C fails, there will be no funding for this massive expansion of government.

The Reserves Myth

TADOR doesn't allow for reserves. We need to take a break so we can build up reserves.

The Reserves Truth

TADOR not only allows for reserves, it mandates them. The legislature raider these reserves and spent them all. But it's worse. They've already passed $2 billion in overspending for the next 5 years and Referendum D allocates another $3 billion in spending. With the Referendum C tax increase they'll only take another $3.1 billion. How do they get reserves out of that math?

The Tax Increase Myth

Ref. C is not a tax increase.

The Tax Increase Truth

Ref. C sets a new TADOR revenue cap at the HIGHEST level of state tax revenue reached between now and 2011. This allows the state to keep and spend revenues up to that new limit, and then adjust the limit upward for population growth and inflation from that year on. This is CLEARLY a tax increase!

Also, beginning in 2011, Ref. C also adds another $100 million a year to the new state revenue cap. If voters approve Ref. D. The tax revenues would cover bond payments for the Ref. D spending plan. This means that we can expect taxes to increase $100 million EVERY year after 2011!

This means that Ref. C & D will mortgage away our children's income! For both your sake and our children, vote NO on Referendum C & D!

What is the LPCO doing to defeat Ref. C & D?

LPCO Chairman, Travis Nicks, made it official. The LPCO has joined a coalition of non-partisan groups OPPOSING Ref. C & D. The LPCO began working with FreedomWorks to establish contacts and infrastructure to deliver fliers, bumper stickers and yard signs to activists.

Rick Randall has been coordinating with affiliates and activists to ensure that (1) activists receive the materials from Freedom Works as quickly as possible, and (2) that parades, fairs and other events are covered with activists opposing Ref. C.

...Continued from page 6...
DEA—Take My Cancer, Not My Medication!

By Patrick Esser
Publications Director, Libertarian Party of Colorado

Colorado is one of ten states (other states: AK, AZ, CA, HI, ME, MD, MT, NV and OR) where voters approved propositions allowing the use of medical marijuana. Since marijuana is not acknowledged as having medicinal uses in the Controlled Substances Act, the DEA does not recognize any of the states’ propositions. On numerous occasions the DEA has targeted non-profit organizations that distribute medical marijuana in states with laws allowing it.

Such is the case with a Santa Cruz, California-based co-op, Women’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM.org.) On September 5, 2004, dozens of armed DEA agents raided the group’s marijuana growing facility destroying it. They arbitrarily and becomes unmanageable without cannabis...

Angel Raich, Diane Monson and two kids—85 percent of whom are terminally ill with AIDS, cancer or other painful diseases.

Why would the federal government find it so necessary to raid these clinics, which were 100% legal by all local and state laws? Does the DEA know more about medications than the medical field? Many medical organizations internationally endorse medical access to marijuana, including the American Public Health Association, the Federation of American Scientists and the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine to just name a few. Over eighty percent of Americans believe that cannabis should be legal to use for medical purposes.

Angel McClary Raich of Oakland, California explains, “I owe my survival and my ability to lead a relatively normal existence to medical marijuana... I suffer from several conditions that cause severe, chronic pain... I cannot bathe the inoperable brain tumor, seizures, and life-threatening wasting syndrome, accompanied by near-constant nausea, as well as several other diseases. This complex mosaic of interlocking medical problems has been a huge challenge for my doctors. Complicating my treatment has been the fact that I have severe chemical sensitivities and am violently allergic to almost all of the pharmaceutical drugs that are modern medicine’s first, second, and third lines of defense against most of my illnesses...

“I owe my survival and my ability to lead a relatively normal existence to medical marijuana...”

Angel Raich

I understand that my case brings up an interesting point of law that fascinates judges and lawyers: But for me, it’s a matter of life and death. With Cannabis, I can play with my kids, walk without a wheelchair, sometimes even get a few hours sleep at night. Without it, I couldn’t go on for very long.

Angel’s physician, Frank Henry Lucido, MD declared, “Angel will suffer imminent harm without access to cannabis... Angel needs to medicate every two waking hours. If she misses a treatment, it could quickly have dangerous repercussions for her health... The pain is bad enough even with cannabis, but it flares up immediately and becomes unmanageable without cannabis... Angel has no reasonable legal alternative to cannabis for the effective treatment or alleviation of her medical conditions or symptoms associated with the medical conditions because she has tried essentially all other legal alternatives to cannabis and the alternatives have been ineffective or result in intolerable side effect. There are no other treatments that I can reasonably recommend for Angel, other than what we are already doing in her course of treatment. It could very well be fatal for Angel to forego cannabis treatments because of a law that may purport to prohibit the medical use of cannabis.”

On October 9, 2002 Angel Raich, Diane Monson and two other anonymous Californian caregivers filed lawsuits against U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and DEA Director Asa Hutchinson in an attempt to prevent the DEA from impeding their rights to take medical marijuana. On December 16, 2003 the U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit directed a preliminary injunction stopping the federal government from interfering with their use of medical marijuana. This was a great win for state’s rights, however, the federal government appealed the decision to the Supreme Court. Recently on June 6th, 2005 the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Medical marijuana users are again DEA targets.

When something in politics is pushed that makes no sense, you can typically rely on the logical explanation—Money. Who would financially benefit from banning medical marijuana? Could it be law enforcement agencies gaining confiscations, private prisons needing more inmates, or the pharmaceutical industry eliminating competition? The health care industry is the third largest political action committee (PAC) group in the United States only surpassed by Finance/Insurance and Organized Labor.

One of the biggest mistakes made by medical marijuana lobby groups, is a blind faith endorsement of politicians. If these groups would research the monetary contributions made by pharmaceutical PACs, they would discover nearly equal distribution between Republicans and Democrats. What better reason for them to take a look at the Libertarian Party.

