

# Sandhills Libertarian Gazette

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBERTARIANS IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MIDLANDS

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## What Does the Libertarian Party Stand For?

The principles of the Libertarian Party are the same principles that guide honest people in their everyday lives. Libertarians want the government to follow those same guidelines. For example:

If I force you to give me money to pay for schemes that you do not approve of, then I can be prosecuted for theft and thrown into jail. However, the government does the same thing right now when it collects taxes by threat of force. Libertarians would cut taxes and let individuals keep more of their hard-earned money. Important services such as roads, utilities, and education, could be improved by encouraging free-market competition and private financing.

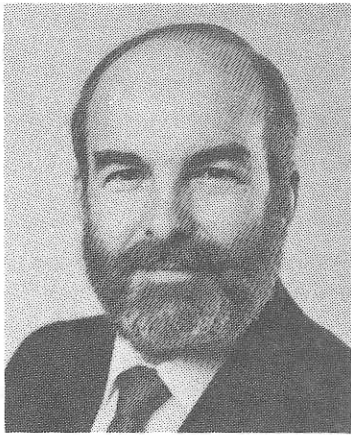
If I run out of money, and decide to print some myself, I get into big trouble for counterfeiting. Right now the government does the same thing, calls it expanding the money supply, and claims that it's O.K. In fact, this causes inflation, recession, and unemployment. Libertarians would bring order to financial markets by returning to a sound money standard backed by gold or silver.

If I threaten to close your business unless you give me money, I can be accused of extortion. The government does the same thing, calls it licensing, and says that citizens are better off as a result. In fact, small minority businesses are hurt the most by licensing laws. Libertarians realize that independent consumer groups could do a better job than the government of certifying competence and quality.

If I come into your home and tell you what to eat, drink, smoke, or read, or what to do in your own bedroom, then you will rightly respond, "Leave me alone. This is none of your business." You can say the same thing if I try to force you to wear a seat belt. However, the government regulates personal behavior every day; there are many laws which do this. Libertarians believe that individuals and their families know best how to run their own lives and how best to look out for their own safety. The government should not interfere as long as nobody violates the rights of anyone else.

If I tell you how to educate your children and claim that your ideas are irrelevant, then you will properly respond, "You don't know enough about us to make that kind of decision. You don't know what is important for us." Right now the government forces you to pay for its schools, and requires you to go through a lot of red tape if you choose to educate your children at home. Libertarians believe in the separation of school and state. We welcome the diversity of different educational philosophies, and acknowledge that each family has the responsibility of choosing the education they deem most appropriate.

Libertarians are confident in the wisdom of letting individuals think and act for themselves. Governments must stop assuming that they know what's right for everyone. The only role of government should be to protect each person's right to life, liberty, and honestly-acquired property.



Andre Marrou

Nancy Lord

## Marrou-Lord in '92!

Andre Marrou and Nancy Lord are the sixth Libertarian nominees for President and Vice-President. They were chosen at the Libertarian National Convention in Chicago in August to be the party's candidates in the 1992 election.

Marrou, who lives in Las Vegas, was the Libertarian Party's candidate for Vice-President in 1988 and formerly served as a state legislator in Alaska. He travelled to all 50 states during his 1988 campaign and plans to use television ads more prominently during the coming year.

Lord is both an attorney and a medical doctor. She received favorable publicity when she ran for Mayor of Washington, D.C. in 1990.

The Marrou-Lord ticket will be involved in the upcoming New Hampshire Primary, a first for the L.P. For information on the campaign, call Jim Lewis at 702-431-3848.

Many people around the country saw much of the Libertarian National Convention over the C-SPAN cable network. The Libertarian message must have been heard, since more than 10,000 persons called the party's 800 number requesting information about the Libertarian Party.

## Libertarians Gaining Respect

Recently on the television show "Jeopardy", the contestants were asked to name the political party that ran Ron Paul for its 1988 presidential candidate. All three contestants correctly named the Libertarian party.

\* \* \*

Syndicated columnist Joseph Sobran wrote a column recently entitled "Libertarians: On the Verge?" In this column, Sobran said, "Libertarians could pick up a hefty protest vote from conservatives who have had it with Mr. Bush and the Republicans."

