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LP Platform Committee to Form for 2008 Convention

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) is looking for a few people to serve on the Platform Committee in preparation for the 2008 Libertarian National Convention. The LNC selects members of the Committee in accordance with the by-laws specified below:

The Platform Committee shall consist of 20 members selected as follows:

- One member by each of the ten affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships as determined for Convention delegate allocations. These members shall be selected no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the regular Convention.
- Ten members appointed by the National Committee, including no less than five members from states other than the ten having the largest party memberships. These members shall be appointed no later than the last day of the fifth month prior

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Libertarian candidates off and running across the country

In odd numbered years, most elections are for local, nonpartisan offices, elections Libertarians are known to win. However there are a few states which hold their statewide elections this year. In both cases, Libertarians across the country are taking full advantage of their electoral opportunities.

New Jersey is off to a fast start in their statewide elections. In their March convention, New Jersey Libertarians nominated a record 19 candidates for the state legislature, with more possibly to follow for legislative and local offices. New state party Chair Lou Jasikoff spearheaded the candidate recruitment drive.

Understanding that successful campaigns only begin with nominating

candidates, Jasikoff and many other New Jersey activists have organized a host of support services for their slate. "We as a party must support our candidates, because too often in the past, they had to go this alone," says Jasikoff. "Jeff Hetrick has committed his time to maintaining a web presence. Peg Hunsicker will assist on press releases. Frank Warren is preparing a workshop for all candidates, especially new ones, at our convention. Joseph Dunsay is coordinating volunteers. The list goes on, but so do our needs, if this is going to succeed."

With several months between now and their elections in November, the New Jersey LP has some time to put together a coordinated overall effort greater than the

sum of its individual parts. As this historic slate progresses, their accomplishments will be highlighted in *LP News* over the coming months.

Virginia is another state which has statewide elections this year. Arin Sime has been campaigning for the State Senate District 24 seat since early last year. When he started, he was apparently the only challenger to incumbent Republican Emmett Hanger.

Sime was so successful in the local media in contrasting his consistent message for lower taxes and greater property rights with Hanger's performance in office, last month, the incumbent drew a strong primary challenger, who is taking up Sime's issues as "conservative values." This sets up the possibility of a general

election contest featuring two advocates of limited government, and allows Sime

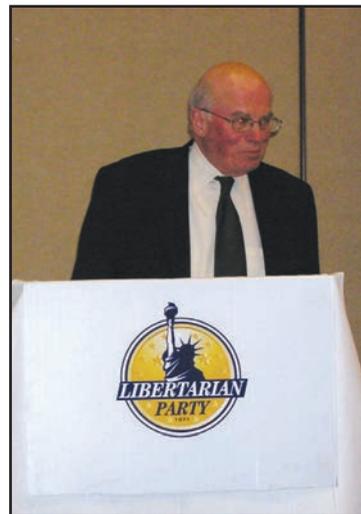
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Arin Sime and family

State chairs conference a success in Orlando, Florida

The annual conference of Libertarian State Leadership Alliance (LSLA) was conducted March 17-18



Conservative movement leader Richard Viguerie advises Libertarians on how to improve voter appeal for the LP.

in Orlando, Florida. Outgoing LSLA Chairman Patrick Dixon presided over the event. Dixon also serves on the Libertarian National Committee (LNC), in addition to his duties as Texas Libertarian chairman and as a member of his local city council. Jim Duensing, Nevada LP chairman, was elected to chair the LSLA for the next year.

An early highlight of the event was a speech given by Richard Viguerie. Viguerie has been credited as one of the key people in the founding of the modern conservative movement, beginning with the 1964 Goldwater presidential campaign and ultimately leading to the election of Ronald Reagan. He is billed as the "Funding Father of the Conservative Movement," having pioneered

the use of computerized direct mail in political fund raising.

Viguerie spoke about growing conservative dissatisfaction with the Republican Party and his personal history in building a political movement. The *Washington Times* reported that he challenged Libertarians to "give the voters a tune they can whistle." Viguerie received a standing ovation from the conference attendees.

A lunchtime panel discussing the future of the Libertarian Party featured LNC Chairman Bill Redpath, former Congressman Bob Barr, and LNC Executive Director Shane Cory. "The problem is that we are a minority party in a winner-take-all voting system," said Redpath, who focused on

election reform issues during his presentation.

"The future of America is the future of the Libertarian Party," Barr said to enthusiastic applause. "And the future is bright."

"We have to put our best faces forward in winnable races," said Cory, emphasizing

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Two new presidential hopefuls emerge: Daniel Imperato and Robert Jackson

As noted in last month's issue of *LP News*, the 2008 presidential elections promise to be exciting. We are all familiar with the wide field of potential candidates within the two major parties; and as we have seen, a number of Libertarians hope to be our party's nominee for president at the Libertarian National Convention in 2008. This month, we add two more candidates to the Libertarian fold in the order in which they announced their candidacy: Daniel J. Imperato and Bob Jackson.

To help our readers become more acquainted with our presidential hopefuls, we began last month by posing the same five questions to the 12 candidates we knew about: Gene Chapman, Barry Hess, Dave Hollist, Mike Jingoian, Steve Kubby, Alden Link, Kent McManigal, Robert Milnes, George Phillies, Wayne Allyn Root, Christine Smith, and Doug Stanhope.

In addition to their answers, each was asked to provide a black and white photograph. The only editing we did was to clean up some obvious typographical and

grammatical errors and make minor adjustments, so the candidate's responses would be presented in the same general style.

Where some of the candidates exceeded the word count we had requested for each answer, we were faced with either cutting their answers short or running them in entirety. We chose the latter.

At *LP News*, our role isn't to promote certain pre-nomination candidates or to marginalize others. We also don't verify or fact check the information provided by the candidates.

In considering all 14 candidates, you may find some responses bizarre, or even disingenuous. Also, not all of the opinions provided are in compliance with the current Libertarian Platform, and the answers do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the officers or employees of the Libertarian National Committee.

We are merely providing the information so that party members can make informed decisions about the candidate they most want to support. For more detailed information,

we suggest that you visit the campaign website of each candidate.

Due to reader requests, for this month's interviews, we are separating the responses by candidate, as opposed to by question. Thus, we are providing Daniel J. Imperato's responses to all five questions, followed by the answers submitted by Bob Jackson to the same five questions. Note also that we are referring to each candidate by their name preference.

Daniel J. Imperato

Please provide a brief introduction of your campaign to our Libertarian readers.

We have a tremendous responsibility as citizens of America, and "citizens of the world." Being a man of the globe, and understanding the people, I feel that we need to revive America by making a more independent America, for ourselves and for our children. I would govern using the Libertarian Principles of

greater accountability of a smaller government which serves the people rather than exploits them. The founders of this country knew that "liberty" had to be above all else. I know and believe that government must be limited to its constitutional powers, which are granted by the will of the people through their elected representatives.

Describe the economic policy you would pursue, if elected president. Please indicate your views on the line item veto, taxation, and deficit spending.

I would use my business principles of following a rational thrifty approach to stewardship of the people's money. I want a solvent and thriving American economy that can provide the blessings of liberty. I favor the line item veto and would use it to keep Congress honest.

If elected, what would be the priorities of your social policy agenda?

Social Security, healthcare, and education. Our



Presidential Candidate Daniel J. Imperato

companies and our people need to ensure and support the elderly today, because one day we will all be elderly. We should cap 501(c)3 contribution allowances, except for the 501(c)3 [organizations] which donate to the social security system. We must have better oversight of charities, like the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) does to public companies. We must hold accountable the principals for their distribution of funds. We must close down the ones

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State Chairs Conference a success in Orlando, Florida

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that our candidates and campaigns need to "build from the bottom up."

The closing panel covered the relationship between the Libertarian Party and the media. The panel, which included *Reason* Associate Editor David Weigel and *Washington Times* Assistant National Editor Robert Stacy McCain, was moderated by LNC Political Director Stephen Gordon.

David Weigel has written for a variety of political publications and presented information about what libertarians should do to obtain political media coverage. Robert McCain spent much of his time discussing new media. Gordon tied the information presented with his experiences as communications director for the LNC and for the 2004 Libertarian Party presidential campaign.

