

VIRGINIA LIBERTY

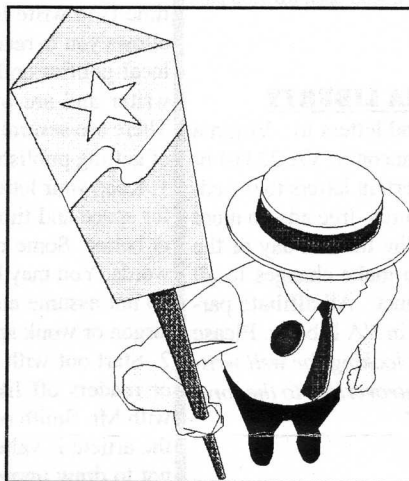
Volume 2 Issue 1

February 1997

CALL TO CONVENTION STATE AND LOCAL TO MEET

The State Central Committee of the LPVA has called for a state convention to be held on April 19th, 1997, Saturday, at the Best Western/Hanover House Hotel in Ashland (in the home county of Patrick Henry). The hotel is at I-95 at the Atlee-Elmont exit, #86, approximately 10 miles north of Richmond, with easy access to I-295 and I-64. The approximate time of the convention is 9am to 5:30pm. There will be a buffet luncheon (speaker to be determined). We have a large meeting room, a separate lunch room, and a small meeting room for concurrent panel discussions. Fees are yet to be determined. Notification and details will be sent to members and inquiring non-members by early March.

The LPVA State Chair has called for a Northern Virginia Libertarian Party convention with the expressed purpose of forming an affiliate party composed of members from Alexandria, Arlington, and Falls Church. It will be dovetailed in with the LP of Fairfax County. The LPFC is convening according to its bylaws to elect a chairman and Executive committee. The LPFC and the Northern Virginia Libertarian Party convention will be held at the McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, near Rt. 123, March 15. The Keynote Speaker will be Perry Willis, National Director of LP National Headquarters, speaking on Leadership. It is requested that you notify us of your intention to attend as soon as possible but no later than March 12. You may use snail mail: 7011-A Manchester Blvd., Suite 1776, Alexandria, VA 22310 or you may e-mail at: 74633.3520 @compuserve.com or leave a voice mail message at (703) 329-6857. Please include your full name, current address, and phone number. Indicate whether you are bringing a non-member guest.



conventions are for members and inquiring non-members

Northern VA LP Agenda

- 9:00 Set Up
- 9:30 Sign In
- 10:00 Call to Order, Quorum Call: Paul Gagnon
- 10:05 Welcome / Purpose of NOVA Convention: Dana Johansen
- 10:15 Introduction to Key Note Speaker
- 10:20 Key Note Speech: Perry Willis
- 11:00 8th CD Representative Election: Dana Johansen
- 11:30 Lunch Break
- 12:00 Breakout Sessions
- Fairfax County**
- 12:00 Call to Order / Order of Business

- 12:05 Bylaws Amendments (if any): Paul Gagnon
- 12:45 Election of Committee Members Paul Gagnon
- 1:00 Adjourn Convention, Convene Committee Meeting
- Fall Church - Arlington - Alexandria**

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EVENT CALENDAR



The State Central Committee

Next SCC meeting 3/1/97. The meeting times are 12 noon to 1 p.m. for lunch and 1-4 p.m. for business. Contact State Chair Dana Johansen.

The Future of Freedom Foundation has an exciting new program for 1997. Write: 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 800, Fairfax, VA 22030, call for schedule: 703 934 6101. **On April 17**, David Boaz will speak on "Ending, not Reforming, the War on Drugs," at the National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW, Washington, DC. 6-8p.m. Admission is free.

The Vienna Coffee Club. For details contact The Future of Freedom Foundation, 703 934 6101 or visit their web site at www.fff.org/freedom/daily/. **On Mar. 6** Jeffrey R. Hummel speaks on "A Libertarian Looks at the Civil War," and on **May 22**, Richard Ebeling speaks on "The Lost Papers of Ludwig von Mises: Their Discovery and Importance." The Future of Freedom Foundation Admission: \$20.00 (students \$15) for reception, supper and talk 6:30 p.m. \$5.00 (students free) for coffee and talk only 7:30 p.m. Reservations: Call The Future of Freedom Foundation (703) 934-6101/FAX: (703) 352-8678 Location: Sheraton Premiere Hotel (Route 7 at Dulles Tollway) Vienna, Virginia.

Patrick Henry Supper Club The schedule now will be Tuesdays, following dates thru June: 02/04/97, 03/11/97, 04/15/97, 05/06/97, 06/03/97. The new emcee is Shelby McCumin. At Morrisons Cafeteria, 8220 Midlothian turnpike, Richmond. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and program begins at 7.

The LP of Fairfax County will hold the next meeting Mar 15, 1997 at the convention. Contact Paul Gagnon, 703 329 6857 for more information.

Liberty Toastmasters. Little Cafe at Arlington courthouse, on the 2nd and last Mondays of the month, 6:45 p.m., contact Bryant Cochran at 703 780 7587.

On campus activism. At the University of VA contact Jim Lark at 804-973-5958. At Washington and Lee, contact Wayne Dymacek at 703-463-6981. At William and Mary, contact Rebecca Erskine at 804- 221-5267.

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(Continued from page 1 EVENT CALENDER)

S.I.L. is an educational, nonpartisan organization that promotes the libertarian perspective. **The next S.I.L. events** are: **Feb. 20** Jim Turney, Fully Informed Jury Association, "Fully Informed Juries and Jury Nullification" Minor Hall Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. **Feb. 27** Chuck Thomas, Marijuana Policy Project, speaker: "Marijuana Policy: The Implications of the California and Arizona Initiatives, and Where We Go From Here" Minor Hall Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. **Mar. 18** Patrick Michaels, Virginia State Climatologist, speaker: "Global Warming: Political Science and Political Reality" Clark Hall, Room 147, 7:30 p.m. **Mar. 27** Michael Tanner, Cato Institute, speaker: "Social Security: What is to be Done?" Minor Hall Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Prince William Supper Club. For more information, contact Phil Hodson 703-257-1712. Second Saturday of each month at 11 AM at Bertucci's Pizza in Manassas.