Endnotes:
1—Courtesy Women’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana, 490 Cedar St. #39, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, www.WAMM.org
2—American Public Health Assoc. Resolution 95/1 “Access to Therapeutic Marijuana” concluded, “the APHA urges the Administration and Congress to move expeditiously to make cannabis available as a legal medicine.”
3—Federation of American Scientists adopted in November 1994 concluded... was made to efforts to enroll seriously ill patients whose physicians believe that whole cannabis would be helpful to their conditions...
5—Time/CNN Poll conducted October 2002.
6—Courtesy Angel Wings Patient Outreach, Inc. PO Box 18767, Oakland, CA 94619, (510) 764-1499, www.angeljustice.org
7—Declaration of Frank Henry Lucido, MD in support of preliminary injunctions (Case no. C 02 4872 EMC, Raich v. Ashcroft)
8—According to Political Money Line (FEINCOM) for the 93-94 political cycle-PAC Search by Grouping.
The Free State Project is a proposal by a group of libertarians whereby 20,000 of them would settle in a localized area within one of 10 states by 2006 and exert the fullest practical effort toward the creation of a society in which the maximum role of government is the protection of life, liberty and property. This entails reductions in taxation and regulation, reforms at all levels of government to expand individual rights and free markets, and a restoration of constitutional federalism and the principle of individual sovereignty.

Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming were the original 10 target states. New Hampshire was selected (by a vote of participants) as the common destination.

New Hampshire’s state motto is “Live Free or Die.” It has the lowest state and local tax burden in the continental U.S. and the second lowest level of dependence on federal spending. It has a state house “citizen” legislature where representatives haven’t raised their $100 per year salary since 1889. New Hampshire also has a culture of individual responsibility (for example, there are no seatbelt or helmet regulations for adults) and the lowest crime rates in the country (less unnecessary regulation inherently means less crime). Then a very interesting development took place.

In June 2005, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled 5-4 that the government has the right to seize private property and transfer title to other private individuals simply to stimulate economic development.

While the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution allows government to seize private property and convert it into “public use,” Supreme Court Justices Souter, Stevens, Ginsberg, Breyer and Kennedy believed transferring property to a private individual somehow constituted public usage.

Much of the public disagreed, including a man named Logan Clements of Los Angeles. Clements ran for governor of California in ‘03. His philosophy of a voluntary society and free-will capitalism is based on the 1957 novel Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand.

It turns out that Clements is one of the Free State Project participants, on his way to a better life in New Hampshire. It also turns out that Supreme Court Justice David Souter owns a 200-year-old farmhouse on eight acres near Weare, New Hampshire. Thus, a collision is about to occur.

Clements wants to build a hotel, similar to the one Justice Souter voted in favor of allowing private individuals to build after confiscating private homes in the court case, on Justice Souter’s New Hampshire property. Accordingly, Clements has notified the local Weare township council, requesting they start eminent domain proceedings against Justice Souter’s New Hampshire property. Accordingly, Clements has notified the local Weare township council, requesting they start eminent domain proceedings against Justice Souter’s property, thereby promoting economic development for the area.

A counterproposal from the townspeople would turn Souter’s property into a park commemorating the U.S. Constitution. Town Clerk Evelyn Connor has had to return checks from people wishing to donate to the cause.

I belong to a similar organization called the Get Outta Here Project—a bunch of grumpy hermits who have settled in northern Arkansas and discourage visitors. We believe in life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and minding our own business. Anyone wishing to contribute to our cause can send their donation directly to me.

Bret Burquest is an award-winning columnist and author of four novels. He can be contacted at bret@centurytel.net.

www.freestateproject.org © Call toll-free 1-888-532-4604
LPCO AFFILIATE UPDATE

San Miguel Takes Shape

By Reilly Capps

San Miguel County is known as one of the most politically freethinking counties in Colorado. And while the county largely votes Democratic, it has three elected minor-party candidates: one from the Green Party and two Libertarians.

(Telluride's Town Council also has one Green Party member.) Members of third parties make up just a small proportion of San Miguel's voters. Of the county's 5,269 registered voters, only 124 are members of minor parties.

Thirty-nine of those are Libertarians, according to County Clerk Doris Ruffe. And for a party with only 39 registered members - the party says it has 42 now - to have two elected representatives is unusual.

Trying to expand on its electoral success, Libertarians in the county are beginning to organize, forming the San Miguel County Libertarian Party. They held their first meeting in January, built a Web site (smclp.org), and have begun to talk about running more Libertarians in the November elections.

"Everybody's kind of a free thinker here," said Bill Masters, the Sheriff of San Miguel County and a Libertarian. "I think we kind of encourage free thought. We're also a highly educated population and that often encourages risk taking. I mean, hell, they elected me Sheriff!"

Bob Dempsey, County Coroner since 1981, is also a Libertarian. "I got so disgusted - I was a Republican - and I got so disgusted with the Republicans, mainly their kowtowing to the religious right," Dempsey said. "They were getting away from their basis of less regulation ... I want more freedom and less security. When you start getting more security, you get less freedom."

Libertarians believe in smaller government, less taxes, a less aggressive and interventionist foreign policy, more personal freedom and more power delegated to states and other local legislative bodies.

San Miguel is only the sixth county in Colorado to have a Libertarian Party affiliate. Most of the others are in large counties like Boulder, Denver and Arapahoe.

