



The LibPENN

The Official Newsletter of the
Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

The Libertarian Penn

October 2008

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New Platform Approved at LP Convention in Denver, CO

By Henry Haller -
*Member, LPPA & Vice Chair,
2008 Platform Committee*

The LP Convention was confronted with a Platform broken beyond repair in the opinion of many members. The Platform had grown to 62 planks covering every imaginable Libertarian issue in great detail. At the 2006 convention the delegates rebelled, using the plank retention procedure to eliminate all but 15 planks, leaving a seemingly random collection of issues addressed. Of particular concern, there was no mention of important issues such as taxation or foreign policy.

The 2008 Platform Committee was appointed earlier in order to have time to deal

with this situation. I was selected to be Pennsylvania's representative on the committee at our 2007 state convention. The majority of the committee was in place by the end of that summer.

Many on the committee felt that the best approach would be to scrap the 2006 Platform and start anew. Much preliminary work took place by email and conference calls, followed by a meeting in Las Vegas in February 2008. This was the first time since 1983 that the Platform Committee has met prior to the week of the convention. It was felt that due to the drastic nature of writing a whole new platform, this meeting three months prior to the convention was necessary in order

to allow plenty of time to get feedback from the membership.

The product of that meeting was designated the Directional Principles platform. It consisted of 27 planks in which the Libertarian direction was specified, but omitted the details of implementation. In order to increase the likelihood of acceptance, it was composed almost entirely of language recycled from previous LP Platforms, going all the way back to the original 1972 Platform.

Meanwhile, another effort was underway by a group calling itself "Restore04," which included such party luminaries as founder David Nolan. (Cont. on Pg. 2)

Private Property Owners and Smokers Lose

By Tony Gonzalez, Sr. -
Member, LPPA (Cumberland)

Enough of the smoking ban drama! "Enlightened" people know that being pro-choice only applies to abortion or sexual orientation. Why would anyone want to choose between a restaurant

that permits smoking, one that is smoke free and one that has separate areas for each? A cigarette chain-smoker at a bar, someone celebrating a business success with his colleges and a \$20 cigar and someone smoking a pipe with aromatic tobacco at a sidewalk café

are all the same; zero tolerance!

Tobacco should be made an illegal substance and banned. It should be treated as an illegal drug with prison sentences for all who use or possess it. (Cont. on Pg. 2)



July 2008 Board Meeting in Harrisburg, PA

Private Property Owners and Smokers Lose (cont.)

But our prisons are already over-crowded and are a major portion (\$1.3 billion) of the commonwealth's budget. That is just to keep some of the violent felons away from the public, not the serial smokers.

The commonwealth collected almost \$779 million in cigarette taxes during the 2006-07 budget year and the estimate for 2007-08 is nearly \$767 million, a slight

decrease. Add how much each state and the feds receive in tobacco revenue and one can understand why government is in no hurry to return to those carefree days of Prohibition (1920-1933) by banning tobacco.

These "sin taxes" are revenue generators! That is why the annual Great American Smoke-out is a farce. Government sup-

ports it but really doesn't want a sizable portion of smokers to quit...for more than one day! Perhaps that is why the state wants to include cigars and smokeless tobacco, to compensate for those who have quit smoking cigarettes.

Restaurants and bars should be clearly marked as to whether they cater to smokers, non-smokers or both. The last time I

Something to say? Want to meet other Libertarians in your area? Visit the forum on www.lppa.org

checked, the air was free and belonged to no one so outdoor smoking bans should not be legal.

As offensive as cigarette smoke is, the Constitution does not guarantee that no one will never be offended. If it's about clean air and health then something should be done about diesel exhaust from trucks that affect all of us everywhere.

"The Constitution does not guarantee that no one will never be offended."

No more half measures. Ban tobacco or leave people alone. The Rs & Ds aren't stop the hypocrisy, a Libertarian presence under the Capital dome would!

Join the 1788 Society and help Liberty grow. Visit www.lppa.org/Join_the_LPPa/Pledge.html



MaraKay Rogers, Libertarian Attorney General Candidate, Pride-Fest - Harrisburg, PA

New Platform Approved (cont.)

