# Libertarian Penn

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

December 2005

## **Ballot Access Reform Underway in Pennsylvania**

Mik Robertson, kalzone@penn.com

Virtually everyone will agree that one of the things that makes America great is the opportunity of the citizens to choose their representatives in government. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has enshrined in its Constitution that elections shall be free and equal. Unfortunately, current laws in Pennsylvania have created a condition whereby elections are no longer equal.

Under current law, Democratic and Republican candidates for elected

office are required to submit nomination petitions with a certain number of signatures from qualified voters to be placed on the ballot in the primary election. The number ranges from 10 for local office to no more than 2,000 signatures for statewide offices. Once a candidate is nominated in the primary election, nothing further is needed for that candidate to be placed on the ballot in the November election.

Independent and minor party candidates are precluded from par-

ticipating in the primary election process. In order to be placed on the ballot for the November election, these candidates must submit papers with as many signatures from qualified voters as 2% of the highest vote total from any candidate in that electoral district in the previous election. The minimum number of signatures required is the number needed for that office in the primary election.

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## **2006 LPPa Convention Details Announced**

Tom Martin, martintfre@hotmail.com

State College Libertarians welcome everybody to the 2006 Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Convention. It is scheduled during the weekend of March 3 – 5 at the Atherton Hotel in downtown State College.

It is true that every year presents new opportunities for advancing liberty and the Libertarian Party, but this year the opportunities are exceptional. Rarely has there ever been such an alignment of political stars fostering the growth of an activist movement beyond the two old parties and their stagnant scene.

Nationally, there is unrest because

of the War on Terrorism, Osama still on the loose, an eight trillion dollar debt, land up for grabs, and direct assaults on our personal freedoms under the ruse of protecting us from the evildoers. State-wide, there seems to be more than a little voter unrest thanks to the illegal, behind-your-back pay hike and the cover-up afterward, publicly proving the arrogance, corruption, and collusion occurring at the top of both incumbent parties.

The mood of the public for change is more than just wishful thinking on the part of activists. It is an indisputable fact proven by the voters when, for the first time in the Commonwealth's history, they denied retention to a Supreme Court Justice.

Now, like never before, we must gather activists and candidates from a far greater spectrum, focus on common issues, and present the citizens of Pennsylvania with better choices. The convention is a great opportunity to get involved, meet other libertarians, and have a good time advocating liberty.

Speakers and workshops are yet to be announced but we encourage you to sign up as early as possible

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## **Message from the Chair**

By David Jahn, chair@lppa.org

The elections are over and we have a few notable wins. We are still compiling the results, but indications are that we have won some additional township commissioner, auditor, judge of elections and inspector of elections positions. I'm grateful to all of our candidates for their selfless efforts and sacrifice to help advance our cause. I hope to

personally thank all of you at our upcoming state convention that will be held in State College this coming March.

Looking to next year, this is surely an exciting time to be involved in politics. Many Republicans are becoming disheartened with their party that controls both the U.S. House and Senate, but somehow still fails to reduce the size of government, the budget, national debt or taxes. I see an increasing number of the disheartened Republicans showing up at our monthly committee meetings around the state ready to support our efforts. Add the pay raise debacle and the Clean Sweep movement led by

Russ Diamond, and it becomes clear that we have a politically volatile election year ahead of us in Pennsylvania for 2006. I expect many state legislators will be unseated, and with any luck, some of our candidates may be in a position to benefit from all of this unrest.

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## **Clarion County Libertarian Elections Build a Better Future**

Mik Robertson, kalzone@penn.com

Another election cycle has come and gone. Overall, the 2005 election in Clarion County turned out to be a mixed bag for Libertarian candidates. Of our four candidates on the ballot, one was victorious: Berlie Etzel won an uncontested race for Constable in Ashland Township.

In the three other contested races with Libertarian candidates on the ballot, Rochelle Etzel received 15% of the vote for Ashland Township Auditor, Ron Frederick received 17% of the vote for Ashland Township Supervisor, and Kevin Wedekind received 29% of the vote for Elk Township Constable. These were very respectable showings by our candidates.

There were a couple of bright spots with write-in races in the county.

Maggie Robertson launched a last-minute campaign for Judge of Elections in Licking Township. Although she was unable to defeat the incumbent, she did get 27% of the vote. Rochelle Etzel managed to win the office of Tax Assessor in Ashland Township with a write-in effort.

In the end, because Berlie and Rochelle were both elected officials prior to this election, the total number of Libertarians in office in the county remains unchanged at three. We believe that with the development of our county organization, we will be in a much better position to field and promote candidates for the next municipal election in 2007. The goal is to have a candidate in every race.

Regarding the county organization, in the past year we have been able to quadruple the number of state Party members. Clarion County now has a voting representative on the state board. We have also been working with people in Butler, Armstrong, Jefferson and McKean Counties, helping to establish organizations in those areas. We hope at least two of those counties will have functioning organizations by early next year.

In developing our county organization, we have found that there are no better means to reach people than direct personal contact. Knocking on doors, telephone calls, and speaking at meetings are indispensable tools for building a political party at the local level. A newsletter for the organization also

helps to keep people informed. We have recently switched from a monthly postcard flyer to a more substantial quarterly mailing.

While it is possible for Libertarian candidates to win elections on their own, it can be greatly beneficial if there is a local organization supporting them. We look forward to the continuing development of the Libertarian Party in Clarion County and surrounding region.

Mik Robertson, an elected Township Supervisor, chairs the Licking Township Board of Supervisors and is vice-chair of the Clarion County Sewage Association.

## Form a Local Libertarian County Chapter in Your Area

Tim Crowley, timcrowley@worldnet.att.net

At the 2005 Convention, the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania changed its Bylaws to allow smaller county chapters to join together with adjoining counties to form "Regional Committees" with a vote on the LPPa Board. This is an excellent opportunity for you to help build a grassroots network across the state.