Tidewater Supper Club, contact Sanford Pankin at 757-244-0516. Tidewater LP meets 2nd Saturday of every month at the Oasis Restaurant on Kikkopan Rd 7:00 pm. Call Sanford 757-244-0516.

ATTENTION READERS OF VIRGINIA LIBERTY

Please send news articles, ads, information, and letters to : Virginia Liberty, 7011-A Manchester Blvd. Suite 1776, Franconia, VA 22310 or e-mail :74633.3520@compuserve.com. We will entertain letters to the editor of less than 250 words, articles less than 800 words, free ads no more than 3 lines. Please send all items to VA Liberty by the 5th day of the publication month. The editor reserves the right to make changes to all submissions in order to make this publication succinct. All affiliate parties are requested to send local news to be included in VA Liberty. Please send all address changes to the editor. *This editor is looking for well written, succinct opinion articles that bring various controversies to the forefront for a new section simply entitled "debate..."*

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

Feb 20 Tax Day activities, proposed LPVA Constitution changes for any planned convention. **Apr 20** City Election issue, July 4 activities are planned, county fairs etc. **June 20** The Re-up issue. **Aug 20** This is a standard issue. **Oct 20** This is the General Election issue. **Dec 20** Holiday issue.

STAFF: Assistant Editors- James Turbett, Johna Good



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12:00 Call to Order / Order of Business: Dana Johansen
 12:15 Adopt Bylaws: Dana Johansen
 12:45 Election of Committee Members: Dana Johansen
 12:55 Petition: Dana Johansen
 1:00 Adjourn Convention, Convene Committee Meeting

THE JEFFERSONIAN ACTIVIST

One of the most effective and efficient uses of a libertarian's time is to write letters to the editors of your local papers.. It allows you to reach an audience of people who are tuned into local politics and community activities. If you are a regular writer and are published frequently you will get noticed. There are several things you can do to increase the likelihood of getting published.

1. Keep your letter brief and to the point. Editors are pressed for space and time. Keep your letters under 250 words. Less is better. Some of the most effective letters are under 100 words. You may be in love with your own words or ideas but do not assume anyone else is. Say it in plain English, avoid jargon or wonk speak.
2. Start out with a positive statement. Nothing turns editors or readers off like grouch. A statement that says: "I agree with Mr. Smith on this point..." or "the concern displayed in the article is valid but, I disagree with the solution" is likely not to draw immediate resistance and encourages the reader to want more.
3. Reference a recent article, editorial opinion or letter. For example, in the beginning paragraph: "I agree with John Smith ("Politicians Get Goofy," Aug. 15, 1997)..."
4. Subscribe to the paper you write to and...
5. Avoid extreme statements. Dire warnings of conspiracies, defining your opponent as demonic, and black helicopters are a sure way to be dismissed as on the fringe. A better way is to acknowledge the other sides concerns as valid but tell them you have a better way to fix the problem.
6. Include authoritative data and statistics. One of the most effective tactics is to use your opponent's own statistics or facts against them.
7. Avoid being snide, arrogant, or cute. It may be more fun to be nasty but it is totally ineffective.
8. Leave them with a call to action. Don't just inform, call on your readers to do something.
9. Write often. You probably won't succeed immediately but in time you get known for being an expert on certain subjects.

FROM THE CHAIR...

MEMBERSHIP SNAFU!!!

A note to our members, or more specifically to those who believe they are a member, but aren't on our books.

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IMPORTANT NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Dana Johansen, LPVA state chair- 2601 Wagon Dr. Alexandria, Va 22302. e-mail VETODJ@jml.com.703-960-9120.

Tomas Estrada-Palma, LPVA Vice-Chair, Woodbridge, 703-492-7095 e-mail testrada@citi.net

Marc Montoni, LPVA secretary, 1Ambassador@bigfoot.com. Call 804-264-1776.

Scott Elston, LPVA Treasurer

Paul Gagnon, chair of LP of Fairfax County, 7011-A Manchester Blvd. Suite 1776, Alexandria, VA 22310, 703-329-NVLP. e-mail 74633.3520@compuserve.com

Jay Rutledge, Virginia Sixth District Friends of Liberty, 1823 Blenheim Rd., SW, Roanoke, VA24015, 540-981-9213 email is: noborders@gnn.com

LPVA, PO Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228, 1-800-619-1776. web site is <http://www.lp.org>

Brad Barnhill as the LAP (Local Affiliate Parties) Chair. 109 Shale Place, Charlottesville, VA 22902, 804-295-2312. email bradbva@chv.mindspring.com7.

Marianne Volpe, 804-296-0955

Gail Hughes, chair of LP of Blue Ridge, 105 Buckskin Trail, Winchester, VA 22602, 540-877-2319. email c/o Mary Watkins, LPBR secretary, witchdr@mnsinc.com4.

Philip Hodson, chair of LP of Prince William County, 11035 Edgepark Circle #301, Manassas, VA 20109, 703-257-1712. email: philphods@aol.com

Shelley Tamres. Ballot Access Chair, 703-458-0218.