At its first meeting in January, five people showed up. The meetings have steadily grown, and at their third meeting last week, about 10 men and one woman sat around a table and expressed their frustration at the government, which they feel has over-extended its power and trampled on the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

Marc Guttman, the party's chairman, said that it's sometimes hard to be a Libertarian, since there are so many negative stereotypes around. Because Libertarians want a smaller government, people call them anti-government nuts. Because they oppose the War on Drugs, people call them potheads. Because they want to pay fewer taxes and keep more of what they earn, people call them selfish.

But Guttman is hardly a misanthrope. He's a doctor in the emergency room of the Telluride Medical Clinic, dedicated to fixing people up. He thinks that a smaller government would lead to a society filled with more private charity, with neighbors taking care of the U.S. neighbors.

"In the past, the people who were having hard times could depend on their neighbors," Guttman said. "There used to be many charitable hospitals, doctors and nurses who would give their time voluntarily to people who need it. The problem is that government took over the job," and it doesn't do the job as well.

Eric Adolphi left the Democratic Party shortly after the Iraq War began and joined the Libertarians. "I don't feel that I 'left' the Democratic Party. They left me," he wrote in an e-mail. "After the Democrats essentially rubber-stamped the Iraq War of the U.S. Patriot Act, I was very disillusioned. They voted based on the ability to maintain their incumbency rather than vote for what was morally correct."

On nearly every question, Libertarians push for more personal freedom. They think that government should be the problem, not the solution. And if you think Libertarians seek overly simple solutions to complex problems, remember that the ranks of Libertarians include people like Thomas Jefferson, Henry David Thoreau, and the co-creator of South Park, Trey Parker.

Masters is the nation's only Libertarian Sheriff. And although Masters has been the sheriff since 1980, he was long a Republican. Not that he really wanted to be. Masters was a Libertarian cop in Telluride when the job of Sheriff opened up. The Republican-controlled board of county commissioners said they would appoint Masters, who preferred to run on the Republican ticket, so "I sold out," Masters said.

But after years as an incumbent, with mounting frustration with the Republicans' big-government solutions and its Pyrrhic victories in the War on Drugs, Masters returned to the Libertarian Party and ran in 2002 on the Libertarian ticket.

Though some of his Republican friends were upset, Masters said the voters were open-minded. Dempsey, too, said supported his change of affiliation.

"I think every American's a Libertarian," Masters said. "When you really look at the core values of our party, alternative to big government, and we don't necessarily need to be relying on government for everything."

ENDING PROHIBITION

Medical Marijuana

By Dr. Shawn Elke Glazer

In the medical school curriculum, the discussion of cannabis sativa or marijuana is limited to the drugs of abuse section. It was two years after my graduation that I first learned of its many benefits. My teacher in this case was a patient, a soft-spoken mother of two. She had HIV (human immuno deficiency virus) but without the lab tests it was difficult to imagine this beautiful, brave woman was ill in any way. "Her secret?" She brooded over from the cannabis buds and whimpered a bit to curl the nausea from taking the complicated 24 pills a day regimen to keep the virus under control.

Horrified at the idea my patient was using an illicit substance that could cause harm and with legal action she could lose custody of her children, I urged her to stop and use the legal alternative, a drug called Marinol. First we had to apply for assistance as the drug cost in excess of $5000 a month. In contrast her "home grown" remedy cost was 25 cents per environmentally friendly electrical costs for lights. We also tried multiple other anti-nausea drugs without relief.

The change was dramatic, she began losing weight, her skin developed an ashy tone. The "T-cell" count that reflected the strength of her immune system dropped dramatically. She was moving from having HIV to full blown AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency disease). She was fortunate in having extended family help with childcare as she could not do so herself. Clearly I violated the first principle of medicine – "do no harm." I relented and recommended she resume her marihuana tea. I began to research the gaps in my medical education and look with the eyes of science, not law toward the use of marijuana.

Marijuana has demonstrated usefulness in controlling pain, reducing nausea, increasing appetite, relaxing muscle spasm, and reducing eye pressures in glaucoma. There are many misconceptions about marijuana. The most common one is that patients are “high” all the time. Over time the psychological effects become less and less. It simply is not “fun” to the chronic user. Also, with estimates as high as 50% or more of US adults having tried marijuana, the “gateway” theory becomes untenable. Unlike alcohol, methamphetamine (“meth”) and cocaine, violence associated with marijuana users is virtually non-existent. As an association with the youth culture, the average age of medical marijuana registered patients in Colorado is around 47. A few patients are even in their seventies.

Also marijuana does not have to be smoked to be effective. When ingested as food the effects of it are long lasting. The toxicities of legal drugs especially opiates such as codeine and morphine are far more than marijuana.

Another argument is that purchasing marijuana supports terrorism around the world. Indeed, as long as marijuana is illegal, a substantial portion will come from overseas sources. Long before it was grown in the United States and resources used to protect our borders from illegal importation rather than harassing growers within the country. From a medical perspective, foreign grown marijuana is more likely to have contamination from pesticides and herbicides.

While it has been several years since I last saw this patient, the lessons she taught me have not faded. No liberty is more precious than control over one's own body and health.
The 2005 LPCO Convention brought together Libertarian activists from both sides of the Continental Divide. Held in Montrose, the convention and Wild West Liberty Fest were organized by the Western Slope LP, chaired by Lane Mills. The event received considerable local coverage with two front-page stories in the Montrose Daily Press and Grand Junction Sentinel.

At 1 p.m., the business portion of the state convention got underway. The business meeting was open to the public, but only party members were qualified to vote on the proposed constitution and bylaw amendments as well as the election of five of the nine board members. There was considerable turmoil over the eligibility of attendee Sharon Armstrong. Although she described herself as a lifetime membership libertarian who has voted for libertarian candidates, she was registered Republican. After some heated debate, it was ultimately decided that only those not registered with another party were eligible to vote at the business meeting as per LPCO bylaws.