The idea was to use the 2004 Platform as the starting point for 2008 consideration instead of the truncated 2006 Platform. A few members of the Platform Committee endorsed this approach and helped to refine the concept. Many of the 2004 planks were combined, and as much excess verbiage as possible was removed. The result was a

platform of 30 planks and about half the length of the 2004 Platform, designated the Destination Liberty platform, as it included the details of what a Libertarian society would look like.

Both documents were reviewed at the final meeting of the Platform Committee in Denver, prior to the convention. A third of the com-

mittee endorsed the Destination Liberty platform (the official minority report), while two thirds stuck with the Directional Principles platform (the majority report). The biggest concern, recognizing that it takes a two thirds vote of the delegates to add anything to the platform, was that a divided convention would end up passing (Cont. on pg 3)

New Platform Approved (cont.)

neither version, and that we would be stuck with the 2006 Platform for another two years.

According to convention rules, the platform debate must be done in plank-by-plank fashion, with each majority report plank matched up with a similar plank from the minority report. There was considerable debate on the floor as this process got underway,

mostly on procedural issues. It had become clear that the delegates were substantially in favor of the majority report, and so the supporters of the minority report graciously moved to suspend the rules to withdraw their proposal. This passed, and the procedure moved much more quickly from that point, with amendments to only three of the planks being passed. Miraculously, the entire majority report

was adopted by 5:58 in the afternoon, facing a 6:00 deadline.

We thus have an entirely new Platform, which can be found on the LP.org website under the "Issues" tab. For those interested in more details on the process, as well as the Destination Liberty proposal, much more information and commentary is available online at www.libertarianmajority.net.



Bob Barr and Wayne Root after winning the Libertarian Nomination for President in Denver, CO

Smile, you're on PennDOT cameras (Part 1)

By James Compton
America: Freedom to Fascism/Restore the Republic and
Mark Crowley:
LPPA Media Committee

When Congress passed an appropriations bill in 2005, few knew that buried inside was an amendment authorizing a national ID card. Called "REAL ID," it would take form in each state's

driver's license card.

Its key is the driver's license photograph. Your picture is converted into lines representing specific geometric details of your face. It's called a biometric image and can be thought of as a "face print" unique to you.

PennDOT contracted with L-I Identity Solutions' Viis-

age subsidiary to manage and implement their biometric technology in our Pennsylvania driver's license. Taxpayers will pay at least \$45.5 million for this completed program. It includes L-I's proprietary FaceEXPLORER software to create and store biometric images. PennDOT photo centers are now using FaceEXPLORER software and exist-

"If I'm not doing anything wrong, why should I worry about REAL ID?"

ing pictures are now in biometric database form.

What's All the Fuss? It's Just a Picture, Right?

Besides unflattering photos, many ask, "If I'm not doing anything wrong, why should I worry about REAL ID?"

There are plenty of reasons why you should worry about REAL ID. It has enormous implications for our civil rights, national sover-

eignty, personal privacy and safety. Let's consider why this is so important.

Constitutional Considerations

When implemented, walking into an airport, government building or sports arena will trigger government cameras to deconstruct your face into a biometric image. That image will be compared to those in the national database. When they find a

match, bingo! They know the who, when and where regarding you.

The Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution and Article I, Section 8, of the Pennsylvania Constitution both state that we are to be secure in our persons. That means unless there's probable cause of wrongdoing presented to and agreed to by a judge, you are secure in your person.

(Cont. on back page)





Ricketts Glenn State Park -
20 Miles from Pioneer CG

2nd Annual LPPA Camping Outing - Wet, but still fun

By: Barry Dively -
2008 Camping & Outing Chair

Well, it rained. And rained some more. But the Libertarians took to the great outdoors for camping, cooking and having great conversation with fellow Pennsylvanian liberty freedom fighters at Pioneer Campground, just northeast of Williamsport, PA.

Then Saturday the LPPA had

their monthly Board of Directors meeting at the Campground's pavilion, just as the rain stopped, Saturday, September 13th at 12pm.

My family came up Friday night, chickened out of "tent" camping and rented a nice cabin to settle into. We all huddled around the campfire and of course talked politics until the wee hours of the morning.

Things were going fine until Chair Mik dropped his family's dinner in the fire.

Many thanks to Kathy and Ray, Pioneer's hosts as they made the best out of the weekend for all of us.