LP National Headquarters, 202-333-0008

Sanford Pankin, Hampton Roads Libertarians, P.O. Box 5796, Newport News, VA 23605, 757-244-0516

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Stew Engel, district 1 rep, King George. 540-663-2279

Lennice Werth, district 4 rep, Crewe. 804-645-8816

Gary Westmoreland, district 5 rep, Charlottesville, 804-296-0955

Jay Rutledge, district 6 rep, Roanoke. 540-981-9213

Kip Karl, district 8 rep, Alexandria. 703-360-8119

Shelley Tamres, district 10 rep, Sterling. 703-450-0218

James Long, district 11 rep, Vienna. 703-938-8357

Jeffrey Oliver Breen, **LPVA listserver**, Voice/FAX: (804) 977-4WEB (4932), 977 Seminole Trail, No. 224. Charlottesville, VA 22901 e-mail: job@NovPapyrus.com <http://www.NovPapyrus.com>

Additional numbers: John Buckley 703-938-0012
Rick Sincere 703-920-4023

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Back in the September time frame, while we were transitioning between treasurers, the LPVA sent a check for 19 memberships to the National LP. It never got cashed. Thus, we have at least 18 more people who believe that they are members, but aren't on our books as one. How do you know this effects you? Check the top line of the mailing label for this issue of VA Liberty. The first thing on the line is your database ID (membership) number. Next is "EXP:" followed by a date. If you sent in dues during the August / early September time frame, and if that date is not sometime after mid 1997, then we lost your membership. PLEASE contact us (send a copy of the cancelled check if you can) and we will set the situation right. Our sincere apologies.

DESPERATELY SEEKING SEEKERS

The LPVA is seeking people to run for office in the upcoming state elections. At this point, it may be too late to find a candidate for state wide office, but there is still time to decide to run for the House of Delegates; for local office too. But, you're not interested in running you say? Well, we also need our members who are not interested in running themselves to help us identify people who are interested. How? I'm glad you asked! There are local committee, board, council, and agency meetings going on all the time with potential libertarians ready to be asked. If you have one, and they seem interested, have them take the Worlds Smallest Political Quiz. Don't push too hard, but let us know. Leave a message for me at (703) 960 9120. Try to get a name and phone number at least. Make no promises, but let them know the party is interested in supporting quality races. Let us see if we can find candidates from outside the smallish (but growing) body of party activists. That way we don't throw sand into the gears of the party, and we get new people into the party as well. So go forth and have fun discovering our next crop of candidates.

AFFILIATES NEWS

Libertarian speakers needed. The **Fairfax County** Budget hearings will be held April 7, 8, and 9 at the Government Center, starting at 730pm. each night. Call the Clerk of the Board to sign up now 703-324-3151. You must be a resident of the county. Each speaker gets 3 minutes but you only need to stand up and say the cost of living and taxes are too high and you would settle for less gov and lower taxes. This year, I will be calling for tax reform i.e. eliminating the BPOL and personal property taxes and limiting the real estate tax to land only. I will suggest that those who like gov services should pay for them directly unless they are in poverty. I will ask why are the compassionate gov folk cutting welfare for the poor but not for the affluent. They hate that kind of talk. Lets have some fun with a large turn out.

Libertarian Party of Prince William County. Author Shelley Davis was the scheduled guest at the January meeting. Ms. Davis was the first, last, and only historian the IRS ever employed. She had access to their files for seven years, and when she reported to her supervisors that she had uncovered evidence of possible illegal acts, she found herself under investigation. Now she's spilling the beans. Her book, Unbridled Power, Inside the Secret Culture of the IRS, will be released in February. The LPPWC meets at Bertucci's Pizza. Bertucci's is located at 7421 Sudley Rd (Rte. 234) in Manassas, about one-half mile south of Highway 66.

University of Virginia The Melton event went well. Roughly 20 people attended, many of whom had never attended a libertarian event before. Mr. Melton stressed the importance of defending the religious liberty and free speech rights of everyone, particularly those with whom you disagree. A group of "secular humanists" who don't care for the Rutherford Institute's religious orientation attended and engaged in what I would describe as a polite form of heckling (nothing nasty, but rather pointed). Reported

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by: James W. Lark, III, Ph.D. Charlottesville, VA

Jefferson Area Libertarians Meet the second Wednesday of the month at the Albemarle County Historical Society from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Call Marianne Volpe or Gary Westmoreland at (804) 296-0955 or e-mail ev6e@avery.med.Virginia.edu for directions. Please let me know if you need this in a different format - would be happy to change it. Thank you for your help. sincerely, Marianne Volpe, Charlottesville, VA (804) 296-0955.

Hampton Roads Libertarians. Sanford Pankin informs us that the Hampton Roads Libertarian is officially recognize affiliate. They have formed a non-partisan group known as Citizens Opposed to Stadium Taxation to stop the tax payer funding of an ice arena which supposedly would bring the Rhino NHL to the Hampton Roads area.

Libertarians of Loudoun County: Meetings held monthly, 2nd Fridays, 7:30 pm. Contact Shelley Tamres for information and/or directions. 703-450-0218, email shelleytam@aol.com Friday, February 14 -- Discussion on proffers and funding of county facilities Friday, March 14 -- Informal debate on size of high schools in Loudoun Co. plus the Parental Rights Amendment Friday, April 11 -- Finalize tax day planning

The LP of Blue Ridge (LPBR) applied for official recognition. Recognition was provisionally granted while their petition (minimum 10 members) is being verified. LPBR consists of the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren, plus the city of Winchester.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

My first choice in the recent election was Charles Collins; I switched to Harry Browne. Ideology is what prevented me from making the Libertarians my first choice. I am a pragmatist, not an ideologue. I am not going to march blindly over the cliff. I will try something and then wait and see whether it works before taking the next step. For example, I would eliminate the programs of the hopelessly corrupt and tyrannical federal government but I would keep or expand local programs, as a fall back in case of disaster. I view ideology as a form of blindness, a quest for a simple one-size-fits-all solution. Ideology desensitizes us. I saw this at the "Save The Constitution" rally on Labor Day. The Libertarians had most of the signs and much of the spirit, but when they walked around the mall displaying the signs, some the Libertarians acted silly or belligerent, indifferent to the people they were trying to reach. The theory made them right and everyone else wrong, or so they believed. Outside observers would be more likely to conclude that the theory merely made them immature, self righteous and naive.