We designated every county in the state as either an A, B, or C county, where A and B counties are organized counties, and C counties have no formal organization. The goal is to turn B counties into A's and to turn C's into B's. Since the last convention, we have tripled the number of counties holding regular meetings from 5 to at least 15. The list of organized A and B counties is still growing. We have contacts in Westmoreland, Indiana, Fayette, Centre and other counties who hope to form B county chapters at the upcoming State Convention.

We now have accurate lists of LPPa members in each of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. This makes it much easier to get activists to organize a recognized county chapter by signing the County Chapter Documentation Kit. It only takes two LPPa members from each county to start a small LPPa county chapter. These chapters can then band together with neighboring county chapters to form a Regional Committee with a vote on the LPPa

Board.

You might be in a unique position to help form some county chapters in your area. Would you consider becoming a "County Support Specialist?" This is a newly-created and appointed position where you would try to enlist LPPa members to form county chapters in your neck of the woods. You would also try to get these new county chapters to grow and to form Regional Committees with a vote on the LPPa Board.

When our candidates run for office in 2006, it would help them tremendously if we had several B counties organized in your area. These chapters could address local issues as well as set up events, fundraisers, media appearances and so on for our candidates.

Many counties have been organized in the past and could certainly be reorganized. All it takes is a catalyst -- someone to call or email local LPPa members and to pass around the LPPa County Chapter Documentation Kit (which is just a glorified signup sheet available for download at www.lppa.org/docs/pdf/ccdk.pdf).

Even if you set up the smallest possible county organization -- what we call a B-2 county chapter – requiring just a minimum of two LPPa members to sign the docu-

mentation signup sheet, this would be a great help.

Your county borders other counties that could also be organized. If the total number of LPPa members who sign the documentation kits exceeds twelve, then adjacent B counties can get a joint representative on the LPPa Board. Your region will have greater representation on the Board than it does now.

We would like to form B county chapters in as many counties as possible, grow the chapters and help them join up with adjoining county chapters to form a Region with a vote on the LPPa Board.

I cannot make this happen alone from my home near Pittsburgh. Would you consider becoming a County Support Specialist and try to better organize the state? This benefits you, your county, the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, and its future campaigns.

Let me know what you think. If you want to call me, my number is 412-795-7243.

Tim Crowley is the Western Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania.

## LPPa Creates Membership Growth Incentives for Local Committees

At the October LPPa board meeting, an initiative was approved to motivate and reward our Libertarian committees for actively recruiting new party members. A one-time, \$10 finder's fee is now available to the county affiliate or LPPa committee, for each new member that they recruit.

By using verifiable means, such as codes on LPPa membership forms, this fee will be available for each first-time member recruited. This gives our committees an additional tool to finance their successful outreach efforts.

For more information about this program, email James Babb at jamesbabb@mac.com.

## **Berks County Libertarians Perfect Outreach Techniques**

David Tartaglia, dtartaglia1@yahoo.com

Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) booths are a great way to get out and meet the public at local street fairs and other community gatherings. The purpose of OPH is to identify people who already hold Libertarian views and get them involved.

The Advocates for Self-Government (www.self-gov.org) created the OPH concept by adapting the political diamond chart of LP founder David Nolan. They scaled the chart from zero to 100 percent on each axis, the left side representing personal freedom and the right, economic.

The "World's Smallest Political Quiz" (WSPQ) identifies political leanings based on people's responses to five statements on personal freedom and five on economic freedom.

Score 10 points for each "agree", 5 points for each "maybe", and 0 points for each "disagree", yielding a composite score (such as 80/65) that you plot on the chart.

This chart represents political interest in five areas: "Libertarian" at the top, "Statist" at the bottom, "Liberal" on the left, and "Conservative" on the right. The middle area is "Centrist" which shares a border with each of the others.

Online versions of the quiz and complete kits to hold an OPH booth may be found on The Advocates website.

Running a booth is simple and fun. You'll need a table, lots of paper copies of the quiz, pencils, sticker-dots, and an easel to hold the chart. A cloth table cover will make the booth look professional (and you can hide all of your boxes and such underneath). Have a good-looking sign or banner to identify your group, too.

As folks walk by, ask politely, "Would you like to give us your opinion? It



Berks County Libertarians Tom Schlegel (Berks LP Vice-Chair) & David Tartaglia (Berks LP Chair) reach out to new party members.

will only take a minute." Everyone has opinions and most people like to give them; that's why OPH works.

Hand each person a quiz and a pencil and let them go to it. Don't offer explanations of the statements or suggest answers. The quiz is designed to be an accurate indicator of political leanings and you don't want to influence their answers.

When they have finished, total up their answers and place a colored sticker-dot on the chart to show where they scored. By the end of the show, you will have a chart filled with colored dots indicating how the crowd scored as a whole.

When you find someone in the

Libertarian sector, ring a bell, make a fuss and ask, "Did you know you were a Libertarian? Would you like to know about Libertarian events in your area?" If they say yes, get their name, address, phone and email. This is the purpose of OPH: find them and make them yours.

Have plenty of LP literature and voter registration forms handy. Hand them to anyone who scores in the Libertarian sector or borderline. Tell them when and where your next meeting will be and invite them to come. Ask them to register LP. Get them involved pronto. Do a follow-up email or phone call within the week and get 'em while they're hot!

One person can run an OPH booth but it's much easier and lots more fun with two or more.

As people stop to take the quiz, others will stop to see what's going on. Soon you'll be handing out quizzes faster than you can believe. Keep it fun - laughter attracts people. Remember, the goal is to give out as many quizzes as possible and find as many new Libertarians as you can.

Don't spend time trying to convert the infidels or argue politics. Just smile, say thanks, and move along to the next person. If someone wants to argue in front of your table, gently lead them away from the table and out of earshot. Arguments of any kind scare away customers.

Do chat politely with those who seem puzzled or have questions afterwards. They may be the ones who just needed a nudge to see the light. Don't overwhelm them if this is their first exposure to Libertarians. Smile and hand them some literature on the subject which interests them.

Another way to have fun with an OPH booth is to set up a "Five-Jar Penny-Vote Poll" where folks can vote on a question by dropping money into the jar of their choice. The question: "How Often Does Government Do a Good Job?" The choices: "Always", "Usually", "Half-the-Time", "Seldom", or "Never".