The candidates for the remainder of the vacant positions ran uncontested and were elected by voice vote. Leah Kelly was elected Campaigns Director, Patrick Esser was elected Publications Director, Sean Ayers was elected Media Director, and Bud Martin was elected Treasurer. With alternate 2004-2006 terms, Rick Randall will continue as Legislative Director and Rand Fanshier will continue as Outreach Director. The positions of Records Director and Fundraising Director remained vacant at the time of the convention, but Steve Gallant, previous Publications Director, has since been elected Records Director by the LPCO Board. Mark Brophy served a short term as the Fundraising Director, but has lapsed. The board has since elected Michelle Poague.

Mike Humbert and Tim Jacobs of the Western Slope LP registered as a Colorado Libertarian. Additionally, proxy voting will be allowed at the next business meeting. Many long time Libertarians strongly opposed proxy voting, as it can be abused. Additionally, this convention saw the creation of a new Board position. Rick Randall proposed the division of the office of Outreach Director into Western Slope and Front Range directors. The constitutional amendment barely passed with the required two-thirds of the 39 present, 26 voting in favor and 12 opposed. Debbie Schum was later nominated and elected Western Slope Outreach Director at the next board meeting. Randall also proposed the creation of a Membership Outreach Director position. The motion was amended to change the title to Outreach Services. The proposal was voted down by voice vote.

Paul Tiger, Boulder LP Outreach Director, made a motion for a resolution that the Board should focus more of its activity on supporting LP affiliates around the state. The motion passed. After some closing words from former Chair Olsen, the business meeting was adjourned.

Saturday night, Liberty Jam rocked Friendship Hall featuring five rock bands: Toxic Zebra—heavy-metal from Montrose, Immoral Majority—Folk/Classic Rock from Denver, The New Waveforms—Industrial Rock from Boulder, Burrito Bandits—Blues/Classic Rock from Montrose and Seveder Souls—Hard Rock from Montrose. Eddy LaBar of the Western Slope LP and lead man for Toxic Zebra provided the concert equipment for the show and paid for security. Although the attendance was lacking, the talent was not. Kudos to Eddy and all bands for a great concert!

After the business meeting, the Chuck Wagon banquet kicked off at Jojo’s Windmill Restaurant. Keynote speaker Boston T. Party emphasized the need for tolerance within the LP and the importance of focusing on our similarities rather than our differences. BetteRose Ryan then spoke on behalf of the National LP concerning unity. A Life-time Achievement Award was presented to Norm Olsen. Several Morenute Awards went out to Debbie Schum, Mike Humbert, Tim Jacobs and Patrick Esser.

(Pictures courtesy of Eva Kosinski)
Get Us Out of the UN

By Ron Paul
libertarian Congressman (R-Texas), June 20, 2005

Congress voted last week to give the United Nations unprecedented new authority to intervene in sovereign states, under the guise of UN “reform.” The reform bill theoretically provides for Congress to withhold 50% of US dues to the UN, but this will never happen. The bill allows the Secretary of State to make the ultimate decision about payment, and the State department strongly opposes withholding our dues in the first place.

In fact, the State department is the UN’s closest ally in the entire federal government. This talk about withholding our dues is nothing but hot air designed to dupe conservative outside Washington into believing Congress is getting tough with the UN. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Both the congressional leadership and the Bush administration are firmly committed to globalization, as evidenced not only by their commitment to the UN, but also by their position on trade agreements like CAFTA. Mark my words, in five years nobody will be talking about UN reform and our dues payments will be higher than ever.

The supposed reform bill will not change the bureaucratic nature of the UN, nor will it transform the nations of the world into wise, benevolent, selfless actors. It will, however, expand the UN’s role as world policeman and establish the precursor to a UN army. If you don’t think American armed forces should serve under a UN command, you should know that the reform bill establishes a “Peacekeeping Commission” charged with bolstering the UN’s ability to respond with military force to conflicts around the globe - even in wholly internal conflicts that do not affect the US in the slightest.

Great Libertarian Briefs

Wasted Vote Syndrome

By Michael Badnarik
2004 Libertarian Presidential Candidate

As the Libertarian Presidential candidate, I frequently face the wasted vote syndrome. People tell me that I’m a good candidate. They believe in what I stand for, but can’t bring themselves to vote for me because they don’t want their vote to be wasted.

If you were in prison and you had a 50% chance of lethal injection, a 45% chance of going to the electric chair and only a 5% chance of escape. Are you likely to vote for lethal injection because that is your mostly likely outcome? Your survival depends on voting for escape even if that is only a 5% chance.

If you continue to vote for the Democrats or Republicans you are committing political suicide. The only chance we have of saving our constitutional republic is to vote Libertarian even if that is only a 5% probability of getting into office.

To demonstrate that we are not satisfied with the status quo issues is beneficial.

Election candidates to office is obviously important, but my affiliate has discovered that being activists first and foremost allows our community to warm up to our philosophy and realize we are much more than just another political party pushing their politicians. Be open to working issues with other citizens who are libertarian minded. You just may find that they will include your affiliate in other issues later on, which can help tremendously with credibility. Be a part of the community, not an outsider. This makes your candidates more viable as well.

Booths are great, and try inviting politicians to your booth. If they agree with your stance on current hot local issues. They frequently will, as this gives them the opportunity/forum to talk about the issues, and it helps draw people to your booth.

When you don’t have a candidate in an election, you can still host a forum or a debate between the other parties’ candidates, helping your recognition factor in many ways. For example, you can provide LP literature to attendees and perhaps even get the candidates to take the Nolan quiz. Don’t forget…hosting a debate allows YOU to form the questions! Most of all, make getting together FUN. Because liberty is and should be fun!

