

Petition Drive Nears End—Send Sheets to Austin

The Libertarians Ballot Access Petition Drive deadline is Monday, May 24. At that time all signatures gathered and all precinct convention rosters must be turned in to the Secretary of State's office in Austin.

Any volunteers who have not yet turned in petitions to local coordinators should mail the forms directly to Wes Benedict at 1403-B Kenwood Ave., Austin, TX 78704. Petition sheets should be signed and notarized before being mailed. In Harris County forms can be delivered to the Garcia's up until Friday, May 21.

As of this writing (May 7) we have collected 45,000 raw signatures. However, we need 45,540 valid signatures—these must be from registered voters who did not vote in the primary. Currently we have volunteers validating signatures in Houston and Austin and we have found that only about 60% of the signatures we've collected are valid. This means that we will need to collect another 30,000 signatures in the last 18 days of the drive.

Most signatures have been collected by paid petitioners. At any given time it is difficult to tell how many paid people we have in the field—as people are hired others drop out. Coordinator Anthony Garcia describes it as trying to build a staircase out of marshmallows—add more people to the top and things just seem to squish back down.

Our paid people include experienced professionals and LP activists from many states as well as local people hired through newspaper ads or referred to us by those already petitioning. Petitioners have been working mainly in the Houston, Austin, and



Robert Howard and Guy McLendon of Houston petition at a flea market.

Dallas areas with shorter periods in other cities. We've had several cases where our petitioners have been asked to leave public areas including most college campuses, festivals held on public streets, sidewalks outside of convention centers, etc. A slew of rainy weekends in the Houston metro-area have also been problematic.

We've had at least one petitioner threatened with criminal trespass and another was arrested for an outstanding warrant while petitioning. We've also caught several individuals trying to sell us forged signatures.

Scott Jameson (Dallas area) and Wes Benedict (Austin area) have helped collect and pay paid petitioners. Stacey Bourland, Anthony and Laura Coker-Garcia, Pat Dixon, Chris Jagge, Eric D. Rittberg (of RLC fame), and Bob Smither have all hosted petitioners in their homes.

The Texas Party has raised \$76,064 for the petition drive. National

LP has sent \$45,000. To finish the drive we need at least \$30,000 more. BAC members Wes Benedict, Pat Dixon and Chris Williams have each pledged to loan the Party \$5,000. We need \$15,000 more—either in donations or by loan. Any loans should be paid back over the next year from Unified Membership Payments that Texas receives from National. These payments average about \$1,800 a month.

Donations can be made online at www.lp.org/bacdonate.shtml. For credit card donation or to make a loan contact Wes at 512-442-4910. Checks should be sent to Libertarian Party of Texas, Ballot Access Committee, P.O. Box 56426, Houston, TX 77256-6426.

The BAC has announced that the top three donors and the top three volunteer petitioners will be awarded a free pass to the state convention in June (\$100 value) and a seat at the head table for the luncheon with Congressman Ron Paul.



Lone Star Liberty

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Submissions encouraged.
Please send to the editor at
Laura@Libertyworks.org. Dead-
line for the next month's issue is
the 20th of the prior month.

Supporters

The Libertarian Party of Texas would like to thank recent donors:
Frances Bradley.....Eules
John Davis.....Richardson
Owen Davis.....Highland Village
Wanda Myers.....Houston
Larry Nickerson.....Fort Worth
Kristin Thompson.....Houston
and all those donating in response to our letters, by Credit Card and Paypal!

Petitioning Awards Set continued from front

Currently, the top donation is over \$1,000, but at publication no one had donated more than \$2,000 to the drive. The top three signature gatherers are now Wes Benedict with 844, Clyde Garland with 624, and Rick McGinnis with 472. However, Stacey Bourland is rapidly advancing with 396, and Pat Dixon has 301.

Others with more than 100 signatures collected include Rock Howard, Arthur DiBianca, Michelle

Shinghal, Benjamin Woolsey, Guy McLendon, Benjamin Westfried, Robert Ruliffson, James Holland, Davide Fried, Drew Parks, and William Howell.

Overall, Wes Benedict reports that LP volunteers have collected 6,202 signatures. "The top 10% of volunteer petitioners report 90% of the volunteer signatures collected," Wes says.

Garcia Briefs German on Access

Railroad Commissioner candidate Anthony Garcia met with Harald Guller of the Social Democratic Party of Bavaria, Germany on March 30th as part of the State Department's International Visitor Program.

Guller, who is a lawyer and former legislator, is currently the manager of the Social Democratic Party Caucus for his state. The SDP is Germany's oldest political party and won a 40.9% majority in 1998. However, it's membership has been declining since 1976.

Guller came to the United States and Texas to gain a greater understanding of the American political process and campaign practices at the



Anthony Garcia with Harald Muller of Germany.

federal, state and local levels.

Guller specifically asked to meet with representatives from third parties. He had questions about ballot access and how Libertarian candidates are chosen and what we need to do to get on the ballot in Texas. He also met with a Green Party representative.

Platform Comm. Will Post Report

The Platform Committee—Chair Kris Overstreet, Wes Benedict, Laura Coker-Garcia, Barbara Cunningham and Jeff Daiell have considered more than 40 proposed changes to the State Party Platform and are now finalizing their report.

The report will be completed and available before the Convention so that delegates can read and consider the changes prior to meeting.

Most of the proposed changes are designed to make the platform more concise and increase readability. However, a new plank on marriage has been proposed and a plank on the rights of children and families was submitted to replace a plank deleted in 2000.