The "Never" jar always fills up the most, yielding laughs for everyone who passes and a few needed bucks for your group or charity.

#### **Does it Work?**

On September 23-25, 2005, Berks
County LP member Tom Schlegel
and I ran an OPH booth at the
Reading Riverfest Arts weekend.
We gave out 152 quizzes and
found 51 people squarely in the
"Libertarian" sector. Another 23 were
at the borderlines. Everyone scoring
"Libertarian" received a packet of
literature and a Voter Registration
Form. Everyone requesting information got an email within the week.

Between September 23 and October 11 (when new registrations stopped for the November election), eight new Libertarians registered in Berks County, the largest two week bump in memory.

David Tartaglia is the Chair of the Berks County Libertarian Party.

## LPPa to Co-Sponsor 2006 Pennsylvania Leadership Conference

Quince Eddens, violosity@verizon.net

The 2006 Pennsylvania Leadership Conference will be held on Friday, March 31, 2006 and Saturday, April 1, 2006 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel near Harrisburg, PA. For the first time since the PLC's inception, the Libertarian Party is a co-sponsor of the event.

If you plan on playing an active roll within the 2006 political storm in Pennsylvania, you don't want to miss this event. With over 500 of the state's most politically active people in attendance last year, the Conference sold out weeks in advance.

We all know there are "closet Libertarians" all over the state that haven't had the proper motivation to register, vote, and promote the ideals set forth in Libertarianism and our State Constitution.

Well now is the time to get motivated. Even the most die-hard Ds and Rs realize that their parties have been hijacked by the power brokers who do not have the slightest intention of returning power back to the true sovereigns: the people.

It is important that as many Libertarians register for the PLC as possible. We want everybody in attendance to see and hear the Libertarian Party as a viable alternative to the two old parties in Pennsylvania politics. We will have an outreach booth placed in a prominent position at the event. There will be plenty of press on hand, including statewide television and radio coverage.

The founder of the event, Lowman Henry, is considering including Libertarians as panel speakers who can interject libertarian perspectives into each of the panel topics. But the most important feature of this event, which is reflected in the Conference's theme of "Advancing"

Liberty in the Keystone State, is simply coming together to discuss the future of our great state and determining how we can return our servant government to the limited role as intended in the Pennsylvania Constitution.

For more information and to register for the event, go to www. paleadershipconference.org. Before registering, please contact Quince Eddens at violosity@verizon.net or call 717-608-5706.

Quince Eddens is an elected Inspector of Elections in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County.

#### **Ballot Access Reform**

(Continued from page 1)

It is almost never the case that an independent or minor party candidate will only need the minimum number of signatures. In the 2004 election, these candidates for statewide office were required to submit 25,697 valid signatures to be placed on the November ballot, more than ten times as many as the Republican and Democratic candidates in the primary. In 2006, these candidates will require 67,070 signatures, more than thirty-three times that of their major party counterparts.

Clearly the current situation does not conform to the free and equal election clause of the Commonwealth Constitution. But another factor also comes into play that limits the choice of the voter. When electoral districts are apportioned within the Commonwealth, what often happens is boundaries are established that remove any real competition between even the two major parties.

If we look at the 2004 election for US Representative in Congress, of 19 races, two had only one name on the ballot. If it were not for minor party candidates, four more races would have been uncontested. In the 2004 election for Representative in the General Assembly, of 203 races 89 were uncontested. If it were not for minor party candidates, 15 more would have had only one name on the ballot presents the voter with no real choice.

Without the participation of minor party candidates in 2004, nearly one-third of US Representative races and over half of the PA Representative races would have been uncontested. The fact is that in many districts, the race is really over with the nomination process of the primary election, a process in which not everyone gets to participate.

With the increased burden placed on minor parties and independent candidates in 2006, it is likely that choice on the ballot will be further limited. Under these conditions, it is no wonder why many voters become frustrated with the electoral process, and increasingly decline to participate in it.

This is a trend that must be reversed if representative government in the Commonwealth is going to truly reflect the will of the citizens. The

first step to reverse this trend is to promote free and equal elections and restore the choice of the voter.

## Promoting the Choice of the Voter With the choices of voters limited by

With the choices of voters limited by unduly restrictive ballot access laws and manipulation of voting districts, not only do voters become frusthe definition of a minor political party, and make uniform the number of signatures required for a candidate to be on the ballot. The report of the Coalition along with the text of the VCA can be found at www.PaBallotAccess.org.

Under the VCA, a minor political



Ken Krawchuk interviewed at the Capitol media conference, prior to the distribution of the Voters' Choice Act to every state rep. and senator.

trated, there are other ramifications. Political leadership tends to become entrenched, resulting in less innovation, fewer new ideas and reduced efficiency in government. Ultimately government loses touch with the will of the citizens as special interests come to dominate the legislative process.

Reversing this trend is imperative if government in the Commonwealth is to function as established in the Constitution. Restoration of the choice of the voter is the first step in this process, and the question is how this can best be accomplished.

Over the past year, representatives from minor political parties, political bodies, and independent candidates formed the **Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition**. The goal of the Coalition is to promote the right of citizens to run for political office and vote for the candidates of their choice.

This group examined current election law and how it affects both candidates and voters. The Coalition also evaluated alternatives to improve the election system that encourage increased participation by both candidates and voters. As a result, the **Voters' Choice Act** was developed.

The Voters' Choice Act (VCA) is proposed legislation that would change

party would be defined by voter registration rather than the results of previous general elections. Minor parties could nominate candidates for office at the party's expense, and other candidates would have the same signature requirements as those for the primary election. This will bring election laws in line with the Constitutional requirement of free and equal elections.

This past spring, the Coalition met with the Governor's Election Reform Task Force. After that meeting the Task Force recommended to the Governor and the Legislature that elections laws be amended to provide greater access to the ballot, concluding that it is time to have equal and fair standards for all candidates.