Outreach

By Debbie Schum
Western Outreach Director Libertarian Party of Colorado

The LPCO is currently working together to publish a booklet to help potential affiliates form in Colorado. The booklet will be completed and operational this year.

Every county in Colorado is unique and by forming an affiliate, Libertarians can pinpoint tactics and issues that best suit their locale. However, the affiliates should never segregate from one another, as a unified front on statewide and national political issues is beneficial.

Election candidates to office is obviously important, but my affiliate has discovered that being activists first and foremost allows our community to warm up to our philosophy and realize we are much more than just another political party pushing their politicians. Be open to working issues with other citizens who are libertarian minded. You just may find that they will include your affiliate in other issues later on, which can help tremendously with credibility. Be a part of the community, not an outsider. This makes your candidates more viable as well.

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Republicans & Democrats

Two Reasons I Switched Parties

By Leah Kelley
Campaigns Director, Libertarian Party of Colorado

As a lifelong Republican, I’ve always thought very highly of my opinion and the platform of the Republican party, but, guess what…you live and you learn better.

It was apered period of many years, of crummy candidates for President, of legislation that I thought was unconstitutional, of legislators giving my hard-earned money away to corporations and art projects. It didn’t matter who was President or what party had control of the Senate. The same old stuff, year after year until, in my heart, I felt hopeless.

It’s all hopeless… it doesn’t matter who I vote for. It’s all lies. I’ll just stop paying attention to politics as usual, and watch the Michael Jackson trial, or the latest Monica Lewinsky scandal, or a rerun of Survivor. BUT WAIT…that’s what THEY want you to do! (insert whoever you think THEY are)

I can’t even describe when it happened, bit by bit over the years. I heard part of a speech by Harry Browne… I liked everything he said, but didn’t really pay attention to what party he was with. One of those third parties…won’t matter if I vote for him, it’s a third party; they don’t have a chance. BUT WAIT…we don’t have a chance because we’ve lost hope. How dare THEY try to take away my hope! (insert whoever you think THEY are)

Then, one day…(don’t know how I got there) I ended up on a Libertarian website. The more I read, the more hope I gathered! I somehow got in (insert whoever you think THEY are) hope….. it does-
Threat of the Three Headed Dragon

By Sharon Croghan
NoSuperSlab.org

There is a fearsome three-headed dragon, who has long been asleep in Colorado, and almost no one knows it is here. This dragon has the potential to destroy the lives of over 20,000 honest and upright citizens of the State, and there is no law on the books to protect its unwitting prey.

The first head awoke in 1989 when an idea was spawned between two wealthy Colorado businessmen. Their idea was to capitalize on a plan to create a “multi-modal transportation corridor” on the Eastern Plains of Colorado which would include a high speed toll road and a rail road line. This plan promised to make all of the investors millions of dollars. Interestingly enough, the brains behind the operation, Ray Wells, refused to provide information to the good citizens of Colorado on just who his investors are. He was often quoted as stating that they were “foreign investors.”

Colorado Revised Statue 7-45-101 allows for any three people to file a corporation with the Colorado Secretary of State for the purpose of establishing a toll road corridor, which they desires. The president of the Corporation sprang to life and the second head began to arise from its slumber. You see, CRS 38-2-101 allows for private toll road corporations to use eminent domain to take the land they need for a toll road.

Front Range Toll Road Corporation (FRTR), in its corporate by-laws established a 12 mile wide 210 mile long toll road corridor from “somewhere near” Wellington, Colorado on its northern terminus to Pueblo, Colorado on the south. The corridor gives the FRTR an exclusive right to build the toll road anywhere within the 12 mile wide designated path it desires. The president of the diabolical plan, Ray Wells, described this transportation corridor as a “multi-modal transportation facility” and christened it “The Super Slab”.

The proposed “Super Slab” highway was proposed to be a 660 foot wide 4 lane, high speed toll way with parallel rail lines running in the median between the lanes, with a one mile wide conservation easement on either side. Ray Wells claims the purpose of this easement is to limit growth in the rural areas, maintain open spaces near the road and reduce noise pollution. In fact, the conservation easements WILL limit growth to within the designated areas Ray decides he wants to develop to line his pockets and to pay for what amounts to nothing more than a legal land grab.

According to Ray Wells the intent of the project is to create the least amount of disruption possible for residents and the environment, so it will be located as far from developed areas as possible. Nothing could be further from the truth! The population count within the 12 mile wide corridor is close to 100,000 people, some long time multi-generational residents, but most who have moved into the corridor within the last 10 years without any warning of what was to come. At no time did he approach the residents and inform them of his intent. As there is no easily accessible public record of this toll road plan, most of us living within the corridor were completely blind-sided when the second head of the hideous dragon reared up in front of us. HB1030 came into the limelight and all the lives of the residents in the path of the toll road and its charging bulldozers changed overnight.

HB1030 is the legislation Ray Wells originally claimed he needed to begin construction of the Super Slab. It redefined a toll road to include tollbooths, rest areas, transportation facilities, and rail roads. It also created a state wide tolling authority to set the tolls, rather than having to negotiate tolls with each county the road passed through, it established road maintenance and emergency service responsibility and set the speed limit on the road at 85 MPH.

HB1030 overwhelmingly passed the Colorado House in February 2005. Corridor residents finally got wind of this bill, mobilized and descended, some 1,200 strong, on the Colorado Senate Transportation Committee hearing of HB1030 on March 22, 2005. After hearing the impassioned testimony of 180 people at the hearing, the Transportation Committee effectively killed the bill, by tabling it for summer session review. Corridor residents breathed a deep sigh of relief. One head of the dragon had been lopped off! Ah, but the beast lived on. Ray Wells quickly announced after the hearing, he really did need this legislation to build the road and planned to start construction in the next few months with a completion date for the project of less than 3 years. If he is moving forward with his plan, he is keeping the details close to his vest.