"I think that McCain and Weigel were perfect for this panel," said Gordon. "Not only have they recently covered Libertarian Party events in their respective publications, but they have also considerable experience in dealing with the national political scene."

Other panels and presentations included FEC Compliance, Issue Coalition Building, Managing Legislative Campaigns,

Ballot Base, Campus Organizing, Candidate Tracker, Local (political) Office, an Executive Director's Panel, Ballot Access Planning and Database Management. Jim McGee of Target America made a presentation about attracting the most affluent potential donors.

The highlight of the evening was a dinner debate between five hopefuls for the Libertarian Party presiden-

tial nomination. All known Libertarian Party presidential contenders were invited to the event. The candidates who showed at the event were Alden Link, George Phillies, Mike Jingoian, Wayne Allyn Root, and Daniel Imperato.

Information on the next State Chairs Conference meeting will be posted on www.statechairs.org, when available.



LNC Chairman Bill Redpath outlines how the LP can overcome problems, such as ballot access and fundraising.



Former Congressman and current LNC Regional Representative Bob Barr reports that "the future of America is the future of the Libertarian Party. And the future is bright."



Dr. Susan Street-Beevers, new appointed Executive Director of the LP of Indiana (LPIN), addresses the conference. She represents one of the five most active state parties.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An LP presidential candidate: Is it worth it?

by Shane Cory

I am sure that like me, you are already becoming a bit annoyed by the Hillary and Barack show that seems to dominate daily headlines. The constant back and forth of statements and fundraising figures will be nothing that the general public will recall come Election Day 2008, but for the time being, the networks are running with the sideshow.

As you observed the starting moments of Election '08 earlier this year, I doubt that you heard a Libertarian can-

didate mentioned, aside from Congressman Ron Paul who, while a libertarian in principle, is running as a Republican.

With the high money stakes and media attention, it may seem like an impossible feat for an LP presidential candidate to be taken seriously by the press and even the general public. The depression that we all normally feel the day after the election may seem to be creeping in at the moment . . . a full 19 months ahead of schedule.

But I say, don't let it get

to you.

I'm sure that over the last three and a half decades, thousands of Libertarians ask themselves and others, "Why should we bother running a presidential candidate?"

With a strong majority of our electoral successes on the local level, what could we possibly be thinking?

Considering that we've never even broken the million vote barrier, how can we possibly expect to win? Are Libertarians delusional or simply wildly optimistic?

Well, we're neither. We're rational at best and, at the least, passionate to spread our message.

Positive ballot access implications aside, the Libertarian Party as a whole gains a great deal when we field a presidential candidate.

Each presidential election year, we are given the opportunity to run a candidate at the top of the national ticket. Media, even with minimal effort, is a given, which leads to more Americans being informed about, and possibly attracted to,

the Libertarian Party.

In turn, our donor base increases, leading to more support for our small party.

To see for yourself, feel free to fetch last month's edition of *LP News* and turn to page six. Refer to the revenue chart at the bottom of the page. See those peaks every four years? Going back to 1983, the chart shows gains in 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, and even in 2004 (during a general membership decline).

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Libertarian candidates off and running across the country

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to focus on the November election, while his opponents beat each other up in the primary.

Like Sime, T. Lee Horne started his campaign for governor of Louisiana many months ago, and has been running all out from the beginning.

Horne has already traveled more than 100,000 miles, driving all over his state and making more than 100 campaign and media appearances. Horne has already raised over \$45,000 for the campaign, while many of his opponents in Louisiana's October open primary are just getting started.

In an interview with the *Alexandria Town Talk*

newspaper, Horne declared, "I fully expect to be governor. I believe that we have a very strong chance to scare everyone else to death by coming in first. I don't know who is going to come in second, but I will be first."

Many other candidates face shorter election cycles. Two are taking advantage of special elections in high profile races, due to vacancies. Dr. Jim Sendelbach is making history as the first Libertarian candidate for Congress in Georgia, seeking the remainder of the term in the 10th district, after the death of Representative Charles Norwood. That special election will be held on June 19. Normal ballot access barriers which have prevented Georgia

Libertarians from running for Congress before are in place for special elections.

In South Carolina, Greg Graziani is seeking the State Senate 46 seat, made vacant by the resignation of Senator Scott Richardson.

The greatest libertarian successes can be found in local elections that traditionally dominate the odd year calendar. They are also the ones where you'll most often hear one of the sweetest phrases to our ears, "Libertarian incumbent." The two candidates at the top of the Libertarian Party's Candidate Tracker, www.lp.org/candidates, are just such political animals.

David Kelley is seeking a second term on the Rockford,

Illinois Board of Education. Kelley knocked out the incumbent in 2003 and now faces two challengers to keep his seat. In its editorial endorsement of Kelley four years ago, the *Rockford Register Star* wrote, "We think Kelley has the right balance of fiscal responsibility and concern for education." Rockford voters went to the polls on April 17, and we will report on the results in the next issue.

Pat Dixon is in a hard fight for reelection to his City Council seat in Lago Vista, Texas. During his two years in office, Dixon has lived up to the libertarian dictum that government should do very few things and they should do them very well.

Zoning and property rights have been lightning rod issues in his town. Not only has Dixon consistently been the friend of property owners against being overrun with local regulations, he has demanded and achieved a much greater level of transparency for local government. Texas local elections take place May 12.

One of the higher rated candidates from the 2006 Candidate Tracker is giving Texas a chance at another city councilman. Matthew Moseley has already raised over \$15,000 in a race where winners normally spend about \$10,000. Moseley is riding a wave of voter discontent. "There is a huge

anti-incumbent movement going on, which will attract more voters to the polls," says Moseley. "At this point, I would not be surprised to see the one unopposed incumbent to be the only returning councilman."

Also in Texas, Kevin Tunstall is putting together a strong run for the City Council in Missouri City. Although there are over 10,000 active voters there, Tunstall reports that it generally only takes 500 votes to win this seat. Fresh off his work with the Bob Smither campaign, Tunstall is making the public appearances and garnering the local media necessary to reach this achievable goal.

One other candidate with a future election date who has made the Candidate Tracker is Jim McWilliams, seeking a seat on the Warren, Michigan City Council.

There are nine open seats with a primary election set for August 7 to select the top 18 candidates. Filing closes in Michigan in mid-May, so McWilliams has gotten a jump on the field. He is well known in town as a popular Little League baseball coach, giving him a strong advantage in this nonpartisan race.

For updated information on these and future Libertarian candidates, check the Candidate Tracker at www.lp.org.

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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."

Two new presidential hopefuls emerge: Daniel Imperato and Robert Jackson

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that are abusing the charitable donations system and taking advantage of our people's hard earned money.

It is about time we shorten the list of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approvals and have the drug companies support our healthcare system with surcharges and other fees to be, so that healthcare can be available for all Americans and not just a privileged few.

We were the leading country in the world for education at one time, and we need to get back to being number one. One of my major initiatives will be a U.S. online education system.

As president, what would your general foreign policy look like? Specifically, how would you handle the present situation in Iraq.

My experience is in negotiating business transactions with people in over 70 countries. My policy would be one of engagement and negotiation, not saber rattling, while never putting America's freedom at risk.

Please tell our readers what makes you uniquely qualified to be President of the United States.

I am the best-qualified,

business-knowledgeable candidate in the race. I have lived by my business wits in the ever-changing global marketplace and have maintained solvent business financials throughout every twist and turn of the market and government regulatory changes. I have no debt. I am neither a lawyer, a liar, nor a politician. I look at the best business-like solution with the best outcome for all concerned.

Bob Jackson

Please provide a brief introduction of your campaign to our Libertarian readers.

My immediate goal is to help the Libertarian Party grow as an effective third party, and to win the party's nomination as its candidate for the President of the United States. My campaign will develop a full chief executive policy to explain how I would perform all my duties as president. This plan has, and will continue to incorporate, libertarian policies that will show how the federal government can be limited to the powers granted by the Constitution, be fiscally responsible, and enhance the freedoms and opportunities for all Americans. I will emphasize that honesty, integrity,

competence and hard work qualify me for the office.