Recently, all Pennsylvania legislators have received a copy of the VCA, and it is now up to the General Assembly to act on this issue. Voters should make their views known to their elected representatives. All those who believe all power is inherent in the people and all free governments are founded on their authority should contact their state representatives and ask them to support the Voters' Choice Act.

Without the ability of the voters to freely choose their elected officials, surely the American form of government envisioned by the nation's founders will slip away. If that were to happen, what would take its place? After all, why should voters be limited to two choices for President of the United States when there are 50 choices for Miss America?

Mik Robertson, an elected Township Supervisor, chairs the Licking Township Board of Supervisors and is vice-chair of the Clarion County Sewage Association.

### **Three Action Items for Every Libertarian**

To help build a groundswell of support, we are asking each Libertarian to perform each of these three action items:

#### 1) Letters to the Editor:

Submit your letter about the Voters' Choice Act to your local newspapers. Sample letters and talking points are available at www.lppa.org/vca

#### 2) Call in to Talk Radio:

Call in to your favorite talk radio show. Express your opinion about the Voters' Choice Act.

#### 3) Call your Representatives:

Call your State Rep. and State Senator. Ask them if they will be co-sponsoring the Voters' Choice Act. Locate your representatives at www.legis.state. pa.us

### Write a Great Letter to the Editor

Mark Crowley, mark.d.crowley@worldnet.att.net

Writing a great letter to the editor (LTE) is an effective way to spread the Libertarian viewpoint. We asked one of our most successful letter writers to offer some tips for getting letters published.

For starters, read the letters that get printed. They give you clues as to what they want. I'm not talking about the opinions or subjects, but the wording. How long? Big words or little words? Formal or conversational? Read the letters for several weeks to look for successful templates.

Letters when printed often have one or two sentences per paragraph. Editors will change the letter to make it that way. I think they do this because text is more inviting when there are several short paragraphs with white space in between them. Nobody wants to read one big long paragraph. That said, why not try to write that way in the first place? It might give you another edge in getting printed.

You probably have a better chance getting printed if you write about something that the paper's reporters wrote. They like to know someone is reading their stuff. This means keep it reasonably current.

For a letter, try to keep the number of words less than 200. You stand a better chance of getting printed. Most word processors have a word count feature. If your word processor also gives a "grade level" estimate of your writing, try to keep the words at the high school level or lower, say 9th to 12th grade.

You can also write about a highinterest story where they get a ton of letters, but you might need an angle to stand out from the crowd to make your point.

For example, everyone wants to write about the legislature's pay raise. Find an angle to make it unique. My angle might be to not complain directly about the pay raise. I might point out that some legislators say they work hard and put in long hours that should be compensated. (Avoid calling them "lazy" or "greedy" or "unprincipled" even though they might be.) Instead say that all those hours mean that our state government is too big, too intrusive and is in too many things. Their wanting a pay raise is more a symptom of a too-big government

than of greedy legislators. Thus, our legislators should cut government and not temporarily hide the real problem with a pay raise.

Email your letters. It's the fastest and best way. Don't fax or send by US mail. I only know of one local paper that doesn't list an email address for letters.

Don't email your letter in an attachment. Simply put the text in the email and send it. Most papers will reject emails with attachments.

Always include contact information in your letter so that they can contact you to confirm that you want the letter to be printed. They also want a local community name (Plum, Monroeville, Pittsburgh, Wilkinsburg, etc.) to put with your name. Give them a daytime phone number as a contact. If you're writing to a paper across the state just put your city.

Occasionally the editor will change your letter when printed. When that's happened, I've found that they usually improved the letter. I've seen them clean up some of my awkward wording. They are, after all, writing and/or journalism majors.

Nearly all papers have a "once-a-month" policy on letters. That means, once you get a letter printed, you're under a blackout by that paper for a month. No conspiracy here – they're just trying to give everyone a chance.

If you don't hear from a paper in a few days, then normally they won't print it. They only call to get confirmation if they want to print it. (I say "normally" but the Pittsburgh Tribune Review often prints my letters and they don't call for confirmation. They must know me well enough to see if my words are "in character.")

Look at not getting printed as an opportunity and don't get discouraged. You can always "recycle" the letter and send it to another paper. I do that all the time. I usually will wait a week or so and try another paper, but make a few adjustments to the letter or try a different angle. Always save your old letters and have some way to retrieve them.

I had a LTE printed in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Sunday, 12/04/2005) about the Voters' Choice Act. Rather

#### Sample Letter to the Editor

http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05338/616552.stm Sunday, December 4, 2005

Voters deserve better than the major parties' unfair advantage

Separately electing both the governor and lieutenant governor in the general election ("Keep Electing the Lt. Gov.," Nov. 27 Forum piece by Nathan Shrader) is an intriguing, but modest, idea for increasing voter choice.

There is another more direct approach: The Voters' Choice Act. In 2006 third-party and independent candidates for statewide offices, such as governor and lieutenant governor, will need more than 67,000 valid petition signatures, or 100,000 to be challenge-proof, to get on the November ballot. Major-party nominees will require zero and a mere 2,000 for the primary.

The Voters' Choice Act (www.PaBallotAccess.org) will increase voter choice by reducing this unfair requirement. Adoption of this act also will promote discussion of campaign topics routinely avoided by major-party candidates. Besides, the VCA won't require a constitutional amendment as will separately electing the lieutenant governor.

Urge your state representative and senator to co-sponsor the Voters' Choice Act. Remind them that it will affect statewide races, not their local races.

If the VCA passes, we can still debate the merits of electing the lieutenant governor, but voters will already have more names on the ballot for all statewide offices.

MARK CROWLEY
Plum

than directly promoting it as I had tried unsuccessfully with the PG twice before, I responded to a PG forum piece from last week that endorsed the idea of separately electing PA's governor and lieutenant governor.

Its author said dual elections would give voters more choice than electing a governor/ lieutenant governor pair. That provided a natural introduction to explain why the VCA has more benefits.

I'm more convinced than ever that your chances of getting printed go way up if your LTE responds to the newspaper's commentary and editorials. All you have to do is to provide something else – more information, a different perspective, something overlooked, etc. – and that shouldn't be too difficult for libertarians. The hard parts are reading the paper and being patient.