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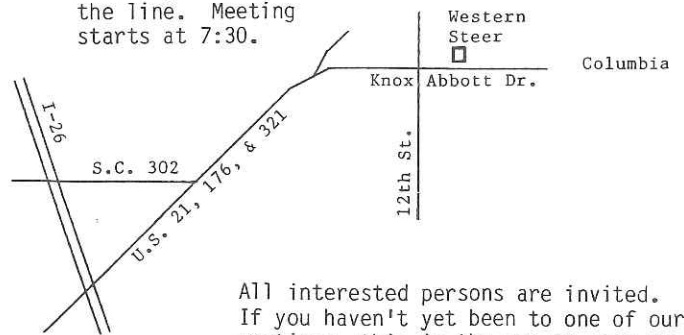
At the Telluride Film Festival in Colorado, actor Clint Eastwood was asked by reporters whether he was a conservative or a liberal. Eastwood replied that he was neither, that he was "a libertarian." Many publications printed this revelation, including film reviewer Roger Ebert in his syndicated column.

## Please Come to Our December Meeting

DATE: Thursday, December 12

PLACE: Western Steer  
Knox-Abbott Dr.  
West Columbia

TIME: Supper at 7 P.M.  
Please go through  
the line. Meeting  
starts at 7:30.



All interested persons are invited. If you haven't yet been to one of our meetings, this is the one to come to. We hope to see you on December 12. Please come, and bring your friends!

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## Editorial

## Support FIJA and Jury Power

**TRUE OR FALSE?** When you are asked to sit on a jury, you have a right to vote according to your conscience.

This is true, but it's very unlikely that the judge will tell you this. Instead, the judge will likely say that you may consider "only the facts" of the case and may not let your opinion of the law affect your decision.

When citizens serve on a jury, they have the power to decide the law as well as the facts. If they think the law is unjust, or if they think the judge is not giving the defendant a fair trial, each juror has the power to vote "not guilty" regardless of the judge's instructions. This power is referred to as JURY NULLIFICATION. It exists in civil as well as criminal cases.

Why aren't people aware of their power as jurors? It's because nobody has told them, and most government officials don't want them to know. Judges don't want ordinary citizens making decisions about the law, so they avoid telling jurors about their full range of powers.

The Fully Informed Jury Amendment (FIJA) is an effort to tell everybody about jurors' rights and to be sure that they are told this where it counts - in the courtroom. This amendment would force judges to instruct jurors on their right of jury nullification. It's a no-lose proposition. Even if the amendment loses, freedom fighters will still have won. The education project will inform many prospective jurors of their power. The WALL STREET JOURNAL has given favorable publicity to FIJA, and if FIJA gains national prominence, judges will no longer be able to run roughshod over freedom fighters.

The idea of FIJA is to revitalize the plan for America developed by its founders. They saw jurors as the key to our freedom, because the jury was to have the final say on any law American citizens were expected to obey.

John Adams, our second president, had this to say about the juror: "It is not only his right, but his duty to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgement, and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court."

Our third president, Thomas Jefferson, put it this way: "I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution."

As an organization, FIJA sponsors educational media campaigns, encourages local lobbying efforts aimed at persuading state lawmakers to reform court procedures, and assists grass roots efforts to inform jurors of their rights.

We want every potential juror in America to know the truth! You can help by contacting Sasha Kennison, FIJA-SC, S.C. Individual Liberty Union, P.O. Box 7814, Columbia, S.C. 29202 (798-2278).

## 1990 Election Results

Since this is the first issue of the GAZETTE published since the 1990 election, the results of that election are printed below. Personal obligations have prevented me from having the time to get vote totals for most candidates.