Pragmatism would cure this insularity. A pragmatist needs to hear what other people think, because people provide feedback. People are more likely to vote for a party that is interested in what they think. There is a desperate need for such a party, a party which foments dialogue, but unites the people. The existing parties foment faction and division...the government grows ever stronger while the people remain helpless. Truth is a process. It entails dialogue, openness, adaptability, humanity. Libertarians have ideology, but they do not yet have truth. I wish Libertarians could be less rigid, less fearful, and more inclined to be what a party needs to be today, a way of inquiry, a way of life.

Many people can support you initially but, you seem to oppose all government, even Constitutional, limited, self government. You are trying to tell people that they have no right to govern themselves. Why go so far out on limb? So long as I limit myself to obvious, immediate, current problems, I can agree with you. Government is indeed bad, in theory, but the anarchy of capitalism run amok is also bad, and it's impossible, a priori, to say which is worse.

Charles Ober
Farmville, VA

In response to Mike O'Mara's article in Debate...on land and liberty: It is too bad the majority of Libertarians are not as enlightened as Mike O'Mara. Oh sure they believe themselves to be principled but their beliefs are clouded by their ignorance. They are unwilling to examine their ideology because they are so certain that all of their assumption are correct. Has anyone ever been correct all of the time? I cannot condemn any of you though because it was not so long ago that I too believed in this manner and resisted every attempt to make me see otherwise. Then I open my eyes because Mike O'Mara, Jack Jones, Paul Gagnon and others like them refused to give up on me. Once I looked I saw their truths very clearly. It is time for the rest of you to look as well.

Tomas R. Estrada- Palma, Manassas

Re: Land Monopoly. There is no debate. John Locke did not have a proviso on land property rights that each person has the right to equal land of equal value. He was very clear on this subject in the Second Treatise on Civil Government. In section 50 he states, "it is plain that the consent of men have agreed to a disproportionate and unequal possession of the earth..." in discussing land rights in a state of nature, Locke contended that a person had the right to the amount of land to which he could claim title with his labor. He did not say equal land of equal value but that might mistakenly be

implied from some of his writing. The most direct influence of a concept of equal land of equal value came from the feudal or manorial system of land ownership and use, which was undergoing severe changes during Locke's time and causing significant social changes. In the manorial system, the lord owned the land which was commonly divided into three fields...there were commons used for pasture and the villeins had the right to use of these for their own livestock. The reason for the division of the land into several different fields with many strips in each field was to insure that each villein had access to the production of equal land of equal value. Beginning in the 14th c. and peaking in Locke's time, land owners engaged in a policy called enclosure in which they enclosed the fields, generally to turn them into pasture to profit from the wool trade. The population of villeins, ...became the very poor of English cities of the 17th c. As a final comment, please note that Jefferson referred to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness rather than to Locke's more traditional formulation of life liberty and property. One might suspect that the American revolutionaries didn't want to get too far out on a limb to asserting the right to property, especially of the Tories who remained loyal to England and whose title to land came from royal decree.

David Denholm, Sterling

editors note: While Mr. Denholm did not address Mr. O'Mara's main contentions, his letter was a splendid exposition on Locke's position. The letters were edited for brevity.

ASSEMBLY WATCH-GEO. MASON

Mr. Mason warns us that the Serpent in Richmond has laid a foul brood of vipers threatening the liberty of every Virginian. He thanks the Paul Revere's of the Internet for the warning. Mr. Mason asks that all libertarians take 30 minutes of their busy week to call or write their elected officials on these matters.

TERM LIMITS

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 178. RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, a majority of the member selected to each house agreeing, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Virginia be... ARTICLE IV LEGISLATURE Section 4. Qualifications of senators and delegates. Any person may be elected to the Senate who, at the time of the election, is twenty-one years of age, is a resident of the senatorial district which he is seeking to represent, and is qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly. Any person may be elected to the House of Delegates who, at the time of the election, is twenty-one years of age, is a resident of the house district which he is seeking to represent, and is qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly. A senator or delegate who moves his residence from the district for which he is elected shall thereby vacate his office. No person shall be eligible to be elected to more than three consecutive terms in the Senate. No person shall be eligible to be elected to more than six consecutive terms in the House of Delegates. Service for a partial term shall not preclude service for the following twelve years. These limits shall apply to terms of service in the General Assembly beginning on or after the commencement of the 1996 Regular Session of the General Assembly. No person holding a salaried office under the government of the Commonwealth, and no judge of any court, attorney for the Commonwealth, sheriff, treasurer, assessor of taxes, commissioner of the revenue, collector of taxes, or clerk of any court shall be a member of either house of the General Assembly during his continuance in office; and his qualification as a member shall vacate any such office held by him. No person holding any office or post of profit or emolument under the United States government, or who is in the employment of such government, shall be eligible to either house. This bill restricts a person from seeking more than one office at a time.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 156. Proposing an amendment to Section 1 of Article V of the Constitution of Virginia, relating to executive power and the Governor's term of office. Patrons- Purkey, Bryant, Crouch, Fisher, Hamilton, Landes, McDonnell, Wagner and Wardrup; Senator Quayle-Referred to Committee on Rules ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE Section 1. Executive power; Governor's term of office. The chief executive power of the Commonwealth shall be vested in a Governor. He shall hold office for a term commencing upon his inauguration on the Saturday after the second Wednesday in January, next succeeding his election, and ending in the fourth year thereafter immediately upon the inauguration of his successor. No person shall be eligible to be elected more than two times to the same office for the term next succeeding that for which he was elected of Governor, and the Governor shall be ineligible to any other office during his term of service.