# The 1788 Society



Achieving Long Term Fundraising Success for the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

- Growing Party Membership
- Recruiting More Qualified Libertarian Candidates
- Establishing More County Committees
- Reaching Out to 31,000 Registered Libertarians
- Building Party Infrastructure

Join today by making a commitment of \$120 per year or more.

www.lppa.org/1788

## Join the Party! It is more important than ever.

Tim Crowley, timcrowley@worldnet.att.net

The National Libertarian Party switches to a zero dues policy in a few days. That's right: By January 1, 2006 membership in the National LP will be free.

What does this mean for your state party? It means that the LPPa will have to STAND UP on its own and fight for ballot access, fight to clean out the State Legislature, and fight to achieve liberty in our lifetimes harder than ever before.

This special Lib Penn is being sent to select libertarians across the state. We hope that you like what you see and become part of our growing network of national, state and county chapters. We are dedicated to throwing rogue judges out of office, reforming our ballot access laws and running quality candidates to fight for your beliefs.

Unlike many political groups, the LPPa is an entirely volunteer organization. We have no fancy headquarters in Harrisburg or Washington DC. All of our officers are volunteers and nobody draws a salary. Many of our activists pay for posters and brochures out of their own pockets.

Yet this dedicated group has managed to accomplish so much with so little. We stood shoulder to shoulder with Operation Clean Sweep, founded by 2004

Libertarian candidate Russ Diamond. Judge Nigro is now gone - and we are just getting started.

We're also playing a major role in reforming Pa's unfair ballot access laws. These rules stack the deck against minor political parties by requiring over 66,000 valid signatures for statewide office in 2006.

Libertarians such as Ken Krawchuk and David Jahn are spearheading the Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition – a group of Libertarians,

paign seasons - but we need your help to get them passed! Getting bills through the state legislature takes time and money. An overnight stay in the Harrisburg Hilton costs about \$120. Mailing copies of the Voters' Choice Act to every State Representative costs about \$300.

Remember that your membership dollar goes farther with the LPPa than it does with most other organizations. Our overhead is low, we have no headquarters, and our sala-

With your donation, you will breathe new life into our organization. Together, we will be able to field enough

candidates to stop business as usual in Harrisburg.

Greens, Constitutionalists, Naderites, Prohibition and other third parties. Together, this diverse coalition can change the face of Pennsylvania's State Legislature if only given the support that it needs.

Also waiting in the wings are two other bills that will make petitioning easier. One will provide alternatives to hefty filing fees while another will enable us to more easily hire petitioners from out of state.

These bills can untie our hands and clear the decks for successful camries are zero. Other organizations might spend up to half of your membership dollars on a fancy headquarters and high salaries, but not the LPPa.

We need you to lend your voice to ours, to help us fight for less taxes and more personal freedom, making Pennsylvania vibrant again.

We need all of you to sign up and join the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania this year. With your support, we can win the fight for better ballot access. We can help

Operation Clean Sweep 'vote the bums out.'We can have our statewide candidates take their rightful place in the televised debates and on the ballot itself.

With your donation, you will breathe new life into our organization. Together, we will be able to field enough candidates to stop business as usual in Harrisburg.

Won't you please fill out the membership form included in this newsletter and join the LPPa TODAY?

Next year the pressure will be on like never before. We are being downtrodden by the complacency and arrogance of Pennsylvania lawmakers who trample our State and National Constitutions on a daily basis.

Russ Diamond might be right: This could be our very last chance to seize the reins of power back from the two older parties. Anti-Incumbency fever is running high across the state. All this is happening at a time when our all-volunteer activist leadership is working their fingers to the bone just to keep the doors open. We are asking YOU to stop right now and join the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania and to make your best pledge TODAY.

## **Hornberger's Commentary**

Jacob G. Hornberger, jhornberger@fff.org

Televangelist Pat Robertson has told the residents of Dover, Pennsylvania, that God might ignore them in the event of disaster for voting out all eight members of the school board for attempting to introduce "intelligent design" to the public school classrooms. (Robertson didn't explain why God would apply the sanction against those residents who voted in favor of the school board members.)

One of the problems with conservatives is that instead of removing Caesar from education, they instead try their best to place religious teachings under the control of Caesar.

Isn't it bad enough that parents

are forced to submit their children to the government's control for secular "education"? Why make the situation worse by forcing parents to submit their children to the government's control for religious education too?

There is only one solution to the entire public-schooling mess: a free-market educational system, one in which there is no government involvement in education. In such a system, educational suppliers and producers, including schools, would be free to teach whatever they want, and consumers would be free to choose which of them to patronize.

A free-market in religion has

worked out well, and a free market in education would work just as well. Somebody just needs to tell Pat Robertson and other religious conservatives that education, like religion, is something that should be rendered to God, not Caesar.

Jacob Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation, who's mission is to advance freedom by providing an uncompromising moral and economic case for individual liberty, free markets, private property, and limited *government.* (www.fff.org).

"It's time to admit that public education operates like a planned economy, a bureaucratic system in which everybody's role is spelled out in advance and there are few incentives for innovation and productivity. It's no surprise that our school system doesn't improve: It more resembles the commu nist economy than our own market economy."

- Albert Shanker, former President of the American Federation of Teachers [1989]

#### From the Chair...

(Continued from page 1)

Another promising development is the progress being made by the Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition (PBAC), a coalition of third parties and independents in our state. Their web site can be found at www.PaBallotAccess.org.The PBAC has formulated the Voters Choice Act (VCA) and presented it to our legislators for consideration. The Act would change the way minor parties are defined in our state and eliminate the signature requirements for third parties.

The initial responses are encouraging and we are hopeful that sponsors for the VCA will be found in both the state house and senate. If

you get a chance please stop by the PBAC web site to see if your representatives are listed as potential sponsors or supporters. If you don't see their names listed there, please contact them and ask them to become a sponsor or supporter. Let us know if they indicate support for the Act, so we can add their name to the web site.