Corridor residents pulled together, and with the help of Senator Tom Weins, wrote two pieces of legislation to protect the property rights of all Coloradans from the unconstitutional abuse of eminent domain for the profit of a private individual, and to ensure the safe construction of any toll road. The first bill, SB05-230, removes the right to use eminent domain from private corporations to build a toll road, but specifically stated it does not limit the formation of Public Private Partnerships. The second bill, HB05-1342 set up regulations for the construction of private toll roads, (for which, currently there are none) similar to requirements CDOT would have to comply with to build a road. These bills overwhelmingly passed both the House and Senate just before the close of session. Again, corridor residents breathed a deep collective sigh of relief. The relief was short lived, however, as Governor Owens immediately made it clear he did not like the legislation and hinted he would veto both bills, which he does the first week of June. He justified the vetoes by claiming private corporations will not come to Colorado to build toll roads if they do not have the use of eminent domain to take the land they want for their toll roads and the regulatory bill was too strongly worded for practical application, especially on the EPA standards. The second head has a mortal wound, but is still alive.

Corridor residents feel a fatal blow has been inflicted on FRTR, nonetheless, Ray Wells has not admitted defeat, nor do we expect him to do so. The coalitions throughout the corridor are spending the summer fundraising and conducting meetings and information campaigns to increase public awareness of this threat throughout the state.

Since March 2005, toll road companies have cropped up all over the state. One developer, Lindsey Case, from Colorado Springs, CO has filed for 5 toll road corridors. Two encircle Colorado Springs, two parallel I-25 from the Springs to the Wyoming border and the fifth one follows I-70 from Denver to Eagle County. The sad truth is there could be a toll road corridor in place, which no one knows about, coming through your neighborhood or town. The worst part is unless you know the name of the corporation, there is no way to find out until the developer makes their plans public.

The third head of the dragon is the most dangerous, and still slumbers. Before it awakens, the fatal blow must be inflicted. In the next session new legislation will be submitted to protect all the people of Colorado from the wrongful use of eminent domain and it will contain oversight for private construction of toll roads. Statewide support for this legislation will be key to again pass this legislation and possibly over-ride a gubernatorial veto. Let your senators and representative know all of Colorado deserves to be protected from the misuse of eminent domain for private gain.

For more information go visit www.nosuperslab.org online, each county has contact information for area organizers, plus has a wealth of information about the toll road and coalition efforts to defeat this disgraceful attempt to steal peoples land, homes and businesses in the name of public good.

This powerful and deadly dragon must be totally beheaded, once and for all, if any Colorado resident and their homes and businesses are to be safe from the sweeping destruction it will leave in its path.

Well-informed residents, wielding the powerful swords of involvement are our only hope to stop this threat, once and for all.

Country Kids with Cancer

Country kids with cancer is an organization that provides financial assistance to kids in rural areas fighting cancer. This organization, based in Durango, Colorado was founded by cancer survivor Sarah Shank.

Sarah was diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma in 2000 and had to travel over 800 miles every three weeks for her treatment at Children’s Hospital in Denver. It was during one of these trips that Sarah came up with the idea of Country Kids With Cancer. Her organization has been instrumental in helping many families that live in rural areas with their travel expenses, something insurance does not cover.

Ninety-eight percent of funds CKWC receives go directly to the families in need. The other two percent is used for mailing and office supply expenses. What a spectacular and rare occurrence to find a grass roots organization with such efficiency with it’s funding.

If you would like to make a donation, visit them online at www.countrykidswithcancer.com or mail to: Country Kids with Cancer PO Box 3659, Durango, CO 81302

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Country Private Charities

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Country Kids with Cancer Helping rural kids and families with their cancer battle
Doug Anderson has announced his candidacy for City Councilman for Ward 4 in Lakewood. As an experienced office holder and long-time resident of Lakewood, Doug is opposing the current City Council’s tax and spend mentality.

A critical issue in this campaign will be the current City Council’s proposed sales tax increase from 2% to 3%. The fairness of the increase is also an issue, since major corporations such as Walmart, and corporate developments at Bel-Mar and Colorado Mills will be exempt from the increase.

Doug knows that the City’s budget shortfall can be corrected with common sense and fairness, not at the expense of taxpayers and small business owners. For this reason, small business owners, and members of the Lakewood T Party are aligning themselves with Doug, ready to bring some common sense and fiscal responsibility to Lakewood City Hall on November 1.

Here’s Our Chance to put our own Doug Anderson on the Lakewood City Council this November! It’s a non-partisan race that WE CAN WIN!

With the success of the Lakewood T Party (a non-partisan effort to kill the sales tax increase) on the horizon, the Lakewood City Council will be tipped in favor of our “libertarian” ideals.

With Doug on the council, we will have a well-respected Libertarian in an position to influence, not only Lakewood, but surrounding communities, as well. We will also be adding an elected Libertarian to the company of Bill Masters, Sheriff of San Miguel County and Joe Johnson, Trustee, Weld County.

We need your help getting him elected! Please volunteer to help the campaign and/or send your contributions now. You don’t have to live in Lakewood to make a difference!