Information on the proposed changes including the original text is online at www.livingston.net/redneck/platform.

Donations still needed for Petition Drive--

_____ I am enclosing a donation to **fund the petition drive.**

_____ I am enclosing a donation to **support party activities** (outreach, newsletter, etc.)

My best donation: _____\$35_____ \$75_____ \$100_____ \$150_____ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Precinct #: _____

County: _____

Please make checks payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. Include this form with any donations and Mail to: PO Box 27932 , Houston, TX 77227.

Donations can also be accepted online via PayPal at the State Party website: www.lptexas.org/donations.

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The Libertarian Party of Texas also submits finance reports to the Texas Ethics Commission.

Rules Committee

Royce Mitchell Chairs the Rules Committee. Royce has not yet received an proposed rules changes. Contact Royce at mitchell@flash.net for more information or to propose Rules changes. Current rules are online at www.lptexas.org.

Credentials Committee

Barbara Cunningham chairs the Credentials Committee. County Chairs should send a list of those delegates approved by the County Convention to Barbara. Her email is bmcunningham@direcway.com

Dixon Column Printed

"I'm concerned we are losing the qualities that make America great," Pat Dixon wrote in a April 30 column titled "Why I'm a Libertarian," that appeared in the Austin American Statesman April 30 on the editorial page.

Pat described the LP as supporting "individual freedom and small

government on all issues. Therefore, we are more liberal than Democrats when it comes to supporting free speech, opposing foreign military intervention and choosing personal morals. In addition, we are stronger supporters of free markets than Republicans when it comes to lowering taxes, reducing government regulations and allowing free trade."

Pat mentioned our electoral success (nearly 600 in office) and described our ballot access hurdle. He also gave the website for the Travis County Party for those wanting more information.

Pat is Chair of the Ballot Access Committee, former Chair for Travis County and a candidate for State Chair.

Fred Jones' Website

Frank Jones, candidate for State Representative District 71, has a website online at http://members.cox.net/thanks_fred/ Contributions to Frank's campaign can be sent to his treasurer Lynn O'Neal, 1518 Chestnut St., Abilene, TX 79602.

Texas Shootout

It's not every day that presidential candidates take up arms as part of their campaigns, but that's what happened April 28, when two candidates for the Libertarian Party's nomination for president had a "shoot-out" in Dallas, Texas.

Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan, two of the leading candidates for the LP presidential nomination, had a shooting match as a fundraiser for ballot access in Texas.

The event raised money for the ballot access effort, with about 30 people showing up to fire handguns with Badnarik and Nolan. Most were from the Dallas area, but some Louisiana LP members also showed up to show their support, event organizer David Rostcheck said.

"As predicted, Michael Badnarik did beat Gary Nolan, but I think Nolan held his own," Rostcheck noted. "When have you known the Democrat or Republican candidates do anything except criticize each other?" Badnarik asked.

More online at www.lp.org.



Lone Star Liberty

The Libertarian Party of Texas

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Petition Drive Ends May 24th!

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

May 3 (Mon.) Volunteer Petition Turn-in. Volunteers should turn in petition sheets to their local coordinator or to Wes Benedict. Mail to Wes Attn: Ballot Access, 1403-B Kenwood Ave., Austin, TX 78704

May 11 (Tues.) Early Voting Ends.

May 14-16 (Fri.-Sun.) LP outreach and petitioning at the Pasadena Strawberry Festival, Pasadena. Contact Laura@Libertyworks.org or 281-997-8141.

May 15 (Sat.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m Election Day for local political subdivisions. Joey Dauben of Ellis County seeks election to Midlothian ISD.

May 21 (Fri.) Deadline for lower rate room reservation for LP of Texas State Convention in College Station. Hilton Hotel offers \$70 single or double occupancy rooms with no charge for extra occupants. Call to make your reservation 1-800-445-8667.

May 24 (Mon.) Petition Drive Ends. All petition forms must be in Austin.

May 28-31 (Fri.-Mon.) LP 2004 National Convention in Atlanta, GA. Workshops, receptions, training, and speakers open to everyone. Delegates will select Presidential nominee, elect new National officers, changes to platform and rules. Basic package is \$49, "gold" pack-

age including meals, etc. is \$369. Register online or more information at www.lpconvention.org.

June 1 (Tues.) Deadline for Early Bird rate for LP of Texas State Convention in College Station. Full package registrations postmarked by today cost \$100. After today or at the door full packages will cost \$125.

June 11-13 (Fri.-Sun.) Opens 4 p.m. "Liberty: Texas Style" LP of Texas 2004 State Conference and Convention. Hilton Hotel, 801 E. University Drive, College Station. Business scheduled to begin 9 a.m. Saturday and end by Noon Sunday. Includes nomination of statewide candidates, election of new State officers and executive committee members, changes to platform and rules. The newly elected SLEC shall meet Sunday afternoon. Announced speakers include Congressman Ron Paul, Geoffery Neale (National Party Chair), Kathryn Graham (gun rights), Clay Conrad (FIJA), Douglas Young (Libertarians and religion), Michael Badnarik (Constitution workshop), Karen Hall (fighting annexation). Major speakers will be scheduled for meal times and workshops will be conducted all day Saturday.

Full packages including meals, speakers, and workshops are \$100 before June 1 and \$125 after. A workshop only package is \$40/\$45 and a meals only package is \$90/\$110. Register online at www.lptexas.org Or you can contact Chris Jagge at c_jagge@msn.com. Vendor tables and display tables are available for rent.