Again, looking ahead to next year, the demands on my professional and personal life make it difficult for me to commit to another term as state chair. I am conveying this now so that all of you will start considering candidates for state board positions next year. Our party is in somewhat of a difficult position. It is too large to depend solely on volunteers, and yet too small to

hire a paid staff. Those that agree to take on board positions must be dedicated activists that want to see our party continue to grow and succeed. I'm hopeful that some of you reading this will be interested in assuming a position of responsibility with our party. As always, the more people we have pitching in, the better off we are.

More information will be coming forward regarding our upcoming state convention where we will be holding our annual business meeting and electing a new board of directors. We'll also be nominating candidates for next year's elections. I urge all of you to mark your calendars and make your reservations early. I'll look forward to seeing all of you there.

#### **Convention Details...**

(Continued from page 1)

using the enclosed registration form. The Full Convention Package is only \$115 if mailed in by January 20th. The Atherton Hotel extends a special offer on room rates of just \$69 per night if you make your reservation by February 3rd. To reserve your room, call the Atherton at (800) 832-0132 or (814) 231-2100 (or visit www.athertonhotel.net).

Tom Martin is an elected Auditor in Huston Township, Centre County.

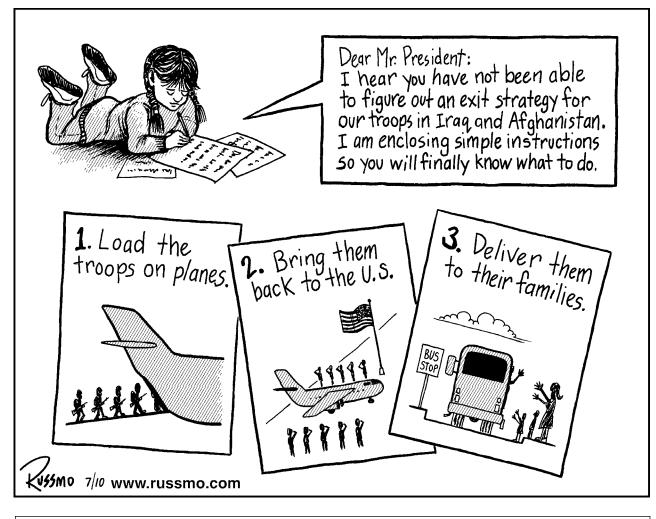
info@lppa.org 1-800-R-Rights www.LPPa.org

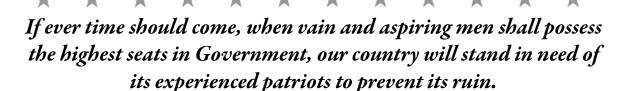
# Join the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania online at www.LPPa.org/Join

Or use this membership questionnaire:

	rty of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe and to ensure that our party never strays from ou
principles we ask our membe	ers to proudly sign this statement:
"I hereby certify that I do not bel	lieve in or advocate the initiation of force or fraud as a means of achieving political or social goals."
X	
Signature (required)	
We need your supp	oort. Please consider an additional donation to help us grow:
Make a one time contribution:	□ \$1,000 □ \$500 □ \$250 □ \$100 □ \$50 □ Other:
Make a recurring contribution:	□ \$100 □ \$50 □ \$30 □ \$20 □ \$10 □ Other:
Frequency:   Monthly	☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually
Automatically charge m	ny credit card for: $\square$ 1 year $\square$ 2 years $\square$ 4 years $\square$ Until I say stop.
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Payment type:   Credit card number:   Signature:   TOTAL ENCLOSED (I   I'd like to do more. I can vol  Member Contact Information  Name:  Address:	Money order

Mail this completed form with payment to: The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, 3863 Union Deposit Road, #223, Harrisburg, PA 17109





#### -Samuel Adams

Do "vain and aspiring men" possess the highest seats in Government? Obviously, the answer is yes. The Supreme Court recently chose the tyranny of eminent domain over the liberty of private property.

Not only was FEMA unable to respond to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, they also prevented competent individuals from responding.

Our country stands in desperate need of its experienced patriots. At least one has answered the call – but he needs your help! Never before has a Libertarian campaign organized this far in advance. Never before has a Libertarian campaign raised this much early money.

The Badnarik campaign is determined to change the course of history. Faced with the Patriot Act and BCRA, we may never get another chance. No one you know will work harder to make victory a real possibility.

Please visit our website and give the largest contribution you can afford.

DO IT TODAY! Badnarik for Congress P.O. Box 14443 Austin, Texas 78761 DO IT RIGHT NOW! (800) 807-7552 or (512) 637-6860 www.Badnarik.org Free bumper stickers are available!



This advertisement was paid for by Badnarik for Congress and approved by the candidate.

Allen Hacker, Campaign Manager and Treasurer



the recent pay raise scandal. From top: Jim Gordon, Stephanie Kalina-Metzger with her grandmother Charlotte Clements, Barry Dively with Cheryl Gordon

and Zach Williams.

## Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania 2006 Convention Registration Form March 3-5, 2006 Atherton Hotel, State College, Pennsylvania

Name(s):	
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
County:	Phone:
Email:	

<sup>\*</sup>Full convention package includes Friday Reception, All Meals, Speakers, Workshops, Gratuities and Evil Taxes

Please indicate choices and send check payable to: **Cumberland County Libertarian Committee** c/o Alan Yottey 5332 Oxford Drive, Apt 104 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Special Room Rate of \$69.00 available by February 3, 2006 The Atherton Hotel Phone: 800-832-0132, URL: www.athertonhotel.net

LPPa 2006 Convention	#	Price	Total
Full Convention Package before 1/20/06*		\$115	
Full Convention Package before 2/15/06*		\$125	
Full Convention Package after 2/15/06*		\$135	
Friday Reception		\$25	
Saturday Breakfast Buffet with Speaker		\$25	
Saturday Luncheon with Speaker		\$30	
Saturday Dinner Banquet with Speaker**		\$55	
Chicken with Shrimp Scampi			
Prime Rib of Beef			
Vegetarian Meals Upon Request			
Saturday head table seating with Speaker*		\$25	
Sunday Toastmasters Luncheon		\$25	
Total Enclosed		Total	\$

A limited number of exhibit tables are available for Saturday and Sunday at \$50. Contact Tom Martin at martinfre@hotmail.com or 814-692-7304 to reserve a table. Checks payable to above. Exhibit area will be open Saturday 8:30 am - 10:00 pm with evening cocktail reception in the Exhibit area.