Send contributions to: "CTE Doug Anderson"
7172 Swadley Ct.
Arvada, CO 80004-1253

Campaign contacts: Apryl Brady, Campaign Manager, 303-895-1925, aprylbrady@yahoo.com
Bud Martin, Treasurer, 303-420-0940, budm303@access4less.net
Sean Ayers, Media Director, 303-994-0626, sindo1@mac.com
Leah Kelley, Volunteer Coordinator, 303-521-1844, kelleyleah@msn.com
Visit campaign site: www.votedoug.org

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ELECT Doug Anderson
For City Council Ward 4 in Lakewood, Co

Doug Anderson has announced his candidacy for City Councilman for Ward 4 in Lakewood. As an experienced office holder and long-time resident of Lakewood, Doug is opposing the current City Council’s tax and spend mentality.

A critical issue in this campaign will be the current City Council’s proposed sales tax increase from 2% to 3%. The fairness of the increase is also an issue, since major corporations such as Walmart, and corporate developments at Bel-Mar and Colorado Mills will be exempt from the increase.

Doug knows that the City’s budget shortfall can be corrected with common sense and fairness, not at the expense of taxpayers and small business owners. For this reason, small business owners, and members of the Lakewood T Party are aligning themselves with Doug, ready to bring some common sense and fiscal responsibility to Lakewood City Hall on November 1.

Here’s Our Chance to put our own Doug Anderson on the Lakewood City Council this November! It’s a non-partisan race that WE CAN WIN!

With the success of the Lakewood T Party (a non-partisan effort to kill the sales tax increase) on the horizon, the Lakewood City Council will be tipped in favor of our “libertarian” ideals.

With Doug on the council, we will have a well-respected Libertarian in an position to influence, not only Lakewood, but surrounding communities, as well. We will also be adding an elected Libertarian to the company of Bill Masters, Sheriff of San Miguel County and Joe Johnson, Trustee, Weld County.

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Protecting Your Right to Petition.

Politicians fear petitions, especially those that limit their political power. However, petitions are a safety valve to correct abuses. If politicians act foolishly, or refuse to act, we must be able to protect our freedoms, our families, our finances, and our futures. The right to petition is so important, the Founding Fathers listed it in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

The Petition Rights Amendment shortens ballot titles to reduce the "legalese" that confuses voters. PRA protects petitions from being tied up in court for months on phony "single-subject" claims by opponents. PRA limits petition elections to November only.

Politicians keep trying to restrict our rights. They want Big Government to control our lives. We the People can restrain them by supporting PRA to guarantee our constitutional right to petition for the right to vote on needed reforms. In order to bring the "Petition Rights Amendment" to Colorado voters, on the 2006 ballot, the "Citizens for Petition Rights" need signatures! The Citizens for Petition Rights welcomes both volunteer and paid petition circulators to help put this vital reform on the ballot.

The Libertarian Party of Colorado supports this initiative and is working with the "Citizens for Petition Rights"

Douglas Bruce (TABOR author) has challenged the LPCO to collect 10,000 signatures for PRA! Let’s show him that Libertarians are the bedrock for liberty in Colorado!

The LPCO is asking for 100 Libertarians to take action by collecting 100 signatures each. The important thing is to collect those signatures, notarize the petitions, and submit them to the "Citizens for Petition Rights" BEFORE December 1, 2005.

Contact Richard Randall at legislativedirector@lpcolorado.org or call (720) 348-6927 to get your petition packet today! For more details visit PRA2006.ORG

The New Rules! LPCO has New Membership Program

(Continued from Page 1)

their $25 to National, the LPCO would get $1 per member. In a lump sum check for the total membership.

Due to ongoing financial crisis the LNC originally planned increasing dues to $50 by the end of the year. This was the original plan set in motion. But after much debate, instead dues were changed to zero and the payments to states like Colorado were terminated!

So, UMP is now history. But after much debate, it was the original plan set in motion. This is the new plan set in motion.

In the new rules, the Libertarian Party of Colorado will receive ALL the money for membership contributions. When you fill out this form and sign the non-aggression principle we forward your information to national (but keep the money if any) and you are automatically a member of the State and National LP.

We are at this juncture desperately short on funds, and so would hope you’d consider more than the minimum, and preferably choose our 1776 Platinum Club as your way to support the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

The trick is, though, you won’t continue to receive the LP News from Washington, DC just by paying membership dues on the form on page 15. You must subscribe at lp.org with an additional $25 in order to continue to get the LP News. We encourage you to do so, as the LP News provides stories from across the country and helps you learn what works and doesn’t work from LP activities in other States.

As a side note, the right to vote at the State Convention, or be a candidate in Colorado as a Libertarian now requires a Libertarian affiliation on your voter registration. This was voted upon and passed in Convention 2004. This new contributions program has no impact on that.

So, open your wallets, see what you can spare, take a look at the new level benefits we are offering this year, and contribute to the Libertarian Party of Colorado, the Defenders of Liberty!

Silver Liberty Coin available with Platinum Donation Membership Level or above.
LPCO DONATION WITH MEMBERSHIP TO LP

Please note: To receive National’s LP News requires a separate subscription at lp.org. Also, you do not need a paid membership to be a candidate, or nominate or vote for candidates and issues at the LPCO state convention. To do these things, you need a Libertarian Party Affiliation on your Colorado voter registration, so visit your county clerk or download a voter registration at vote.lpcolorado.org and get registered to vote as a Libertarian today!

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

☐ I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature: [required for LP membership] (If you don’t sign, you will be a subscriber only)

☐ I want to be a member of the national Libertarian Party as well.

To be a Contributing Member and receive issues of this newsletter (the Colorado Liberty) for one year, check off one of the following donation levels:

☐ Silver Level (contribution $25) receive a valuable packet including the latest newsletter, a membership card, outreach handouts, bumper sticker, subscription to email Liberty Alerts, how to contact Libertarians in your area, and more.

☐ Gold Level (contribution $50) receive all of the above PLUS our own LPCO t-shirt. Check t-shirt size: ☐ XXL ☐ XL ☐ L ☐ M ☐ S.