Ultimately, the goals for October 2008 are to make 40 percent of the voters comfortable with the idea that I will be a better president than either the Democrat or Republican candidates, and to win the election in November.

Describe the economic policy you would pursue, if elected president. Please indicate your views on the line item veto, taxation, and deficit spending.

A well founded fear the people have of a third party president, dedicated to restructuring the federal government, as I am, could lead to the disruption of the economy brought on by too many radical changes, too fast.

To address this fear, my campaign will stress that a sequence of clearly defined changes will be carefully selected and implemented. I will show how it will benefit the economy in general, and individuals, particularly. The goal of my policy will be to significantly reduce the budget of the federal government, eliminate deficit spending, and address the national debt.

Some programs should return to the states. For example, the Federal Department of Education should be eliminated. Allocated federal funds should be block-granted to the states. These

grants should then be reduced in steps to zero as quickly as possible, as the states adjust budgets and priorities. Many other federal programs should also be effectively reduced.

The tax code today must be simplified and taxes reduced. However, spending must be reduced before taxes are reduced to prevent deficits. Then a lower and fair tax can be implemented. I agree with the www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa536.pdf analysis as a base to build from. I would support a line item veto constitutional amendment. I would rely on the support of the people to influence the legislators, and I would use the veto power to eliminate excessive spending. I would promote worldwide free trade.

If elected, what would be the priorities of your social policy agenda?

The trend for the last 60 years has been to elevate social issues higher and higher up the government structure, until it has a dominating influence on the federal government.

The federal government has shown that as more money is spent on social problems, the larger the social problems get. Social issues are actually very personal to each individual in need. History has shown that the best social assistance is from family and community.

My main priority is to significantly reduce federal



Presidential candidate Robert Jackson

involvement with the social needs of individuals. I would help states to further assist local governments and charities to address the social needs of people who need help to regain their independence.

The American people are the most compassionate people this world has ever seen. I would work hard to reduce the tax burden of the people, so they have the ability decide the best social use of their hard-earned resources.

The federal war on drugs has failed. There are many suggestions, and I will develop a policy so that there will be a reasonable approach defined before the presidential election. Most social issues can be solved by expanded job opportunities. The federal government must reduce

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Online Resources for LP Members

Find contact info for your state Libertarian Party or your State Chair

www.LP.org
Click on: Organization
Click on: State Parties
Click on: [Your state]

Find contact info for the National Committee

www.LP.org
Click on: Organization
Click on: LNC Directory

Renew your membership

www.LP.org
Click on: Membership
Click on: Renew your membership or subscription

An LP candidate: Is it worth it?

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Only in 1984, during Reagan v. Mondale, did the LP fail to take advantage of at least the fundraising benefits of a presidential election year.

So, am I saying that this is all about money? No, it's about people.

Each day, whether on or off season, our party strives to elect Libertarians to public office. In order to do so, we need to recruit impressive candidates who address and educate the public about themselves and about what it means to be a libertarian. The more people that we have to support

or engage in these efforts, the more likely we are to succeed.

Is there a downside? Certainly.

Party loyalists will call us spoilers or worse. Others, not understanding why our party chooses to compete against overwhelming odds, may think that we have a screw or two loose.

Fortunately, the only way to combat those negative impressions is to run even more of our great Libertarian candidates. Voters, whether casting a choice for a local race or the presidency, will eventually give pause to an LP candidate

if the option is placed before them on the ballot as many election cycles as is possible.

For now, we can accept the many positives of running a presidential candidate while we continue to work for the day when a competitive Libertarian presidential candidate is a reality.

In the meantime, we can all be thankful that our candidate is not Barack Hussein Obama, or worse, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Shane Cory is Executive Director of the Libertarian National Committee

Columbia University plan to seize land by eminent domain opposed by LP

The intent by Columbia University president Lee Bollinger to use the process of eminent domain to obtain land for a new campus in West Harlem faces opposition from the Libertarian Party of New York (LPNY). The targeted land is in what is known as the Manhattan expansion zone, which encompasses West 125th Street to 133rd Street, between Broadway and 12th Avenue. The University is considering acquiring as much as 35 acres for a biotech campus, and to set the process in motion, the ESDC has designated the area as “blighted.”

In opposing the plan, the LP effort is led by three Columbia University alumni: LP State Chair Richard Cooper, Christopher Garvey, and Mark Axinn. The Libertarians are currently fighting the Atlantic Yards/Nets Arena in Brooklyn, as well.

State Chair Cooper notes that he previously fought SUNY-Stony Brook’s eminent domain grab of Flowerfields in St. James. “Eminent domain is a legalized assault on tenants, taxpayers and property-owners. Bollinger cites our beloved Columbia’s educational mission and the infamous Kelo decision. Is it Columbia’s mission to teach that legalized theft is

just and constitutional? Is it to teach that the end justifies the means?”

Mark Axinn, a Manhattan real estate attorney and Manhattan LP treasurer, thunders “I am particularly appalled that Columbia University, which already has significant real estate and financial resources far in excess of others is desirous of relying on the thuggery of government to force other real estate owners to relinquish their property, rather than simply purchase any land it desires on the open market. Surely an institution with the power and wealth of Columbia could, if it desired, simply buy contiguous property. By seeking to usurp others’ legitimate property rights by eminent domain, a University of which I should be proud lowers itself to the level of the street bully simply taking what it wants from those weaker individuals who might also be on the schoolyard.”

Christopher Garvey, a Long Island patent attorney and former LPNY candidate for governor (‘98) and attorney-general (‘06), reflects his interest in the arts with his critique. “On The Brian Lehrer Show of Thursday, March 8, 2007, Lee Bollinger, President of Columbia University, stated

his case for its expansion into the Manhattanville section of West Harlem. He described the activities of his private university as ‘public purposes,’ which justified having the government invoke its powers of eminent domain, to steal property from existing owners, to give to the University. Thus, artists paying rent for studios in private buildings [located in the disputed section] would be forcibly displaced to provide studio space for artists placed there by Columbia.”

“How arrogant,” Garvey comments! “Declaring one’s ‘purposes’ to be ‘public’ is so much easier and cheaper than buying property, fairly, from willing sellers on the free market. But how is one artist’s studio a more ‘public’ purpose than another artist’s studio? And how does a CVS drug store become a more ‘public’ purpose than a Walgreen’s drugstore? Because people like Lee Bollinger can say so. And such people can get government to do their bidding, by eminent domain. And elite academic Lee Bollinger’s very important opinion is so-o-o much more valuable to the so-called ‘public’ than yours is, even if you think you are a member of the ‘public.’”

State Chair Cooper will



College walk at Columbia College -- between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan, NY

speak at the LPNY convention on eminent domain with Reverend Fred Jenkins of St. Luke’s Pentecostal Church in New Cassel. LP members will recall that the church was aided by the Libertarian Party after a North Hempstead Zoning Board member proclaimed “We have too many churches in New Cassel.” Apparently, a Swedish-based IKEA furniture store was favored by the Board over the church.

Ed. Note: As libertarians well know, Kelo vs. City of New London (Connecticut) was a case decided in 2005 by

the U.S. Supreme Court that concerned the use of eminent domain to transfer ownership of land from one private owner to another to supposedly further economic development. In this widely criticized case, the city of New London, Connecticut condemned privately owned property in the Fort Trumbull neighborhood as part of a comprehensive redevelopment plan, an action that was upheld by the Supreme Court. Included as a beneficiary of the land taking was a planned resort hotel and conference center.

LP Platform Committee to form for 2008

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to the regular Convention. In addition to meeting the bylaws requirement, being able to perform the duties required of Committee members is essential, including attendance at the Libertarian National Convention in Denver next year.

Committee members will need to be prepared to expend an appreciable amount of their time in the months leading up to the Convention; and due to the anticipated amount of work, they will be expected to

incur considerable travel costs, at personal expense, for meetings prior to the Convention.

So that members of the National Committee can determine who might best fill seats on the Libertarian Platform Committee, candidates must submit an e-mailed sample of three proposed or modified platform planks to platform@lp.org no later than July 1, 2007.

Applicants who do not submit sample planks will not be considered.