## **Local Meeting Information:**

Disclaimer: Although this information is accurate at the time of printing, it never hurts to verify a meeting with the local contact.

#### For additional local meeting information, visit: www.lppa.org/counties

#### LPPa Board Meeting: Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11

When: 2nd Saturday of each month, 12:00 PM

Where: TBD

Contact: secretary@lppa.org

#### Allegheny: Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15

When: 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:00 PM

Where: Ritter's Diner, 5221 Baum Blvd.,

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Contact: Dave Powell, allegheny@lppa.org,

www.lppgh.org, 412-904-2976

#### Berks: Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2

When: 1st Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM

Where: Dempsey's American, Route 222 & 724,

Shillington, PA 19607

Contact: Dave Tartaglia, berks@lppa.org

#### Bucks: Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8

When: 2nd Wednesday of each month, 8:00 PM

Applebees, 1745 S. Easton Rd., Where:

Doylestown, PA 18901

Maurice Reeves, bucks@lppa.org

#### Centre: Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13

When: 2nd Monday of each month, 6:00 PM Where: Golden Wok, 332 W. College Ave., State

College, PA 16801

Contact: Tom Martin, centre@lppa.org

#### Chester: Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 22

When: 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30 PM

Where: Courtyard Inn, 929 S. High St., West

Chester, PA 19382

Contact: David Owens, chester@lppa.org

#### Clarion: Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25

Last Saturday of each month, 1:00 PM

BJ's Eatery Restaurant, High Point & Canoe Ripple Roads, one-quarter mile

north of Exit 53 on Interstate 80.

Contact: Michael J. Robertson,

kalzone@penn.com, 814-358-2882

#### Cumberland: Jan. 9, Feb 13, Mar. 13

2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 PM

Where: Market Cross Pub, 113 N. Hanover St.,

Carlisle, PA 17013

Contact: Ron Goodman, cumberland@lppa.org,

717-243-5708

#### Dauphin: Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16

3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM Where:

Hilton Harrisburg, 1 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg,

PA 17101

Contact: Barry Dively, dauphin@lppa.org

#### Delaware: Jan. 16, Feb. 20, Mar. 20

When: 3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 PM Where:

Casey's Restaurant, 812 Lansdowne Ave.,

Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Contact: David Jahn, delaware@lppa.org

#### Erie: Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12

2nd Sunday of each month, 2:00 PM

Libertarian Notary, 12746 Rt. 19 South,

Waterford, PA 16441

Contact: Tom Giles, erie@lppa.org,

www.lppa.org/erie, 814-835-1048

#### Lebanon: Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12

2nd Sunday of each month, 2:00 PM

Where: Paolo's Restaurant, 133 W. Lincoln Ave.,

Myerstown, PA 17067

Contact: Ray Ondrusek, lebanon@lppa.org,

717-866-4967

#### Luzerne: Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15

3rd Wednesday of each month, 8:00 PM

Mark II Restaurant, 400 Kidder St., Wilkes Where:

Barre, PA 18702

Contact: Brian Bergman, luzerne@lppa.org

#### Montgomery: Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2

1st Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM When:

Inquirer Building, PA 320 and PA 23, King Where:

Of Prussia, PA. 19406

Contact: Darren Wolfe, montgomery@lppa.org, www.montcolp.org, 215-888-1467

#### Philadelphia: Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21

When: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 8:00 PM Liberties Bar, 705 N. 2nd St., Philadelphia, Where:

PA 19123

Contact: Phil Hodgson, chair@lpphilly.org,

www.lpphilly.org

#### Schuylkill: Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1

When: 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:00 PM Roman Delight, Rt. 61, Orwigsburg, PA Where:

Contact: Wanda Keefer, schuylkill@lppa.org

#### York: Jan. 23, Feb. 27, Mar. 27

4th Monday of each month, 7:00 PM First Capital Dispensing Company, 57 N. Where:

Pershing Ave., York, PA 17401

Karl Spangler, york@lppa.org, Contact:

www.yorklp.org, 717-292-6618

<sup>\*\*</sup>For an additional donation of \$25 per person you receive honored guest seating with our keynote speaker.

## **Chester County Libertarian Elected as Township Supervisor**

Pennsylvania Libertarian David W. Owens of the Chester County LP has won what turned out to be a real horse race in the Township Supervisor contest in Landenberg, PA. Owens had been campaigning for the office as an incumbent after being appointed to replace the man he was originally to have faced in the primary when the latter resigned.

Running as an incumbent against a token candidate pushed up by the Democrats with no Republican candidate, Owens nevertheless campaigned hard for the seat, going door to door, greeting voters in public parks on weekends, keeping a high profile at civic events, placing yard signs, courting the media and spreading his message to everyone who would listen. Owens expected a push by Democrats in the race, as it was the first time they did not have Republican opposition in the heavily Republican district. He was not disappointed, but was surprised at the resources the Democratic county party put into such as small race.

"The entire Chester County
Democratic Party showed up for
this race, with phone banks, troops
on the street stuffing mailboxes
and planting yard signs, and considerably more in resources than
you ever see in a township race,"
Owens reported. "It was obvious

not only that they felt they could finally win here, but that they wanted it real bad. They came at me with everything they had and everything they could beg, borrow or steal."

Evidently quite a few people listened to Owens' message and were impressed with what they heard and with the brief track record in office he had established, despite the intense Democratic push Owens was victorious.

