

FROM THE CHAIR

Notes & Asides

This issue of the Libertarian Penn is being sent to the complete mailing list, so that those who are not already members of the LPP can join by filling out the membership form we have cleverly incorporated into the newsletter. We did this joint newsletter-membership form mailing once before with good results, so if you've been holding back, there's 2 reasons to join now: 1. You will be informed of upcoming Libertarian activities across the state (Philadelphia and Pittsburgh already have events in the planning stages); 2. Our representation at the next National LP convention depends on our membership total at the end of this month—so joining now will help us send more people to San Francisco this summer.

To clear up the confusion which seems to exist about national-versus-state LP memberships: national and state memberships are separate—LPP members get the Libertarian Penn, national members receive the LP News. Since we don't get rebates on national membership dues, we can't afford to send the Penn to those members. Both membership lists are counted when computing national convention delegates.

Jo Chernow
State Chair

*Libertarians in Southcentral PA are invited to a casual counter-inaugural-beer-party on Saturday evening, January 22nd in York. Please drop in for an informal evening of discussion with like-minded individuals if you: 1. think Roger should be in the White House until it can be sold to the highest bidder; 2. are boycotting peanuts instead of lettuce; 3. would like to find out more about libertarianism. Call: (717) 792-1750.

*Dr. Allan Meltzer will address the Western LP supper club on Thursday, February 10. The subject of his talk will be, "Limiting the Size of Government." Details soon!

*Pennsylvania's state monopoly liquor stores show that we have been drinking less but paying more, with the release of figures compiled by the Liquor Control Board. The figures, which cover the fiscal year ended July 1, show sales of 31.1 million gallons, down 443,209 gallons from the previous year. Dollar sales, however, were 551 million, up 4.42 million for the same period, due to higher prices.

*The PA Department of Transportation has once again demonstrated its contempt for the elements by paintlines right over the ice and snow covering a ten-mile stretch of state highway in Crawford County! They have schedules to keep, of course.

"The notion of civil liberty which we have inherited is that of a status created for the individual by laws and institutions, the effect of which is that each man is guaranteed the use of all his own powers exclusively for his own welfare. It is not at all a matter of elections, universal suffrage, or democracy."

—William Graham Sumner



Stewart Engel
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Editorial

The vote totals are finally in, and this is what they look like:

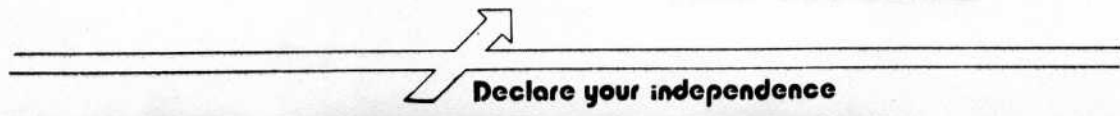
Jimmy Carter	40, 827, 292	50.08%
Gerald Ford	39, 146, 157	48.02
Eugene McCarthy	745, 346	0.91
Roger MacBride	171, 912	0.21
Lester Maddox	170, 086	0.21
All Others Combined	457, 927	0.56

With Jimmy Carter receiving more votes than all the other candidates combined and out-polling Roger better than 237 to 1, just where does that leave us? The figures speak for themselves. Last issue's Libertarian Penn gave National LP Chairman Ed Crane's reasons why MacBride's vote total probably would not exceed 175, 000. I won't reiterate them here, but aside from the obvious fact that Gene McCarthy probably won't run in 1980, the Republican Party will undoubtedly be further weakened—I can't seem to conjure an image of Jacob Javits and Ronald Reagan working harmoniously toward party unity. If that is so, it seems reasonable to assume that the 4.55% difference between Ford and Carter may be much smaller than it will be four years from now.

What can we do in the meantime? We can do anything at all to raise the public level of understanding of the principles of the Libertarian Party. YLA chapters on campus will help us get the ear of college students. Any campaign for office will get us publicity and a chance to put across our views. Here in Western Pennsylvania we are going to reinstitute supper club meetings next month—hopefully on a regular basis.

You will notice that this issue has a membership application like the one we ran in October. If you are not a member of the State LP (even if you are a National LP member!), please consider filling it out and mailing it back to us with a check. If you are a State LP member, please show it to a sympathetic friend and try to soft-sell the idea to him/her. While our membership has grown significantly in the last year here in Pennsylvania, the lack of ballot status here (with the attendant media coverage) probably kept us from growing as much as State LP's with ballot status. Please let us hear from you!

Bill Lewis
Editor



Declare your independence