Boycott of Barclays Bank called to protest eminent domain abuse

New York Libertarian Party leaders Richard Cooper and Gary Popkin have called for a nationwide boycott of Barclays Bank, due to its participation in the eminent domain abuse scheme of Brooklyn’s Atlantic Yards.

According to Brooklyn-Queens LP Chair Popkin, Barclays actions have amounted to a tacit endorsement of the state’s use of eminent domain to condemn private property and turn it over to a private developer, Forest City Ratner. “Barclays participation in eminent domain is an outrage as a private enterprise

disrespecting property rights,” adds Popkin.

For authority in the taking of private property, the State of New York can no doubt point to the Kelo case decided in 2005 by the U.S. Supreme Court, but according to LP National Chair Cooper, “millions of Americans were outraged” by the 5-4 high court decision. The finding was widely seen by the American public as a gross violation of property rights and as a misinterpretation of the Fifth Amendment.

Barclays’ participation in the eminent domain issue follows on the heels of an agreement earlier this

year by the bank to pay \$400 million to Ratner for the right to name the soon-to-be-built New York Nets arena, the “Barclays Center.”

Both did not sit well with Cooper, and with many others. “To libertarians,” he said, “corporate sports welfare and eminent domain abuse are legalized theft, stealing from taxpayers and landowners. Barclays chose to become an accomplice of Bruce Ratner. They should both bear the outrage of indignant Americans who favor freedom and justice.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two new presidential hopefuls emerge

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control and taxes for job creators. History in America has shown that most of the growth in our standard of living has been produced by multitudes of small businesses and entrepreneurs free from government interference. I know this works because I am one.

As president, what would your general foreign policy look like? Specifically, how would you handle the present situation in Iraq.

The situation in the world and Iraq will be different in 2009 than today. My current position is that the United States should declare victory in Northern Iraq and let the Kurds control their fledging democracy. We should stabilize the Shi areas of Iraq into areas that they can control, so that the United States would have another friendly ally. This would also be a victory. We should help the rest of Iraq areas to gain their control, and if that is not done in a reasonable time, we should let them decide their own future

without our help.

There is a committed enemy that is trying to destroy the United States by "death of a thousand cuts." We are in a war like no war we have ever seen before, but we can prevail. As president, I would follow the constitution and ask Congress for a "Declaration of War" to define and fight this war. With Congress's cooperation and presidential leadership, America can effectively fight this war.

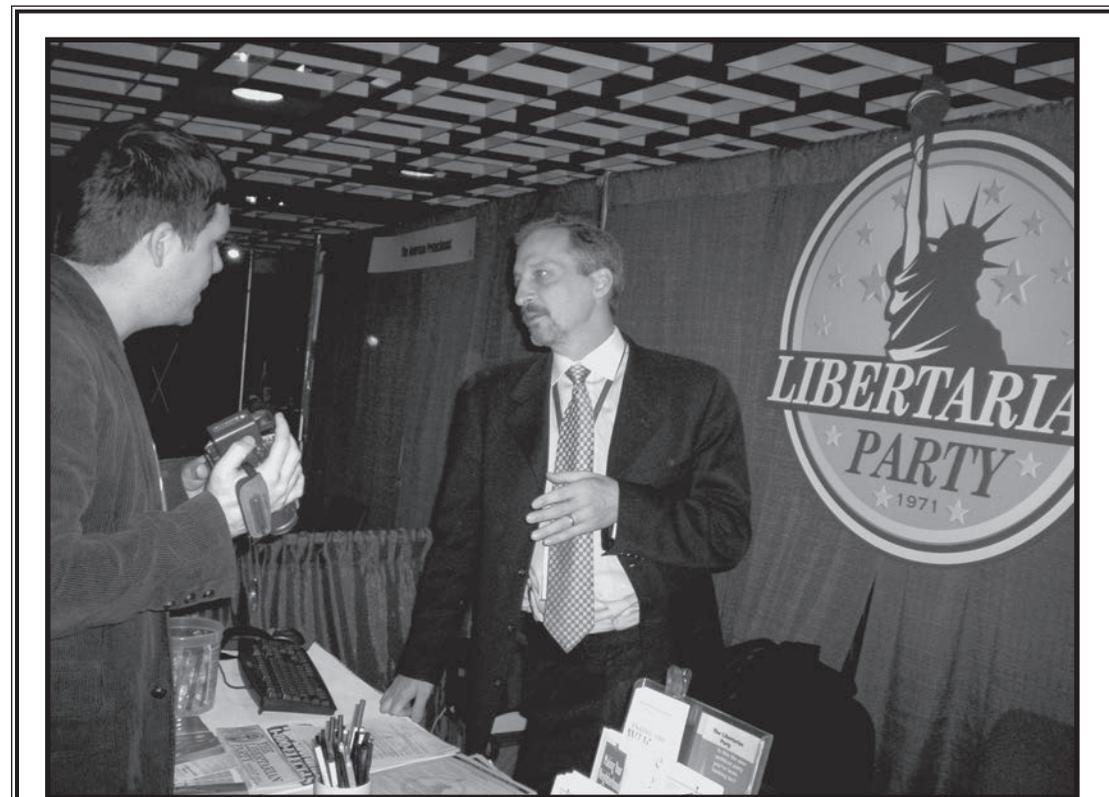
I believe that America should work diligently with world governments. The embassy system is a good system to coordinate American interests with each foreign government, and equally important, to understand the needs and desires of foreign governments.

I would not call foreign countries evil, or pressure a regime change, in order to enforce our beliefs on others. I would reduce our military presence abroad, as it is expensive and unduly threatens too many. However, I would make it clear that we will use a "big stick," if any foreign country attacks or encroaches on our sovereignty.

Please tell our readers what makes you uniquely qualified to be President of the United States.

I believe that I have the honesty, integrity and moral character it takes to be a good president. As an Eagle Scout, my compass is the Scout oath and law. My broad experience covers local everyday conditions, economic reality, social issues, equality, technology, and world affairs. I have been a proven community leader, entrepreneur, and innovator since childhood.

I am a practiced believer in the principles of limited and effective government, as defined in the Constitution of the United States. My engineering and business record is a true example of the free enterprise spirit backed with personal responsibility and hard work. I am a holistically trained person that can and will analyze situations, find alternates, and take prudent action on the major issues facing the United States.



Libertarian National Committee participates in Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). Held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC on March 1-3, the annual conference was attended by more than 7,000. LP Political Director Stephen Gordon is shown being interviewed by Bureaucracy's Jason Tally.

Smaller Budget Passed

Davenport is set to pass a city budget with \$9 million in less spending than last year, with no tax increases and a small increase in sewer fees. I think Bill Lynn's presence on the City Council has a lot to do with this. Bill's latest newsletter says he asked for tax decreases, or a rollback of the revenue generating, non-service associated fees.

In my humble opinion, showing what can happen with just one rational, business-like Libertarian in local office does way more good than the hype, spin, and under-perform cycle associated with spending tons of money to get ballot access for the candidates we run for higher office.

Mark Nelson
Davenport, Iowa

Concern About Credibility

We ought to be concerned about statements made by some of our presidential candidates in the February-March 2007 issue of LP News. Several of them either used profanity or said "taxation is theft." Others had no clue about what powers the president has. Several were obviously on a libertarian macho flash ego trip. And most seemed to give no consideration to the consequences of their proposed actions, assuming them to be all positive, which they are not, at least in the real world.

In my opinion, large numbers of voters will consider them, and the party, to be not serious or credible, given these sorts of statements.

David Aitken
Denver, Colorado

Giuliani and McCain Libertarians?

I'm writing to correct an assertion I often see in the news media these days. It is common to see presidential candidates Rudy Giuliani and Sen. John McCain referred to as "Libertarian Republicans". I would like to point out that there isn't much about either candidate to make them libertarian. They are really just liberal proponents of big government.

Mr. Giuliani supports gun control. He also supports the use of eminent domain to take property from a homeowner and give that property to a private real estate developer. Both of these positions are against the heart of the Libertarian Party: *property rights*.