"Doing real politics is nothing new to many Libertarians," Owens commented. "It is not magic nor is it rocket science; it is just hard work. It is getting out and meeting peo-

ple, listening to them and being honest about what you stand for and not flinching when someone doesn't agree completely with you. It is being willing to take a stand and convince people that you have the integrity that is so lacking in politics these days. And it is doing the hard work of real campaigning, knowing the facts that are relevant in the jurisdiction you are running in, knowing who votes in that jurisdiction and doing the work to reach those people. Showing up and knowing what you are doing is half the battle as many in our party are demonstrating. When we do real politics and give people a reason to vote for us, we not only can win, we do win."











Election Day 2005: Libertarians across Pennsylvania rallied in support of our candidates. Clockwise from top left: Delaware County Libertarian Austin Moyer at the poll, York County Mayoral candidate Wes Gilberto earned 44% of the vote against a 22 year incumbent, Cumberland County Libertarian Quince Eddens helps Terry Monn win a school board position and wins as Inspector of Elections, Chuck Moulton, Bill Denison, Steve Adler, Donna Rothe, David Jahn, Caroline Fairfield, Mike Slye, Ken Krawchuk & Austin Moyer relax after a long day at the polls, Montgomery County Libertarian Obie Mild will serve again as Judge of Elections.

## 2005 Election Results: 45 Candidates, 23 Wins!

Name	Office	District	County	Won
Mark Rauterkus	State Senate	42	Allegheny	
David Posipanka	Inspector of Elections	Homestead 3-2	Allegheny	
Bob Hill	Inspector of Elections	Monroeville 1-3	Allegheny	
Dave Eckhardt	Inspector of Elections	Mount Lebanon 3-5	Allegheny	
Robert Willis	Inspector of Elections	Pittsburgh	Allegheny	
Patricia Arndt	Inspector of Elections	Swissvale 2	Allegheny	Yes
William Shirk	Inspector of Elections	West Mifflin 9	Allegheny	Yes
Randall Forester	School Board	Karns City Area	Armstrong	
Art Farnsworth	Auditor	West Rockhill Township	Bucks	
Ken Crippen	Judge of Elections	Warminster 14	Bucks	Yes
Ken Crippen	Inspector of Elections	Warminster 14	Bucks	Yes
Tom Martin	Auditor	Huston Township	Centre	Yes
David Owens	Supervisor	London Britain Township	Chester	Yes
Ron Frederick	Supervisor	Ashland Township	Clarion	
Rochelle Etzel	Auditor	Ashland Township	Clarion	
Berlie Etzel	Constable	Ashland Township	Clarion	Yes
Kevin Wedekind	Constable	Elk Township	Clarion	
Larry Gosnell	City Council	Meadville	Crawford	
Terry Monn	School Board	Cumberland Valley	Cumberland	
Ron Goodman	Auditor	North Middleton Township	Cumberland	Yes
Barry Dively	Auditor	Silver Spring Township	Cumberland	Yes
Doug Keegan	Auditor	Silver Spring Township	Cumberland	Yes
Karen Simons	Auditor	Silver Spring Township	Cumberland	Yes
Terry Monn	Auditor	Monroe Township	Cumberland	Yes
Tony Gonzales	Planning Commission	South Middleton Township	Cumberland	Yes
Joe Scinta	Judge of Elections	Hampden Township 4	Cumberland	Yes
John Goddard	Inspector of Elections	Precinct 05-03	Cumberland	Yes
Quince Eddens	Inspector of Elections	Mechanicsburg 1	Cumberland	Yes
David Jahn	Mayor	Glenolden	Delaware	163
Willie Harmon	Auditor	Penbrook	Dauphin	
Willie Harmon	Judge of Elections	Penbrook 4	Dauphin	
Cheryl Gordon	Inspector of Elections	T CHBIOOK 4	Dauphin	Yes
Steven Slike	District Justice	City of Corry	Erie	163
Godfried Holzhausen	Supervisor	Northeast Township	Erie	
Brandon Magoon	Inspector of Elections	Precinct 1-6-17	Erie	Yes
Jason Dietz	Mayor	Lebanon	Lebanon	163
Rich Piotrowski	Judge of Elections	Allentown 17-4	Lehigh	Yes
Ellen Blickman	-	Allentown 17-4		Yes
	Inspector of Elections		Lehigh	res
Gerald Brunell	Inspector of Elections	Fountain Hill	Lehigh	Vac
Betsy Summers	Judge of Elections	Wilkes Barre 6-1	Luzerne	Yes
Brian Bergman	Inspector of Elections	Wilkes Barre 1-1	Luzerne	Yes
David Cohick	Inspector of Elections	Old Lycoming Township	Lycoming	
Ken Krawchuk	Commissioner	Abington Township	Montgomery	
Obie Mild	Judge of Elections	Norristown 2-2	Montgomery	Yes
Wes Gilberto	Mayor	Stewartstown	York	

## **Congratulations 2005 Libertarian Candidates!**

Your outstanding efforts are bringing us one step closer to liberty in Pennsylvania.





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# Join the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania online at www.LPPa.org/Join

## **Register Now!**

**Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania** 

## 2006 Convention

March 3-5, 2006

Atherton Hotel
State College, Pennsylvania

Convention details and your registration form are inside.

www.lppa.org/convention

### We need your help!

Would you like to apply your specific skills to the advancement of liberty? We currently have openings available on our committees that need to be filled with active, energetic, and dedicated people like you! Whether it is for a few hours a week or a few hours a month, we will gratefully accept your call to action. Do not wait.

Contact us today and get involved with the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania!

#### **Election:**

Contact Chuck Moulton election@lppa.org

#### Fund Raising:

Contact David Jahn fundraising@lppa.org

#### **Legal Action:**

Contact Gregory Teufel legal@lppa.org

#### **Legislative Action:**

Contact Ken Krawchuk legislative@lppa.org

#### Membership:

Contact Ron Goodman membership@lppa.org

#### Research:

Contact Ron Satz research@lppa.org

#### **Convention:**

Contact Karen Simons convention@lppa.org

#### Media Relations:

Contact Doug Leard media-relations@lppa.org

#### **Newsletter:**

Contact Bill Keslar newsletter@lppa.org

#### Website:

Contact Chuck Moulton website@lppa.org

info@lppa.org 1-800-R-Rights www.LPPa.org