☐ Platinum Level (contribution $100) receive all of the above PLUS have fun with a real $10 Silver Liberty Coin (from www.libertydollar.org)

☐ Diamond Level (contribution $500, $1,000 or more) receive all of the above AND get a complimentary banquet invitation at the next State Convention.

- OR (this is our preferred monthly payment plans) -

☐ 1776 Platinum Club When you contribute with a recurring monthly charge of just $17.76 per month or more on your credit card, you get a free copy of “Good to Be King” by 2004 Presidential Candidate Michael Badnarik, and all the Platinum benefits.

☐ 1776 Diamond Club For $50.00 per month or more on your credit card, you receive Badnarik’s book, and all the Diamond level benefits.

Check here ☐ to not be listed in the newsletter or recognized for your membership level.

NAME & ADDRESS

Cut out, complete the following form and mail to: Libertarian Party, 2600 Virginia Ave NW, Suite 100 Washington, DC 20037

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone E-Mail Address

Purpose of Donation (earmark donation, e.g. “for ballot access drives”)

Employer (legal requirement) Occupation (legal requirement)

Please enclose a check or money order payable to "Libertarian Party" or provide information in the appropriate spaces below to authorize billing to your credit card:

☐ Check/money order enclosed.

☐ Credit Card Number

☐ Amount: $

☐ Expires

☐ Phone

☐ Day Phone

☐ Evening Phone

☐ City

☐ State

☐ Zip

☐ E-Mail Address (to receive Liberty Alerts and event updates)

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Credit Card Payment

☐ Monthly Payment:

☐ Check/money order enclosed.

☐ (No corporate checks, please.)

☐ Or Bill my ☐ Visa ☐ AMEX

☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

☐ Employer (legal requirement) Occupation (legal requirement)

☐ Signature For Credit Card Payment

☐ Signature

☐ Make checks payable: Libertarian Party of Colorado

Send form and payments to:

LPCO Headquarters, 1425 Brentwood Street, Unit 18, Lakewood, CO 80214

Government Mandated Notices: The Federal Election Commission requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of $200 in a calendar year. The IRS requires us to print “contributions are not tax-deductible” on all fundraising appeals. Funds received in response to this solicitation are subject to federal contribution limits. Contributions from corporations and foreign nationals are prohibited.

For your protection, the Libertarian Party and LPCO will not share your name, address, email, phone number or other personal details with any 3rd party. See our privacy policy and statement online at privacy.lpcolorado.org.

DONATE TO NATIONAL LP

I would like to thank all the folks who have contributed time, design and money to make this effort a success.

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Cut out, complete the following form and mail to: Libertarian Party, 2600 Virginia Ave NW, Suite 100 Washington, DC 20037

The bus bench campaign is one of many outreach efforts that the state LP has worked on this past year. Local affiliates are encouraged to sponsor bus bench ads in their communities.

The LPCO has created a specific bus bench ad account to fund the placement and monthly lease expenses. Rentals are approximately $50 per month. If you would like to contribute money specifically for the bus bench campaign, please make a check payable to: Libertarian Party of Colorado, 1425 Brentwood Street, Unit 18, Lakewood, CO 80214

In the subject line of the check, note that this is for the bus bench ad campaign. For more information on this program you can contact Jim Frye at 303-478-5144 or e-mail BusBenchAds@lpcolorado.org

BUS BENCH PLACEMENT MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

by Jim Frye, Bus Bench Coordinator

June 2005 marked the anniversary of the first placement of an LPCO bus bench ad. Since last year we have placed additional bus bench ads at:

- Wadsworth and Coalmine in Lakewood
- 44th and McIntyre in Wheat-Ridge (Two ads: facing east and westbound traffic in and out of Golden.)
- Hwy 72 & Hwy 93 near Boulder

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I would like to thank all the folks who have contributed time, design and money to make this effort a success.
LPCO INFO

Chairman
Travis Nicks

Campaign Director
Leah Kelley

Outreach Directors
Rand Fanshier (East)
Debbie Schum (West)

Media Director
Sean Ayers

Legislative Director
Richard Randall

Treasurer
G.T. “Bud” Martin

Publications Director
Patrick Esser

Fundraising Director
Michelle Poague

Records Director
Steve Gallant

Visit LPCO online at:
LPCOLORADO.ORG

UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS

- September 1st to 4th—Thunder in the Rockies; Larimer County Fairgrounds, Loveland
- September 2nd—Fall Festival; Louisville
- September 7th—Doug Anderson’s Campaign Kick Off; 4:30 to 7:00pm Jose O’Shea’s
- September 10th—Canyonfest; Kittredge
- September 21st—Referendum C & D Debate; Hosted by LP of Delta County—Delta
- September 23rd—Chile and Frijoles Festival; Mercado, Pueblo
- September 25th—Miner’s Day Celebration; Weld County
- October 1st & 2nd—Cedaredge Apple Festival; Cedaredge

This is not necessarily a complete list. For details about events as they come up, please visit www.lpcolorado.org and click on “This Week in the LPCO”. If you are organizing an event and would like it listed in the newsletter or on the state website, please contact Rand at (303)670-8563 or outreachdirector@lpcolorado.org, thanks.

Subscribe to Liberty Alerts
Liberty Alerts are a short synopsis of pending statewide or national legislation with quick actions you can take - such as sending a pre-written e-mail to your representatives. Liberty Alerts are typically e-mailed weekly from the LPCO Legislative Director. Help us strike a blow for liberty every week by joining the more than 1,300 Colorado Libertarians already subscribing to Liberty Alerts! To Subscribe, go online to: alerts.lpcolorado.org - You can unsubscribe at any time.