Mr. McCain prefers to rob us of free speech with his atrocious McCain-Feingold Bi-Partisan Campaign Reform Act, also known as BCRA. Due to this law, NASCAR driver Kirk Shelmerdine was recently "admonished" and threatened with a large fine because he had a "Bush-Cheney" bumper sticker on the back of his race car. McCain is well-known in Washington and the sports world as a regulator and an advocate of stifling free speech. That strikes at another fundamental principle of our Libertarian Party: *liberty*.

Robert Butler
Powell Ohio

Please send your letters to the editor to :

Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW,
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: (202) 333-0008 x230
E-mail: Editor@LP.org

Space permitting, we will publish your letter in the an issue of LP News.

Stalwarts of Liberty

The Libertarian National Committee thanks the following members for renewing their membership and helping to advance the cause of Liberty.

**Renewal Period
3/1/07 - 3/31/07**

Life

Upton Dabney
Jackson Dempsey
Jason Heblack
Mark Mathes
Barr McCutcheon
Harold Rhodes

Patron

Michael Erickson

Sponsor

Lawrence Borland
John Capobianco
D. M. Droogleever
R. Ferguson
Robert Guthrie
Bob Jackson
David Jenkins
Charles Livingston
Patricia McQuiddy
Christian Padgett
Edward Soloko
Allen Vance

Sustaining

Stan Ackerman
Nicholas Adamenko
Dale Adler
Anna Alldredge
Allen Anderson
Shirley Anderson
Chris Angle
Arthur Ankh
Steven Appelstein
Ken Arneson
John Bacon
Perry Bacon
Matthew Bailey
George Bair
H. Ball
Cristian Banu
George Barenholtz
Nelson Barnhouse
Joseph Barrett
R. J. Barth
Lawrence Bartley
Thomas Barton
John Bartos
Loren Baumgardner
Kurt Baumgartner
Stephen Bearden
John Becker
Don Benski
Paula Benski
Charles Benson
Greg Bezdek
Bernard Bjork
Catherine Blackmon
Robert Blamar
Philip Blumel
Kenny Bogus
Parke Boneysteele
Vincent Borrelli
David Bortnick
Richard Boskind
Sandra Boyum
Garland Bray
Danny Brett

Alberta Brierly
Michael Brooks
Brian Brown
Paul Brown
Steven Buckles
R. Buckner
Lisa Bullion
Dorothy Burse
Mark Burton
Ronald Bynum
Thomas Callicrate
David Capouch
Robert Carden, IV
Susan Chambers
Marcia Childress
William Christie
Christopher Cole
Robert Cole
Bette Conn
Paul Cook
Franklin Cooke
Susan Cooper
James Copenheaver
Stephanie Corey
Anthony Cornelius
Joseph Coverdale
Aric Cramer
George Crispin
Timothy Crowley
Donald Cumbest
Art Curson
John Curtis
Michelle Daily
Laura Davis
Robert Decker
Del Delasandry
Dominic DeLucia
Larry Denison
David Deretchin
Mike DeRiso
Sherry Desotell
Peter Devers
Tony Dias
Bartlett Dickson
Joseph Douvillier
Gertrude Dugan
Barry Duncan
Will Dvorak
Denzel Dyer
Richard Edwards
Clifford Eibeck
Jay Eller
Tim Ellsworth
Mark Ely
Charles Engelhardt
Karl Erfurt
Richard Emisssee
John Euler
Alice Evans
John Evans
Eric Ewell
Leland Faegre
Charles Farris
Kevin Faulkenberry
Joe Felder
Wayne Fergerstrom
Eric Finch
Roger Finke
Eric Finseth
Wayne Fiscus
Thomas Flammia
Lynn Ford
Robert Fowler
Conrad Frankowski
Charles Freeland
Gene Freeland
James Frye
Jim Fryman
Daniel Gallagher
John Gallagher
Joseph Gargiulo
Brian Gass
Joanna Gentry
Daniel George
Jeffrey Gibbons

Tim Girard
Karl Gittleman
Elayne Glantzberg
Joan Glass
William Gleeson
Ruben Gloria
Marty Gold
Nathaniel Goodale
Wayne Goodwin
Mary Goulet
Peter Grace
Duane Grindstaff
Patrick Groff
Lenny Grom
Stephen Gross-Rhode
Lois Grzenda
Michael Guida
Ralph Guild
John Gullely
Charles Haddad
James Hamilton
Nicholas Hamisevicz
John Hancock
Linda Handelman
Shawn Harrison
Herbert Hart
Robert Hart
Franklin Harvey
Mike Hatalovsky
Dave Haupt
Eric Hayes
John Hayes
Daniel Hazen
Wade Heller
Joseph Henchman
Anthony Henderson
Tom Hengel
William Henkel
Donald Henkle
W Hennigar
Greg Henshall
John Henthorne
Bruce Hibbard
Don Hicks
James Higgins
Dean Hill
Samuel Hill
Harry Hodgdon
Frederic Hofmann
Rich Holland
August Hollen
Edgar Howard
John Howard
Jason Hurst
Douglas Ikelman
Vickie Ingersoll
Tim Irvin
Brian Irving
Ronald Iseler
Fred Jabin
Doug Jackson
Robert Jahelka
Aleck Janoulis
Michael Janssen
Marcus Jensen
Byron Jervis
Karen Johnson
D.R. Johnston
Doyle Jones
E. Jones
Richard Jonson
Geoffrey Keller
Thomas Kemp
Dennis Kenealy
Morris Kiah
Russell Kitzberger
Jeff Kleb
Victor Klein
Mark Kleinlein
Nancy Klemash
Paul Klemash
Gary Klepper
John Klopp
Tim Kneale

Jeffrey Koch
William Kochevar
Barbara Kocsmaros
Irene Kuhland
Stephen Kuhn
Brian Lanko
Louis Lawrence (B-1)
Michael Leone
Marilyn Levin
Timothy Lick
Alden Link
Tobey Llop
Karl Luebeck
G. Randy Lyman
Doris Lynch
Grace Lynch
Stanley Lyness
James Maas
Theresa Magnotta
Lenny Marsh
Kelly Martin
Louis Martin
Alan Matsuda
William Maur
Nolan Maureen
Jack Mayer
Michael McAuliffe
W. McCullough
John McEvoy
Rodney McGowan
Shawn Meek
Dana Miller
David Miller
W. Mills
Kenneth Minton
Shirley Mobley
Ken Moellman
Steve Monteclaro
Frankie Moore
Jane Moore
Gregor Morrill
Adam Morris
Dave Morris
Keith Morton
Joseph Muha
Bernard Mumford
Robert Newman
Douglas Nicoll
Alexander Nicolo
Thomas Nixon
Thoms Nugent
John O'Larey
Lee Ormiston
Wanda Ortiz
Billy Parker
Sam Parsons
Richard Patnaude
Gene Patroske
Michael Patton
Alexandra Patz
James Payne
George Pearson
Gordon Peay
Shawn Peck
Jane Pehrson
Mark Pelletier
Timothy Peterman
Paul Petersen
Catherine Peterson
Christopher Peterson
Dwight Pfenning
Stephen Philson
Geoffrey Pike
Robert Pitzer
Nicholas Ponomarenko
James Preisinger
LaNelle Prochnow
K Pugerude
Ken Puleston
Rollie Puterbaugh
Edward Quinn
Roy Rager
Rafael Ramos
Dan Reagan

James Redmond
Carol Reed
Russell Reim
Warren Revere
Maurice Richmond
Roland Riddell
James Robertson
Gary Robinson
Lora Robinson
Zachary Robinson
Matthew Rody
Dale Roewe
Jack Rogers
Timothy Rohr
Steven Rossi
Dominic Ruggiero
Dennis Rush
John Rush
Jay Russell
Steven Sabel
Rex Scheetz
Steve Scheiderer
Charles Schleifer
Jim Schmidt
John Schonk
Kevin Schultz
Kim Schwartz
Stephen Schwartz
William Sears
Philip Seiden
Preston Seu
Harlen Shasteen
James Sheldon
Gregory Shipman
Lori Shuford
Craig Sickler
Frances Sinclair
George Skipper
Alma Smith
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Eileen Smith
Justin Smith
Karyn Smith
Scott Smolarczyk
Joseph Sokol
Arnold Souba
Albert Sparaco
Edward Spitzer
George Squyres
Brian Stafford
Joe Stallings
Brian Stedjee
Joseph Steffan
Roger Stelma
Lois Stephens
William Stephens
Matthew Sterba
David Stewart
Peggy Stiles-Beck
Robert Stoddard
Robert Strange
Richard Stueven
Scott Sutton
Kinsey Tanner
Louis Taterka
Sheri Taylor-Ernery
Andrew Terrono
Glenda Thomas
Thomas Tindle
David Todd
Richard Tomasso
Dino Toro
Antonin Trneny
William Van Allen
R. Vance
Noel Vaughan
J. Voute
Wesley Walls
Kenneth Walter
Alexander Ward
Carolyn Watson
William Weaver
Kurt Weber
Lawrence Weeks
Thomas Wegener