PETITION REQUIREMENTS

HB2003, House: Referred to Committee on Finance Delegate Vince Callahan has introduced a bill to reduce petitioning requirements for independent and third-party

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HB2003, House: Referred to Committee on Finance Delegate Vince Callahan has introduced a bill to reduce petitioning requirements for independent and third-party candidates. **This is a good bill!** Write to your legislators in support. HB 2003 Reduces the number of required signatures for statewide office candidate petitions from one-half of one percent to one-tenth of one percent of the number of registered voters in the Commonwealth. The approximate number of signatures is reduced from 16,000 to 3,200. The bill reduces the number required for congressional district candidates in a like manner from approximately 1,500 to 300. The bill deletes requirements that the person circulating the petition must be a registered voter entitled to vote for the candidate and that their circulator's signature on each page of the petition must be notarized. House: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections.

MARIJUANA LEGISLATION

HB1621, Status: 01/13/97 House: Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections House: Assigned to P. & E. sub-committee: Please, call the constituent Hot Line at (800) 889-0229 and voice your objections. **Don't allow a successful back lash against prop. 215 in Virginia.** HB 1621 - Repeals Virginia's long-standing compassionate use act allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana for cancer & glaucoma. HB 1781 - The perennial seeds & stems act to increase marijuana felonies. HB 743 - Greatly broadens the drug control act to target marijuana offenders. We must kill this one. For more information please contact: Lennice Werth, RT 3 Box 692, Crewe, VA 23930 (804) 645-8816 or FAX (804) 645-8324

The attached bill before the Virginia General Assembly repeals Virginia's medical marijuana law. Write NOW to your delegate and senator in opposition to this bill! Be as specific as possible. Call the constituent comment line at 1-800-889-0229 with your concerns. Other bills of interest: HB 1959 Similar repeal relating to heroin for cases of severe pain. Note: both HB 1959 and HB 1621 would also prohibit medical research in these areas! HB1781 & SB1184 Two forms of seeds and stems - again. This bill would increase the number of marijuana charges resulting in felonies, even in minor cases. HB 1628 - Establishes a presumption of intoxication while driving for anyone with any detectable residue in their blood for any illegal substance. Very Bad for marijuana users who have such traces weeks after any ingestion at all! No studies have established levels of THC that indicate intoxication. Help stop this bill. SB 704 Increases many misdemeanor drug charges to felonies and mandates up to ten times longer jail terms for them. Voice your support for these **2 good bills:** SB 776 While not perfect - we congratulate Senator Kenneth Stolle on his understanding of the complex issues of rehabilitation vs. imprisonment. This bill expands the first offender law that allows for treatment rather than jail even in some felony cases. HJR 656 A Joint Resolution for study of commercial Hemp in Virginia! Don't delay, this will be a very short session; so call right away and let your voice be heard.

Mr. Mason notes that the House of Delegates has already voted 86-13 to repeal the medicinal use of marijuana.

ANTI-PRICE GOUGING

This bill, sponsored by a CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN State Senator (Ken Stolle, a candidate for Attorney General this year), calls on the STATE to SET PRICES for a wide range of products in the aftermath of a natural disaster. This bill should be defeated. Please all your legislators and tell them it is a stupid bill that deserves no further consideration. THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS NOT EMPOWERED TO REPEAL THE LAWS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND Patrons-- Stolle and Schrock--Referred to the Committee on General Laws--CHAPTER 17.8. VIRGINIA POST-DISASTER ANTI-PRICE GOUGING ACT. Essentially, the act allows the state to control prices in emergencies, and defines what and when. Definitions. As used in this

chapter: "Average retail price" means the average price at which similar merchandise, services, or shelter were being sold or rented in the emergency area during the thirty days immediately preceding the declaration of an emergency. "Consumer goods" means any article, product, merchandise, or commodity of any kind which is customarily produced or distributed for sale or rent for consumption or use by individuals, including, but not limited to, human or animal food, water, ice, clothing, lumber, hardware, chainsaws, generators, home improvement materials, medical supplies, flashlights, batteries, candles, blankets, and diapers. "Emergency" means any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether accidental, natural, or man made, in war or in peace, which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage or loss of property."

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

The General Assembly is considering a bill that would allow write-ins for President and Vice President. Although we've been hardworking (and fortunate) enough to have the LP candidates on the ballot here for the last 3 elections, this is a bill we should support. SENATE BILL NO. 667 Voting by paper ballot; voting for presidential electors; write-in votes. The qualified voter shall take the official paper ballot and enter the voting booth. After entering the voting booth, the qualified voter shall mark immediately preceding the name of each candidate for whom he wishes to vote a check (/cm) or a cross (X or +) or a line (-) in the square provided for such purpose, leaving unmarked the square preceding the name of each candidate for whom he does not wish to vote. Any ballot marked so that the intent of the voter is clear shall be counted. The qualified voter at a presidential election shall mark the square preceding the names and party designation for his choice of candidates for President and Vice-President. His ballot so marked shall be counted as if he had marked squares preceding the names of the individual electors affiliated with his choice for President and Vice-President. The qualified voter at a presidential election may cast a write-in vote for President and Vice-President as provided in subsections C and D of this section. At all elections except primary and presidential elections it shall be lawful for any voter to vote for any person other than the listed candidates for the office by writing or hand printing the person's name on the official ballot.

MARRIAGE

SENATE BILL NO. 694 Patrons-- Reasor, Couric, Edwards, Howell and Whipple; Delegate: Brickley Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice--Every person who is empowered to issue a marriage license shall, at the time of issuance thereof, distribute to the applicants for the license, birth control information, information concerning genetic disorders, information concerning acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and the available tests to determine the presence or absence of the disease and, a list of family planning clinics located in the county or city of the issuing office and information on the criminal laws of the Commonwealth proscribing physical or sexual abuse of a spouse or other family member. Such lists and information shall be furnished by the Virginia State Department of Health.