OFFICE SOUGHT	CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF OPPONENTS	VOTE TOTAL AND PERCENT
U.S. Senate	Bill Griffin	3	13,805 1.8%
U.S. House of Rep. Second District	Geb Sommer	1	11,101 10.9%
U.S. Solicitor - Dist. 2	Richard Quillian	2	2%
Supt. of Education	John Harllee	2	12,756 1.7%
Comptroller General	David Morris	1	59,558 10.0%
S.C. House of Rep. District 83	Bill Hamilton	2	5%
District 96	Andrew Amendola	2	1%
District 98	Erin Kersting	2	5%
District 106	Anne Reaves	2	6%
Aiken County Council	James Cochran	2	5%
	Tim Moultrie	2	7.4%
	Johnnie Parker	1	16%
	Blair Watkins	2	7%
Horry County Council	Denise Jackson	2	3%

The highest vote percentage was Johnny Parker's 16% in Aiken County. The highest vote total was 59,558 by David Morris, which is the highest vote total ever in S.C. for a Libertarian. Geb Sommer's 11% is the highest Libertarian total ever for that congressional district. John Harllee's 2% for Superintendent of Education was considered significant by Jerry Adams of WIS-TV, who said that this was "a message for change in South Carolina."

The Local Option Sales Tax (L.O.S.T.) passed in only 6 counties in 1990. The statewide total was 212,817 (32%) in favor and 459,247 (68%) opposed. L.O.S.T. failed in Richland County by more than a 4 to 1 margin, and was defeated almost that soundly in Aiken, Greenville, and Lexington counties. In Charleston County, it passed by only 16 votes! This year, 7 more poor counties passed it, but Charleston County is the only wealthy county with it. When Charlestonians realize that they are subsidizing the other 12 counties, they might decide to repeal the darned thing! If that happens, then the other 12 counties will not be reaping the rewards of the Robin Hood portion of L.O.S.T. and may therefore turn against the tax. However, Libertarians and others will have to continue pointing out the advantages of lower taxes in general to fuel this movement and to prevent future tax increases.

In a special election on April 30, Libertarian candidate Joe Wynn received 14% of the vote as a write-in for the North Augusta City Council. He ran against 3 ballot and 2 other write-in candidates for 3 council seats.

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LOCAL LIBERTARIAN CONTACTS

- AIKEN: Tom King (593-6876)
CLEMSON: Toni Black (653-7514)
COLUMBIA: Steve Vandervelde (254-3204)
DARLINGTON: Mitch Olinger (383-4241)
GREENVILLE: Tahirih Gelardi (370-1329)
MYRTLE BEACH: Jim Wilson (449-5053)
RIDGEWAY: Mike Kennedy (337-2515)
WEST COLUMBIA: Tim Moultrie (739-1409)
YORK: Joe Versen (684-6380)

Marrou HQ

The Andre Marrou/Nancy Lord Libertarian Party ticket has announced a unified campaign, coordinated through one office. For information write Marrou for President, 4750 E. Sahara, Las Vegas, NV 89195-4073, or call 702-431-3848.

The editor thanks Sandy Morris for her help in assembling this newsletter, and Amy Whitaker for typesetting most of the headlines.

ANTI-TAX POST CARDS

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The Sandhills Libertarian Gazette is published by the Lexington County Libertarian Party. Ad rates available on request. Please address all correspondence to the Editor.

EDITOR: David Morris

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LAWFUL CONCEALED WEAPONS DETER CRIME

One of the best ways to fight crime would be for more persons to carry concealed weapons. There is good evidence to support this proposal. Last year, Portland, Oregon, started issuing more permits for concealed weapons. The year before, only 17 permits were issued, but in 1990, over 2,000 were issued. As a result, the murder rate in Portland fell 33 percent last year. By contrast, New York City, which virtually bans handguns, saw a 45 percent increase in homicide last year. This goes to prove that guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens are not a cause of crime; they are a deterrent. Concealed weapons have saved lives in Portland. We should make it easier in South Carolina for peaceful, honest, and law-abiding citizens to get such permits for self-protection. The Founding Fathers distrusted a standing army, but they saw the need for an armed citizenry. They enshrined this principle in the Second Amendment, which applies to "the whole people", not just those persons who happen to be favored by government officials.

LATE NEWS FLASH

Peter Hoffman of Columbia wants to run for the U.S. Senate next year. He will seek the Libertarian Party's nomination at next spring's state convention to run against Ernest Hollings. Hoffman is a Programmer and Systems Administrator in the Geological Sciences Dept. at U.S.C.

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