



Special Report

Libertarian Party of Clark County

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Clark County LP Tax Protests Are Huge Success

This year's pair of tax protests, organized by the Clark County LP, were a huge success, bringing the Libertarian message to thousands of Las Vegas Valley residents and garnering extensive media attention.

On Saturday, April 15th, the LPCC led a midday protest at the IRS district headquarters on Oakey near Decatur. During the course of the protest, nearly one hundred Libertarians and sympathizers participated, and the media coverage was extensive and favorable. Chris Azzaro, LPCC Chair, said, "This was, undoubtedly, the most successful tax protest Las Vegas has ever seen."

On the following Monday, April 17th, the LPCC was joined by some members of the tax protest group CATS, led by Gary Wood (the 1994 LP candidate for Congress), for a seven hour evening protest at the Sunset branch of the US Postal Service. An enormous quantity of literature, including more than two thousand LP pamphlets and 'million dollar bills,' were distributed to late filing taxpayers. Chris said, "The response was overwhelmingly favorable. The taxpayers loved our 'funny money.'"

The preparation for the two events was extensive. Press releases were sent to both major newspapers, all three major TV stations and many radio stations in the valley, and follow-up calls ensured good media attention. In the week preceding the event, the radio talk shows were bombarded with calls about the protests, and Chris was able to discuss them on Irwin Schiff's talk show and at Irwin's two tax seminars on April 9th. Chris said, "The access, provided by Irwin, to his talk show and his seminars was an important factor in the tremendous response we received." KNEWS AM gave solid coverage and promotional spots all day, twice each hour, on the Wednesday preceding the events.

At Saturday's protest at the IRS headquarters, enthusiasm was high and the reaction from passing motorists was overwhelmingly favorable. The event was given extensive coverage on the evening news programs of all three TV channels, and a picture of the protest was printed in Sunday's edition of the Review-Journal.

On Sunday, Channels 3 and 13 and KNEWS all gave positive promos for the Post Office protest planned for Monday evening. On Monday morning, KOMP FM broadcast three solid announcements of the event.

For Monday evening's protest, considerable groundwork had been laid. The National LP provided a detailed statement outlining the Constitutional guarantees and court decisions providing a legal basis for the protest, and a statement expressing approval of the protest was obtained from the legal department of the Postal Service headquarters in Washington,

D.C. Advance notice of the protest, together with copies of the documents in question, were sent to the Las Vegas Postmaster and the office of Clark County Sheriff Jerry Keller.

Despite all this preparation, the event at the post office was almost aborted by the postal officials, who indicated that they had been extremely displeased by the belligerent attitudes of past protest leaders. However, after extensive negotiations (and considerable smoothing of ruffled feathers), Chris was able to obtain permission to proceed with the protest, and the seven hour event turned out to be a friendly and positive activity. Virtually all of the late filers showed a positive response to the literature distribution, and the Monday edition of the Las Vegas Sun gave good coverage to the event, including a photo on the front page.

Chris said, "Both protests provided ample evidence that the Libertarians in Clark County can make a difference. Both the media and the authorities demonstrated a willingness to be cooperative, if approached in a friendly and respectful manner, and the enthusiasm and dedication of the Libertarians who helped prepare for, and participated in, these two events was inspiring and humbling."

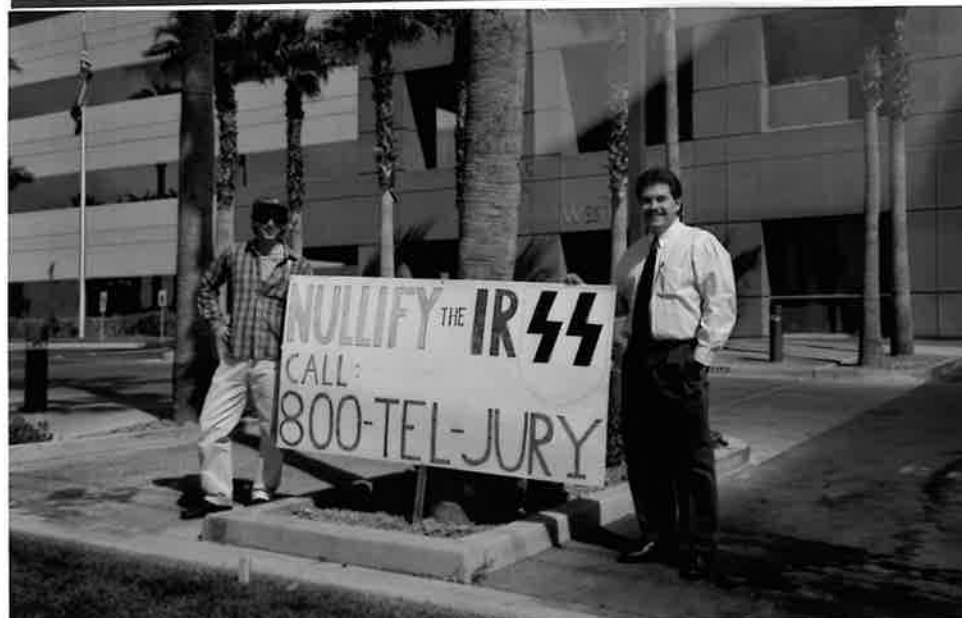
Chris indicated that the county party is planning for many more similar events over the months that are leading up to the 1996 elections, and he is confident that the party's momentum will continue to build. Chris said, "If we are given a chance to follow through on these plans, there is no reason why we cannot see at least one Libertarian candidate elected to a major office in Nevada in 1996."

The massive LP protest proved to be both fun and worthwhile. Smiles were everywhere.





Counterclockwise, from top: Chris Azzaro with Michelle Carter, who is wearing the ball of chain of the income tax; Chris explains the Libertarian position on taxes to the Channel 13 news crew; the protesters lined the sidewalks on both sides of the street; Mike Iamaio and Chris communicate the message of jury nullification.



Many people, with contributions of time, money, energy and materials, helped to make the weekend protests possible; the names of some of them follow: Garrett Arizala, John Burke, Jim Burns, Michelle Carter, Renee Christy, Bob Days, Wayland & Barbara Duncan, Al Fox, Fred & Carroll Gumpert, Tim Hagan, Mike Iamaio, Marcus Jensen, Robert C. Karnosh, Scott Kjar, Robert Langan, Dr. Kenneth Lucas, Paula Miller, Gordon Morris, Calvin Nash, Charles O'Neill, Louis Roseberry, Irwin Schiff, Ed Uehling, Stan Vaughan, Dan Wisnosky and Gary Wood.