DEBT LIMIT

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 115 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE. This bill, well on its way to being approved by this year's General Assembly, would amend the Virginia Constitution to limit the debt of cities and counties to 10 percent of the assessed value of real estate within the city or county. Of course, a debt limit of 0% would be better, but this is an encouraging development! (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections on October 23, 1996)

GUN CONTROL

Delegate David Albo (R-Springfield) is trying to diminish our right to keep and bear arms ... this time taking away the right to a concealed carry permit to anyone ever arrested on a drug offense -- EVEN IF FOUND NOT GUILTY! Write to your legislators and urge them to oppose HB 454. HB 454 Concealed handgun permit. Summary: Concealed handgun permit. Provides that a person who has been the subject of an adjudication on any drug possession or distribution charge within three years prior to his application for a concealed

handgun permit is ineligible whether or not he is found guilty, provided the court finds that the facts of the case were sufficient for a finding of guilt.

Pro-Gun Bills

The best defense is a strong offense. HB 2662 -- Del. Jay Katzen's Bill on Concealed Carry Reform & Repeal Local Gun Control Laws. Concealed Carry Reform. Eliminates the restriction on carrying concealed in restaurants. Recognizes permits issued by other states. Extends duration of permit from 2 to 5 years. Reduces the cost of permit renewals from \$50 to \$25. Removes Social Security Number from the permit. Authorizes the clerk of the court to sign the permit. Repeals local gun control laws. HB 2896 -- Del. Jay Katzen's Bill to Repeal One-Gun-A-Month. Puts an end to Wilder's handgun rationing scheme.

Anti-Gun Bills

Mandatory Fingerprinting (HB 1566, HB 2336, SB 641, SB 944, et al) Creates centralized, federal gun owner registration by sending your fingerprints to the FBI. The Filegate scandal has shown that the FBI can't be trusted to maintain your privacy. Criminals don't apply for permits. Washington, D.C. is a prime example. Increases cost for permit applications. Restrictions on carrying concealed in County buildings (HB 1946, HB 2302, SB 763, SB 978, et al) Applies only to Fairfax County (counties with an executive form of government). Not based upon any demonstrated need or problem. Needless restricts law-abiding permit holders' access to government facilities. Implies permit holders are criminals or are more likely to commit criminal acts.

Contact us via email at: moog@nvcld.org Monitor the NVCDL web page: <http://www.nvcld.org> northern Virginia Citizens Defense League P.O. Box 821 Alexandria, VA 22313 NVCDL web page: <http://www.nvcld.org>

Women Against Gun Control (WAGC) is a national organization of women dedicated to the principles embodied in our Constitution and the 2nd Amendment. WAGC is forming state affiliated chapters across the United States and is very interested in starting a Virginia chapter. Ms. Tobias is interested in forming a broad based coalition with other grassroots gun-rights organizations on a number of topics. One current project is a petition drive to repeal the Lautenberg "spanker gun-ban." To find out more information about WAGC, visit their WWW site at: <http://www.wagc.com>.

RESOURCE: Gun Owners of America FAX Alert

8001 Forbes Places, Suite 102, Springfield, Virginia 22151 703-321-8585 / FAX: 703-321-8408 / Website: <http://www.gunowners.org>

For a list of Courts of Justice Committee members see the GOA website at <http://www.gunowners.org>. Below is a list of the members of the M&P Committee:

>>Chair Gladys Keating	James Almand
>(804) 786-6801	(804) 786-6893
>>Mary Christian	Thomas Jackson
>(804) 786-6600	(804) 786-7301
>>Jean Cunningham	William Robinson
>(804) 786-6700	(804) 786-7158
>>Julia Connolly	James Scott
>(804) 786-6894	(804) 786-7158
>>Roger McClure	Robert Hull
>(804) 786-6996	(804) 786-6903
>>Robert Tata	Dwight Jones
>(804) 786-6803	(804) 786-8651
>>Donald McEachin	George Lovelace
>(804) 786-6906	(804) 786-7297
>>John Rollison	J. Randy Forbes
>(804) 786-1617	804-786-7252
>>S. Vance Wilkins	Harvey Morgan
>(804) 786-1618	(804) 786-6607
>>H. Morgan Griffith	Jay Katzen
>(804) 786-6801	(804) 786-6801
>>Beverly Sherwood	Glenn Weatherholtz
>(804) 786-7251	(804) 786-7298

LIMITS TO THIRD PARTIES

HB 1951. This bill could provide an insurmountable hurdle for the LP to retain official party status once it is achieved -- requiring 15 percent of registered voters to be registered with a party for that party to retain party status. The bill requires the State Board of Elections, in January 1998, to notify all registered voters of the new party registration law and send them a return

(Continued on page 6)

continued from page 5, Assembly Watch

card to indicate their party affiliation or independent status. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time except the 28 days before an election when the registration records are closed. The state party chairman must notify the State Board by January 31 of each year whether the party will close its primaries and permit only registered party members to participate or whether it will open its primary to party members and independent voters. Further, the bill adds a requirement that primary candidate petitions must be signed by voters registered as members of the party conducting the primary, sets the required number of petition signatures at one percent of the number of voters registered as members of the party in the election district where the primary is being held, and allows an official political party to retain that status so long as at least 15 percent of the Commonwealth's registered voters are registered as members of that party. Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections.

WRITE YOUR DELEGATE

The Hon. _____, P.O. Box 406, Richmond, VA 23218

House Switch Board is 804-786-6530

House FAX number is 804-786-6310

ELECTIONS

Elections Held May 6 (Signatures required by 7 PM, Tuesday March 4)

Position	Seats	Sigs.	Term	Obligation
Alexandria Council	125	3 Yr		
Alexandria Schl Brd	125	3 Yr	PT	
Vienna Council	125	2 Yr	PT	

Elections Held Nov 4 (Sigs reqd. by 7 PM, Tuesday, June 10)

Position	Seats	Sigs.	Term	Obligation
Governor	~16000	4 Yr	FT	
Lt Governor	~16000	4 Yr	FT	
Attorney General	~16000	4 Yr	FT	
House of Delegates	100	125	2 Yr	PT
Soil and Water Dir	several	25	3 Yr	PT
City Attorney	"	50?	4 Yr	FT
City Sheriff	"	50?	4 Yr	FT
Commish of Revenue	"	50?	4 Yr	FT
City Treasurer	"	50?	4 Yr	FT
County Board	34 Cnty	125	4 Yr	PT
County Schl Brd	29 Cnty	125	4 Yr	PT