Philip Weigand
Dennis Weikel
Mary Wert
David Westerhof
Bernard Wezner
James Whitacre
Michael White
Richard Whitehead
David Whitt
David Whittaker
Edward Wiatrowski
Jeff Wienstroer
John Wierman
Mark Wigton
Van Wilhite
Ronald Williams
Katherine Wilson
Chris Wolfrom
Charles Woodin
Clayton Yancey
Alton Yee
Todd Young
Mitchell Zebrowski
William Zebuhr
Jan-Mark Zentler
Jerald Ziemke
Mark Cenci
Richard Einert
Larry Roberts
Joseph Rudmin
Steven Burgauer
Jon Cowgill
Jonathan Moody
Renee Serafini
George Strawbridge
John Adolphi
Christopher Borden
Drew Davies
Kent De Bejar
John DeCou
J DeLapp
John Donarummo
Harold Doty
Michael Giallombardo
Kim Hamilton
Anthony Javoric
Charles Kicker
Jeffrey LaCroix
Ed Larish
Robert Lester
Eduardo Martinez
William Nix
Doug Ohmen
Jason Priebe
James Rice
Marlyn Rudebusch
John Scannello
J Schwartz
Henry Wood

Supporting

Mark Ackley
Harold Adams Jr
Bruce Anderson
Lilka Areton
Charles Arnold
Peter Aronson
Alex Aumann
David Ayers
Terry Bacon
John Baldwin
Dennis Barclay
Seth Barnett
Eric Barrett
William Barton
Lorris Bowers
Paul Brochon
Jerry Bryant
Robert Bugby
Stuart Bugg
Arno Buhrer
Robert Cooper
Roland Crawford

Ronald Curtis
Ervan Darnell
Glen Dickey
Roxan Dinwoodie
John Doty
Andrew Ehret
Brad Elliott
David Estep
Robert Eyerman
Colin Favret
Jane Field
Rikko Field
Duane Fogg
Amy Frederick
John Fristrom
Paul Goodwin
Mike Hackett
Eric Haszlakiewicz
Alan Hemphill
Jeff Herman
Fred Hewitt
Michael Hignite
Lawrence Hippert
Alfred James
David Jennings
Amy Kemp
John Kennedy
Thomas Kern
Michael Kershaw
Stephen King
Walter Knoepfel
Victor Kruger
Richard Lafford
Leslie Lazerin
Joseph Ligon
Kevin Litten
Norman Lucas
Patrick Marihugh
David McCoid
Peter Mills
Michael Morgan
Jan Nace
Clint Nall
Larry Niven
Elizabeth Nolan
B. Nordmann
Peter Oeth
Joseph O'Keefe
Mark Overturf
Arlen Overvig
George Pearson
Stan Pennock
Samuel Pinker
Lansing Pollock
Steve Price
Tom Rawls
Richard Rider
Joe Rosenberg
Eric Rudie
Blair Sandberg
Charles Scamman
Debra Schum
Donald Severson
Thomas Shelefska
Gregory Shelton
Christine Siegenthaler
Jonathan Smith
Robert Sosbee
Jason Southwell
Stephen Spencer
David Spizarny
Timothy Stone
Walter Stone
Fredrika Strandfeldt
Tod Streich
James Thompson
Bill Wence
Dean West
Jerald Wienke
Gary Williams
Richard Wilson
James Burian
John Roszmann
Ralph Witherell
Adam Glickman

Libertarians victorious in winning local offices in Kansas and Missouri

Burlison elected to City Council in Springfield, Missouri

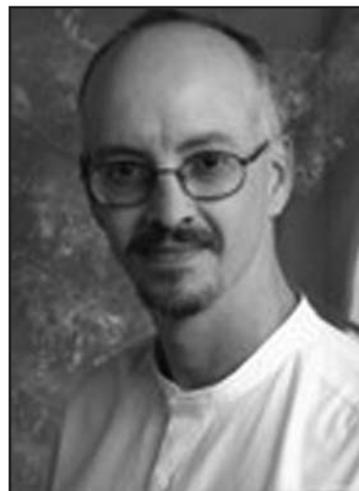
Missouri Libertarians have cause to celebrate after Doug Burlison won a four-year term on the Springfield City Council. Burlison defeated Conrad Griggs by 4,478 votes to 4,055 (52.5 percent) for the seat C position on the nine-member council. Springfield has over 151,000 residents, making it the third largest city in Missouri.

Burlison credited his previous campaigns for U.S. Congress and the Springfield City Council for building his name recognition in his district.

When Burlison previously ran for the Council, he discovered so many unanswered questions about city operations that he led a successful petition drive to have the city audited by the State Auditor.

Now that he has ridden his local activism to an election victory, he will have an opportunity to do something about the results of the audit, while on the Council.

When asked why he ran for office, Burlison replied, "The City Council was crafting bad



Springfield City Councilman Doug Burlison

legislation and that needed to change." He and his wife have eight children. "I wondered when they get their driver's licenses and hit the streets, what kind of city will they find?"

More local victories for Libertarians in the Heartland

Libertarian candidates are now five for nine in elections in Kansas and Missouri held on Tuesday, April 3, 2007. Besides Doug Burlison's election to the Springfield City Council, Missouri Libertarians

Mike Ferguson and Joel Stoner also won local races. Ferguson now has a seat on the Jackson County Water Supply Board, while Stoner will serve as an Alderman in Macks Creek.

Ferguson defeated his opponent Joel Kump with 73 percent of the vote. When asked why he won so handily, Ferguson said, "I've found it highly rewarding to get involved in local government and actually make a difference. Running a credible campaign that actually focused on relevant issues in 2004 led to my being appointed to Grandview's Transportation Committee in 2005. In 2006, I was elected Chair by the other members of the committee. They reelected me Chair earlier this year."

Repeating a common theme from recently elected Libertarians, Ferguson said, "The primary reason anyone runs for local office should be to make our communities a better place."

In the wake of winning three of their five races, Missouri Libertarian Party Chair Darla Maloney said, "Credible candidates and real campaign efforts pay off." It is noteworthy that all of Missouri's candidates this year had strong local name recognition based on their re-

ords of community service and political activism, before they even filed for office this year.

Next door in Kansas, Libertarians built upon their growth in 2006 by electing Mike Wilson to the United School District Board of Education in Salina and Larry Manes to the Allen County Community College Board of Trustees.

Wilson credited his victory to his experience in higher education and on local appointed boards. He came in fourth out of six candidates for four seats, with 2,687 votes (16.7 percent). A 23-year resident of Salina and retired from the local campus of Kansas State University, Wilson has served on the town's Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning and Zoning Commission since 2003.

Wilson walked his neighborhood and placed about 40 yard signs throughout Salina. "I can be [the teachers'] advocate and present their concerns at board meetings," said Wilson. "Burdensome mandates such as the 'No Child Left Behind' legislation should be opposed."



Salina School Board Member Mike Wilson

Such local victories as those experienced by Libertarians running for office in Kansas and Missouri are considered the lifeblood of the LP. "Candidate recruitment has been identified as one of my highest priorities," said Stephen Gordon, who now serves as the Libertarian Party's new Political Director. "Expect to see even more candidates with strong records of community service in local races over the next couple of years. And with great candidates like these, we can certainly expect to see more wins, too."

LP NEWS CORRECTION:

The 2002 Convention Expense was incorrectly noted in the 2002-2006 Revenue and Expense Summary in the annual report (*LP News*, February-March 7, p. 5).