Consensus was to again have the outing next year, maybe more in August when it might be a little dryer and pool is a bit warmer. See you next year.

Not a LPPA Member?

Enjoy this complimentary issue of LibPENN. For future issues, membership benefits and to help us grow, please join.

Only \$15 / year.
www.lppa.org

Media Releases - your way

By: Doug Leard -
Media Relations Chair LPPA

Are there issues about which you're passionate? Do you want to share a Libertarian perspective on these issues with others in your community? How about lots of other people across Pennsylvania? Let me suggest that you use the LPPA's resources to help.

Here's what you do. Send me doug_leard@juno.com a note with the following information -

- A) Key point(s) you want communicated;
- B) Support for your points (statistics, facts, expert testimony, etc.);
- C) A quote that provides your personal insight on the issue;
- D) A short bio.

“Do you want to share a Libertarian Perspective with others”?



The Importance of Voter Registration

By: Michael “Mik” Robertson
Chair, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

A presidential election is now looming before us. The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania submitted about 50,000 signatures on nomination papers in order to get our statewide candidate on the ballot this year. Signature gathering has been a perennial challenge for the Party and our candidates.

The Voters Choice Act (Senate Bill 1578) introduced by Senator Mike Folmer, who is seeking other sponsors, would eliminate the need for future signature drives and will place additional importance on voter registration.

Using voter registration numbers, the Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the commonwealth, with many more registered voters than the Green Party and Con-

stitution Party (fourth and fifth largest, respectively) combined. While many voters in Pennsylvania have expressed their discontent with the current system and registered to vote as a Libertarian, there are those who are reluctant to do so.

I have spoken to many people who agree with the ideas of the Libertarian Party and would like to see a different direction

(Cont. on Pg. 5)

in government, but believe their voice for change will not be heard if they are not registered with a major party. However, voter registration in a major political party is viewed as a sign of support by that party and is seen as a vote of confidence in the current system.

With the Voters Choice Act, the support for challenger political parties will be measured by voter registration numbers, not by signature numbers on papers every year. If adopted it will help to change the political landscape in our commonwealth. It is legislation that needs our strongest support.

Maintaining a Libertarian voter registration is one unequivocal way to show the two major parties there **are** still those who believe in individual liberty, personal responsibility, and limited government. It is a way to show your support for liberty every day, and it cannot be construed as support for another party. To bring about a lasting reversal of the trend toward more government, now more than ever we should all be proudly registered Libertarian voters!

This and all articles in LibPENN are available for discussion with other Libertarians at the forum located at www.lppa.org

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Membership Form

Membership Options

- ◇ Full Membership / Renewal- \$15.00
- ◇ Associate Member - FREE (with valid e-mail)
- ◇ New Membership - \$15.00
- ◇ 1788 Society - \$12 / month or \$120 / year or more (includes full membership)

NOTE: Full membership includes LibPENN Newsletter and voting privileges at the state convention.

The Libertarian Party is the party of principal. To publically affirm what we believe - and to ensure that our party never strays from our principal - we ask our members to proudly sign this statement.

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

X _____
Signature (required)

Please consider an additional donation to help us grow.

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Mail form to: The LPPA 3915 Union Deposit Road, #223 Harrisburg, PA 17109

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Want to receive
future LibPENN's?
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Form Enclosed.

Smile, you're on PennDOT cameras (cont.)

Our founders recognized that unchecked police power can only lead to presumption of guilt and, ironically, to ineffective police. That's why law enforcement can't take your finger-prints, a hair sample, a blood sample, a urine sample or a DNA sample just because they feel like it or it makes their job easier.

Although there are a few situations where law enforcement might not need a judicial warrant, those specific and limited situations have been authorized by statute. Currently there is no Pennsylvania statute authorizing PennDOT or law enforcement to take biometric face prints. It's dangerous when government takes power without permission.

Facing a Faceless Accuser

Consider using such an identification method in criminal proceedings. Suppose you're charged with a crime because a camera with proprietary software says that the perpetrator's face deconstructs to the same biometric image as your face. That deconstruction is, of course, within acceptable limits of focus, blur, frontal face projection and facial mapping tolerances. How exactly do you face your accuser? In court, do you expect an L-1/Visage "expert" to say their system could be wrong?

(This article will continue in the next issue of LibPENN)

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