FT= FULL TIME PT=PART TIME

ELECTION HISTORY

A HISTORY OF ELECTIONS INVOLVING LIBERTARIANS IN VIRGINIA. Candidates endorsed by the Libertarian Party

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to Arrange; Email: 102155.2376@COMPUSERVE.COM

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1972 NOVEMBER: 1. John Hospers runs for US President (Tonie Nathan for VP) against Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. Does not win, but for the first time in history a woman receives a vote from the US Electoral college -- from Virginia elector Roger Lea MacBride. MacBride casts his vote for the Libertarian ticket. Ticket makes ballot in two states.

1976 NOVEMBER: 1. Roger MacBride runs for US President (David Bergland for VP). Does not win, makes ballot in most states, including Virginia.

1980 NOVEMBER: 1. Edward A. Clark runs for US President (David Koch for VP) against Tom Anderson, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan. Does not win; gathers close to a million votes around the country. Makes ballot in all 50 states & DC.

1983 NOVEMBER: 1. James B. Turney runs for US House against Tom Bliley and two others. Gamers 5%.

1984 NOVEMBER: 1. David Bergland runs for US President (Jim Lewis for VP) against Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale. Does not win.

1988 NOVEMBER: 1. Ron Paul, a four-term former member of the US House, runs for US President

1990 NOVEMBER: 1. Robert Murphy ran for Congress in the 8th district, garnering a respectable 3.5 percent in a three-way race.

1991 JANUARY: 1. Rick Sincere of Arlington ran a credible campaign for the Virginia House in a special election, once again garnering a respectable percentage.

1991 NOVEMBER: 1. Paul Gagnon runs for Fairfax Board of Supervisors. Gagnon get 15% in a three way race -- a tremendous improvement over our vote percentage in the congressional campaign only a year earlier. 2. Rick Sincere runs for Arlington Treasurer. 3. Mike Ward runs for Arlington Board of Supervisors.

1992 NOVEMBER: 1. Andre Marrou runs for President, United States. Does not win, but manages 50 state, DC & Guam ballot status for the second time in LP history. Gathered a quarter-million votes.

1993 NOVEMBER: 1. Reed Halsted runs for House of Delegates against Eric Cantor. Gamers 20% in two-way race. 2. John Buckley 3. William Redpath 4. Tim Southern 5. Rick Sincere 6. Rob Finnegan

1994 JANUARY: 1. Tom Jamerson runs in special election for VA state Senate.

1994 NOVEMBER: 2. Tom Jamerson runs for Soil & Water District Director, Chesterfield County. WINS.

1995 NOVEMBER: 1. Paul Gagnon runs for Fairfax Co Board of Supervisors, Lee district.

2. Bennett Rutledge runs for Arlington County School Board. 3. Eric Strzpek runs for VA House district ?? in Charlottesville.

1996 NOVEMBER: 1. Harry Browne runs for President, United States. Does not win, but manages to become the standardbearer of the first third party in a century to qualify for all 50 state ballots (plus DC and Guam) two elections in a row.

2. Gary Reams runs for the 10th U.S. House seat; gamers 2%. 3. Jay Rutledge runs for the 6th U.S. House seat, gamers approx. 2%.

1996 DECEMBER: 1. John Buckley runs for the 37th State House seat.

DEBATE...

Proportional Voting Systems

Proposed Resolution for consideration by the LPVA convention: *We strongly urge adoption of proportional voting systems in Virginia and the United States for fairer and more complete*

representation of the people in democratically elected bodies.

The U.S. is among the few democracies of the world that retain a Single Member Plurality (SMP) voting system. We divide legislatures into single member districts; voters have only one vote to cast, and only the candidate receiving the most votes in each district wins. Under such a system, the game for all candidates becomes one of trying to be all things to all voters and offending the fewest people possible. Voters are boxed into voting for the lesser of two evils.

The emerging democracies of this world have chosen proportional representation. There are three types: party list voting (voting for parties and candidates within parties), additional member system (combines SMP elections with party list voting to fill out a legislature), and preference voting (candidates run in multi-member districts and voters state their preferences for the candidates by marking their choices "1," "2," "3," etc. voting for as few, or as many candidates as they like). Winners are chosen by a process of transfers of excess votes from winning candidates to voters' next favorite candidate and transfers of all votes from losing candidates to voters' next favorite candidate until all open seats are filled. A candidate can get elected to public office by appealing to only a minority of voters, and not be forced to either be in the mainstream or be unelectable!

I have heard several objections that proportional voting (PV) violates libertarian principles. First, there are the understandable concerns about democracy. A libertarian society will come about in one of two ways: either armed revolt or democracy. The former will not happen in the United States. Many libertarians need to get over their ambivalent views about democracy and embrace the process.

Democracy, in of itself, does not violate libertarian principles and a more

continued from page 6, debate...

representative democracy certainly would not. There is nothing wrong with working for something that is neutral with respect to our principles, but would help the LP practically. Others fear that PV will help the Left to gain power. The Left supports proportional voting because they realize they are an excluded political minority, while some LP members think the LP can win sometime soon in the current winner-take-all system. After the experience of the past 25 years for the LP, and the past 125 years of American history, the proposition is dubious. I think the LP would be the primary beneficiary of PV and only a very small minority of Americans would embrace the Left.

There is an important role for the LP in American politics. For years I have heard certain people say that the LP is never going to succeed, without explaining why this was destined to be the case. The primary reason why the LP's success has been limited is our voting system. SMP voting is largely responsible for the sad state of the American democracy: ever decreasing voter turnout and a choice between the lesser of two evils. Americans have said that they want to see more viable choices on the ballot. The only way to get that is with proportional voting. It is the only way political minorities are going to become electable, and it is time to recognize that for now, Libertarians are a political minority.