The correct expense total was \$150,083, as opposed to the printed \$310,532 amount. The corrected net loss for 2002 is -\$224,522, as opposed to -\$384,971."

In the LP Treasurer's Report on the same page, the clause "While this [convention] shortfall is an improvement over the \$150,000 loss from the 2002 convention" was based on the same incorrect data and is hereby retracted. The 2002 convention only lost \$5.6k, excluding funds raised at the banquet (\$24.3k profit, including banquet fundraising).

We sincerely apologize for inadvertently publishing incorrect data.



Russmo is still taking a break from cartooning. However, this archived classic from 2005 applies as much today as it did then.

RUSSMO 5/05
www.russmo.com

AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

**ALABAMA:
Convention to be held in Mobile**

The annual convention for the Libertarian Party of Alabama will be held on June 23-24 at the Holiday Inn in Mobile, near Bellingrath Gardens (exit 15B off of Interstate 10). Those attending will be asked to pay a \$99 fee, which will cover both days of the Convention, including a dinner cruise on Saturday night. As the event nears and the program solidifies, visit www.al.lp.org for updated information. You can also contact Executive Director Mike Rster at gallatin76@aol.com.

**CALIFORNIA
Convention held in San Ramon**

The Libertarian Party of California held its annual convention at the San Ramon Valley Conference Center in San Ramon. The following new officers were elected: Chair Kevin Takenaga, Northern Vice Chair Richard Newell, Southern Vice Chair Zander Collier, Secretary Beau Cain, and Treasurer Don Cowles.

**FLORIDA:
Dickey elected chairman**

The Libertarian Party of Florida (LPF) elected Karl Dickey of Boca Raton as its new chairman during the party's annual convention on March 17-19. "I look forward to raising the standards of the LPF to a more professional, educational, and respected

organization," he said, noting that he planned to increase the presence of libertarians in Florida with enhanced communications to affiliates, an improved website, and increased college activism. He also intends to run candidates at all levels of government in Florida.

Elected as well during the convention was Boca Raton resident Neil Evangelista as Vice Chair.

**GEORGIA:
Personnel changes implemented**

The Libertarian Party of Georgia (LPGA) has announced a number of personnel changes. According to Anthony Trauring, Operations Director, "our elected Chair, Jason Pye, resigned the position in December. He remains active with the party, but is no longer an officer. Our Vice Chair, Jack Aiken, has become our Acting Chair."

"We have also made changes in our office. Our new Executive Director is David Chastain, replacing Trevor Southerland."

"Finally," states Trauring, "filling the newly created position of Operations Director, I will be in the office from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm and can be reached either through my email (Tony.Libertarian@gmail.com) or by calling (404) 888-9468."

Greater Atlanta Meetup held

The Greater Atlanta Meetup was held on March 24 at Smith's Olde Bar in Atlanta. The guest speaker was Dr. Jim Sendelbach, who is

running for Congress in a special election being held on June 19. Jim opened with a short statement and then took questions from the audience. Doug Craig, Political Director for the state party, also spoke for a few minutes.

**INDIANA:
Singer selected as State Chairman**

The Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Indiana (LPIN) has selected Todd Singer as the new State Chairman. Todd is stepping in for Mark Rutherford, who has held the position for 7 years, and will serve the remainder of the term until elections on May 19, at which time, he will run for the position. Todd has been serving as County Chairperson for the Libertarian Party of Hendricks County, and at the time of his selection as Chairman, he was Assistant Treasurer on the Central Committee of the LPIN. He served as an Indiana delegate to the LP National Conventions in 2004 and 2006.

Named as the new Executive Director of the LPIN was Susan Street-Beavers.

Nominations conducted

The Libertarian Party of Wayne County conducted nominations on April 21 at 6:00 pm for the upcoming city and town elections.

**KANSAS:
Convention to be held in Emporia**

The annual convention of the Kansas State Libertarian Party (KSLP) will be held on April 28 at ESU Building on the campus of Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas. Two state officers will be elected to two-year terms during the one-day event. Visit www.lpk.org for further information.

**MAINE:
Convention to be held in Augusta**

The annual convention for the Libertarian Party of Maine (LPME) will be held on May 19 at the Senator Inn & Conference Center in Augusta.

In addition to Libertarian Party Executive Director Shane Cory, speakers will include Mary Adams of Taxpayer

Bill of Rights, Bill Becker of Maine Heritage Policy Institute, Calton Bragg of Property Rights Advocates of Maine, and former Republican state congressman R. Kenneth Lindell. For further information, contact Mark Cenci at (207) 657-2822.

**MICHIGAN:
Convention to be held in Kenwood**

The annual convention for the Libertarian Party of Michigan (LPM) will be held on May 5 at the Grand Rapids Airport Hilton in Kenwood. A social event is planned for Friday night, May 4, at the West Michigan Whitecaps minor league baseball game. Contact Eric Larson, Libertarian Party of Western Michigan (LPWM) Chair (ellarson0@comcast.net) for updated details.

**MINNESOTA:
Convention held in Bloomington**

The annual convention for the Libertarian Party of Minnesota (LPMN) was held on April 21 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bloomington. The theme of the convention was "Women of Liberty," with libertarian speakers Wendy McElroy, author of several books; Sharon Harris, President of the Advocates for Self Government; Sue Jeffers, 2006 gubernatorial candidate; Diana Longrie, Mayor of Maplewood; and Mary O'Connor, member of the Brooklyn Center City Council, being featured. Visit www.lpmn.org for further information.

**MISSOURI:
Congressman Barr was guest speaker**

Darla Maloney, Chair of the Missouri Libertarian Party (MOLP) announced that Congressman Bob Barr attended the National Rifle Association (NRA) national convention, held in St. Louis during April 13-15.

The reception was held at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis, beginning at 7:30 pm. "Mr. Barr [spoke] on two topics, privacy rights and the second amendment."

Former Congressman Barr was just elected to his fourth

consecutive three-year term on the NRA Board of Directors.

**NEVADA:
1776 Brigade draws new members**

According to Jim Duensing, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Nevada, the 1776 Brigade program and *1776 Brigade Bugle* newsletter have been successful, both as outreach and fundraising tools and in motivating modest growth of the party during 2006. Joining the 1776 Brigade program for a monthly stipend of \$17.76, ensures automatic membership in the local, state, and national parties.

Jim is predicting that "before the next election cycle, we will have earned permanent ballot access."

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:
Liberty Forum well attended**

The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (LPNH) pitched in to help the Free State Project for the Liberty Forum held at the Holiday Inn in Concord, New Hampshire on February 23-25. The featured speaker on Friday night for the sold out event was past presidential nominee Michael Badnarik.

The LPNH sponsored a hospitality suite on Friday and Saturday that was visited by representatives of most of the forum participants. Visitors came by from many states, including California and Utah. Bob Sullentrop from the LNC was everywhere, meeting and greeting the attendees, and exhibitors. Pat Dixon of Texas, Hardy Machia of Vermont, Eric Sundwall of New York LP presidential candidate, George Phillies, Libertarian-of-the-Year Gardner Goldsmith, and long time libertarian Ron Paul were there as well.

A raffle of two pistols by the LPNH resulted in more than 200 tickets being sold.

The main event was the appearance of John Stossel of 20/20 fame, who had a book signing and was the keynote speaker Saturday evening

Overall, more than 400 people attended the event, where the Free State Project planted a seed that will produce a Liberty Tree in the Granite State in the near future.

Continued on next page



Dr. Jim Sendelback speaking at Greater Atlanta Meetup

Continued from Page 16

NEW YORK: Convention held in Holtsville

The annual convention for the Libertarian Party of New York (LPNY) will be held on April 28 at the Radisson Hotel in Holtsville. As this edition of *LP News* went to press before the convention, planned speakers included LP presidential candidates; Steve Beery, owner of Mr. Beery's, discussing alcohol and tobacco regulation and his defiance of the smoking ban; John Cain, reporting on his experiences in wearing a wire to expose political corruption, Rev. Fred Jenkins, pastor of St. Luke's Pentecostal Church, speaking on victims of government abuse; Donald Silberger, SUNY-New Paltz professor and former LP candidate; and author/former LP candidate Jim Lesczynski discussing "Raising Libertarian Kids in a Non-Libertarian World." For updated details, contact nylibertarian@hotmail.com.

NEW MEXICO: Convention held in Farmington

The annual convention for the Libertarian Party of New Mexico (LPNM) was held on April 13-15 at the Farmington Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico. LP presidential candidates debated on Friday night. Speakers on Saturday included founding member of the Libertarian Party of San Juan County (LPSJC) Margaret Mathers; Leslie D. Cumiford, President of the Center for Family Justice; civil rights attorney Dennis Montoya; science fiction author and columnist and publisher of the "The Libertarian Enterprise" Neil Smith; and other distinguished guests. Information available by mail from Joseph Knight, Convention Coordinator, Box 698, Flora Vista, New Mexico 87415-0698.

NORTH DAKOTA: LP to be listed in next primary election

Richard Ames, Chair of the Libertarian Party of North Dakota reports that the LP will be listed on the next statewide primary election. According to Ames, "the

Secretary of State has certified the petitions, and except for a few forms to fill out, along with sending in a copy of our bylaws, the task appears to be complete. Our own team of libertarians, plus Scott Kohlhaas, deserve the credit for this great news."

OHIO: Convention held in Deer Creek State Park

The annual convention for the Libertarian Party of Ohio (LPO) was held on April 20-22 at the Deer Creek Resort and Conference Center in Deer Creek State Park.

The following new officers were elected: Chair Robert Butler, Vice Chair Kevin Knedler, Secretary Ed Schombs, and Treasurer Mike Smitley.

Featured speakers included Dr. Mary J. Ruwart, author of the acclaimed libertarian book, "Healing Our World"; Dr. John Mueller, professor of political science at Ohio State University and author of "Overblown: America and the Terrorist Threat"; and Dr. Eric Schansberg, U.S. Congress candidate and professor of economics at Indiana University; as well as other distinguished guests.

A Friday night cookout was also planned. Visit www.lpoconvention.org/id7.html.

PENNSYLVANIA: Bonus payouts ended

Responding to growing criticism, Pennsylvania State Senate Republicans recently ended their practice of handing out special bonus payouts to their staff.

Over the past two years, the legislature has handed out over \$3 million in payouts, including \$2.3 million by state Democrats. Individual amounts ranged from less than a hundred dollars to over \$40,000.

Mik Robertson, LPPA Chair said, "the Libertarian Party endorses the fiscal constraint shown by State Senate Republicans. By ending the bonus payouts, Senate Republicans have sent a positive message about the importance of avoiding conflicts of interest and cutting government spending."

"This is an important issue for Pennsylvanians. All members of the General Assembly should show they endorse this action

by providing full disclosure on past bonuses while ceasing undisclosed payout of public funds. I urge the Democrats and House Republicans to demonstrate the same fiscal responsibility."

James Babb, Libertarian candidate for State Representative in 2006, added another perspective. "This should be another wake up call for Pennsylvania voters. As if the pay-raise scandal never happened, the arrogant incumbents continue to find ways to reach into the taxpayer cookie jar. Electing Libertarians to the Pennsylvania legislature is essential, if we are to restore fiscal restraints in Harrisburg."

Convention to be held at Camp Hill

The annual convention of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania (LPPA) will be held on Saturday, May 5. The location for the one-day event is the Radisson Penn Harris in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, just outside of Harrisburg. LP presidential candidate George Phillies will be present. Visit the Pennsylvania website at www.lppa.org for further information.

TEXAS: Goal reached in contributions

Wes Benedict, Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Texas reports that "on Sunday at 5:45 PM, three days before our February 28 deadline, we reached our goal of raising \$48,000 in one-time contributions, conditional pledges, and recurring monthly contributions.

"Thanks to all of our donors who helped out with this drive, as well as the many other donors who supported us throughout 2006. You've demonstrated you're serious about continuing to build the Libertarian Party in Texas. Along with your commitment, I'll keep my part of the deal by continuing to serve as Executive Director and will keep doing my best to assist our candidates, county organizations, and volunteers.

Chair Pat Dixon adds, "I had thought our only chance was to bring in several large donations from wealthy individuals. We did have a very generous contribution from Timothy Smith. However, our success was not due to a few large contributors. It was due to many of you who joined our

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR PARTY?

Think you know your party and the LP stand on concerns to Americans?

Each month, we'll ask you a question, and the answer will be provided in the next issue of *LP News*. Discussion on the question is welcome in "Letters to the Editor," space permitting.

The question for this month:

In what city was the LP founded?

team. Instead of being reliant on a few individuals, we now have a much broader support base."

Two races considered to be of prime importance

Two municipal races in Texas are thought to be of prime importance to the party. Pat Dixon, running for reelection to the City Council in Lago Vista, Florida is up against tough competition from a member of the Planning and Zoning Committee, who appears to be a defender of more restrictions on private property use and is characterizing Pat as an "extremist."

Kevin Turnstall campaign for Missouri City City Council, if victorious, will prove again that LPers can win in cities with populations above 50,000.

VIRGINIA: Marchenko endorsed for Board of Supervisors

Libertarians who reside in the Tuckahoe District of Henrico County met on March 7 and formally endorsed George Marchenko to represent them at the polls this November. Sixty percent of the members in the Tuckahoe district participated in the process of selecting a candidate, and their sentiment was unanimous for endorsing George.

"In Henrico County, we have deep pocket politicians intent on serving themselves and their inner circles. How else do you explain runaway spending and refusal to limit growth?" said Marchenko.

"Big governments don't protect their own people very well; nor can big governments be trusted to mind their own business. My campaign is all about rolling back government and its programs, and to make

sure that overpaid, over-reaching, under-achieving Henrico County government is put back in its place."

"It's time to turn away from big government. Time has proven that only a frugal, limited government does what it's supposed to do...which is to protect individual rights. Only Libertarians are working to restore that principle," Marchenko concluded.

Marchenko joins 24th State Senate district candidate Arin Sime on the "officially-endorsed" candidate list.

WASHINGTON: Convention to be held in Seattle

The annual convention of the Libertarian Party of Washington (LPWA) will be held on May 12 at the Shoreline Conference Center just north of Seattle. Kelly Haughton, long-time libertarian and elected member of the Pierce County (Tacoma) Charter Review Commission will speak at a dinner on "Ranked Choice Voting and What it Means to Libertarians." Visit www.lpwa.org for further information.

WISCONSIN: Convention held in Tomah

The annual convention of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin (LPWI) was held on April 21 at Ed Thompson's popular Tee Pee Supper Club in Tomah. Featured speakers included Libertarian National Committee Political Director Stephen Gordon; George Meyers, founder of the Belleporte Institute; economist Yuri Maltsev; former LPWI State Chair Dave Redick, and Wisconsin State Representative Marlin Schneider. Visit www.lpwi.org for further information.

The Libertarian National Committee welcomes our newest members*

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Mark Purdy
Wayne Allyn Root
Scott Spencer

Supporting Members:

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Cris R. Armstrong
Deanna Aronoff
Clint Bellanger
Neal Belt
Brad Bitterman
David Bryant
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Carlos Bustamante
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Bruce Darling
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UPCOMING

**WANT TO KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON IN
YOUR STATE?**

Here is a brief listing of upcoming events for which we have received notification. Additional information on each of these events can be found under "Affiliate News and Events," page 9-10. In the future, if there is an event we should be listing, please let us know and provide what you can for details.



Event

Date

Location

**LP OF MICHIGAN
CONVENTION**

MAY 5

**GRAND RAPIDS AIRPORT
HILTON / KENWOOD, MI**

**LP OF PENNSYLVANIA
CONVENTION**

MAY 5

**RADISSON PENN HARRIS
CAMP HILL, PA**

**LP OF WASHINGTON
CONVENTION**

MAY 12

**SHORELINE CONFERENCE
CENTER / SEATTLE, WA**

**LP OF MAINE
CONVENTION**

MAY 19

**SENATOR INN & CONFERENCE
CENTER / AUGUSTA, ME**

**LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

MAY 23-26

DENVER, CO

**LP REGION 3
CONVENTION**

AUGUST 3-5

**HOLIDAY INN DAYTON SOUTH
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