William Redpath

editors note: Mr. Redpath's article was edited for the sake of brevity.

“LIGHT HORSE” LEE

News bulletin

The **Unified Membership Plan** was approved, effective 2/28/97. This is a new process of revenue sharing with LNC (Libertarian National Committee). LNC will be handling

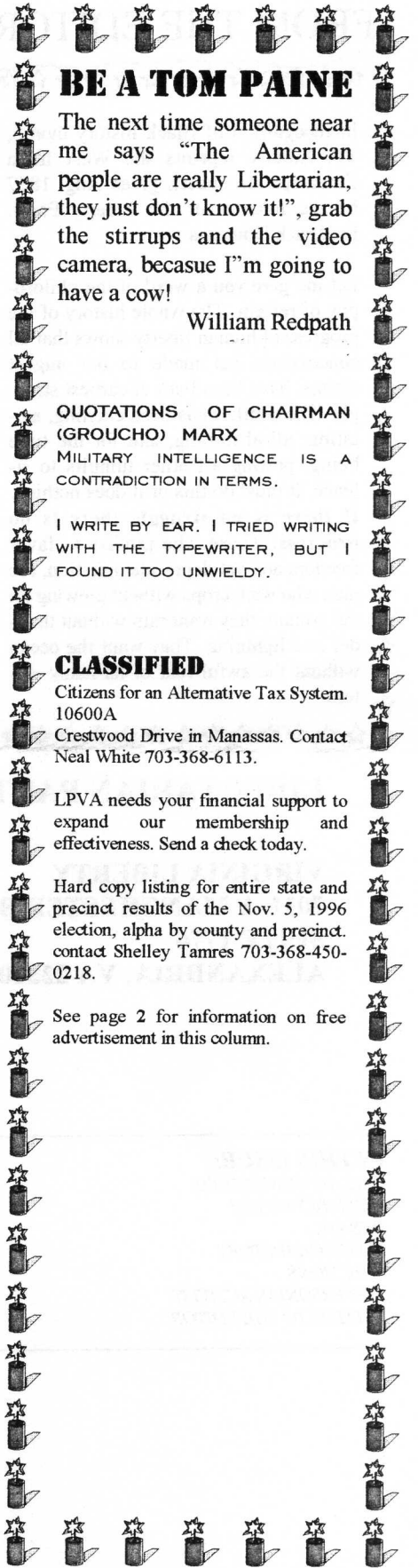
membership renewal mailings in the future. The chair and secretary were authorized to negotiate a contract to allow us to collect contributions and monthly pledges via credit cards. If we are approved, we may be up and running by the time this newsletter is published. PLEASE consider becoming a monthly pledger to the LPVA. Your funds will be put to good use expanding the state party downwards into viable local parties. This is where we need to expand in order to field electable local candidates.

Shelley Tamres

BAC (Ballot Access Committee) News:

State Delegate Vincent Callahan introduced 2 bills into the General Assembly for us. Unfortunately, they were killed in committee and were never voted on by the full House. They would have lowered the signature requirements forgetting statewide candidates on the ballot, eliminated the requirement to notarize the petitions, and lowered the percentage of a statewide vote required to attain major party status. It was a good opportunity to learn how the legislature works. We'll try again next year.

Please take a few minutes to write Delegate Callahan to thank him for introducing and supporting our bills. Address letters to: **The Honorable Vincent F. Callahan, Jr., House of Delegates Legislative Offices, PO Box 406, Richmond, VA 23218.** Other election law bills: The Republican Party attempt to add party labels to the ballot also died. This is a shame since one version of their bill would have allowed us to label OUR candidates as Libertarians. SB 667, allowing write-in votes for President, passed the Senate and is being considered by the House. Hopefully, it will pass.



BE A TOM PAINE

The next time someone near me says “The American people are really Libertarian, they just don't know it!”, grab the stirrups and the video camera, because I'm going to have a cow!

William Redpath

QUOTATIONS OF CHAIRMAN (GROUCHO) MARX
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IS A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS.

I WRITE BY EAR. I TRIED WRITING WITH THE TYPEWRITER, BUT I FOUND IT TOO UNWIELDY.

CLASSIFIED

Citizens for an Alternative Tax System. 10600A Crestwood Drive in Manassas. Contact Neal White 703-368-6113.

LPVA needs your financial support to expand our membership and effectiveness. Send a check today.

Hard copy listing for entire state and precinct results of the Nov. 5, 1996 election, alpha by county and precinct. contact Shelley Tamres 703-368-450-0218.

See page 2 for information on free advertisement in this column.

FROM THE EDITOR- Paul E. Gagnon

☆☆

☆☆ In recognition of Black history month, VA Liberty reprints the West India Emancipation speech given Aug. 1857 by the founder of the Liberty Party, Frederick Douglass.

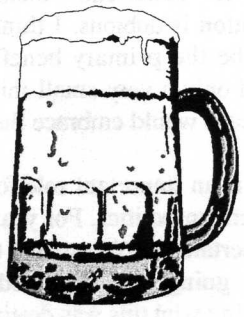
☆☆ Let me give you a word of the philosophy of reform. The whole history of the progress of human liberty shows that all concessions yet made to her august claims, have been born of earnest struggle. The conflict has been exciting, agitating, all-absorbing, and for the time being, putting all other tumults to silence. It must do this or it does nothing. **If there is no struggle there is no progress.** Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.

☆☆ This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. **Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.** Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress. In the light of these ideas, Negroes will be hunted at the North, and held and flogged at the South so long as they submit to those devilish outrages and make no resistance, either moral or physical...

☆☆

THE SAM ADAMS AWARDS

Know any libertarian deserving of the Sam Adams Award? Please write us.



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 JEFFERSONIAN ACTIVIST
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