

THE OKLAHOMA CAUCUS

NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF OKLAHOMA

SUMMER, 1989

NATIONAL AND STATE CONVENTIONS HELD

For those of you who missed it live on C-SPAN, the Libertarian Party National Convention was held August 31st through September 3rd in Philadelphia. Dave Walter won the race for Chair by one vote on the first ballot. Vote totals for Chair were as follows:

Dave Walter, 65; Matt Monroe, 64; Robert Murphy, 49; None of the above, 30. There were 4 or 5 abstentions.

The other new officers are:

Vice Chair - Mary Gingell, CA

Treasurer - Stephen Fielder, WV

Secretary - Jos. W. Dehn, III, OR

The by-laws were changed to reduce the National Committee from 31 to 19 members. In addition to the four officers listed above, the new NatCom has ten Regional Representatives (formerly 12) and five (instead of 7) At-Large members. The office of Past Chair has been eliminated from the NatCom.

Oklahoma is now part of Region 6. Ron Crickenberger of Atlanta, GA is our new regional representative and Paula Zimmer of Florida is alternate representative.

Robert Murphy provides an eyewitness report of convention doings in "From the Smoke-Filled Room", page 3.

The 18th annual Convention of the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma was held June 24th in Norman. The order of business included the election of a new Executive Committee and delegates to the national convention.

Fred Litzaw was unanimously re-elected Chair for a second term, the new Vice Chair is Mike Wair, Secretary is Debby Wair. Brenda Bromiley graciously agreed to continue as Treasurer. Thank you, Brenda! Dennis Garland is Past Chair and Members at Large are Paul Woodard, Candyce Van Etten, and Loren Baker. All of the officers are from Tulsa, except Dennis Garland of Oklahoma City and Loren Baker of Moore.

The following resolutions were adopted at this year's convention:

Resolution One: The Libertarian Party of Oklahoma supports the pro-democracy movement in the People's Republic of China. We deplore the mass murder and executions by the Government of unarmed individuals. We support a Bill of Rights to protect the individual.

Resolution Two: The Libertarian Party of Oklahoma supports the idea of fairness and tolerance by Government to have fair ballot access laws for alternative parties to get on the ballot.

Resolution Three: The Libertarian Party of Oklahoma supports the goal of a single 4-year term for State Senators and a limit of two 2-year terms for members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives so as to protect the people from career-minded politicians who would make and use the laws to benefit special interest groups, thus returning the politicians to live private lives under the laws they have passed and the taxes they have enacted.

As a prelude to convention business, the delegates and Paul Jacob, National LP Ballot Access Coordinator, attended a public forum on proposed changes in the Oklahoma State Constitution at the State Capitol. Robert Murphy spoke at the hearing for fair ballot access and a four-year limit for State Senators and Representatives. After the convention business meeting, guest speaker Paul Jacob addressed the delegates on the subject of lobbying the State Legislature for fair ballot access laws.

SEVEN LIBERTARIANS PRESENT AT ABORTION RIGHTS RALLY

On August 7, six Tulsa area Libertarians, Karen Lane, Fred Litzaw, Gary Pollard, Debby Wair, Randy Gann, Candyce Van Etten, and Mary Lou Graham of the Missouri LP participated in a pro-choice demonstration in downtown Tulsa.

The rally, organized by local Planned Parenthood volunteers, was held in front of the Williams Center Forum where busloads of delegates were arriving at the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Convention. The opposition demonstrated on the other side of the street and the local media were everywhere. The crowd was estimated to be around 1,000 with about the same number of participants on both sides.

BATTLE FOR STATE BALLOT ACCESS BEGINS

The Legislative Council of Oklahoma, a newly-formed political action committee operating out of Stillwater, is making a move to bring about changes in the Oklahoma ballot access laws.

After hearing Paul Jacob speak on ballot access at the LP state convention, Joseph Tomlinson and Kirk Rodden began looking into different ways to ease the restrictions on third parties getting onto the Oklahoma ballot.

They decided that the best way was to fight from within. They have written a draft of a change in the election law

which would allow a party to be on the ballot with a flat 5,000 signatures of registered voters as the only requirement. Presently it takes nearly 70,000 signatures to get on the ballot.

With sufficient support and hard work, they hope to bring the measure before the state legislature next spring. If anyone wishes to contact the Legislative Council of Oklahoma, the address is P.O. Box 1493, Stillwater, OK 74076 and the phone number is (405) 377-5028.



FROM YOUR STATE CHAIR: FRED LITZAW !

I think. Blamed if I know why I think, but I do think. Been thinking ever since I can remember. Tried to cut back on my thinking; found myself thinking even more. Stuff's worse than taxes, -- hell, if'n I knew what death meant, I might even say thinking's worse than death!

I reckon my thinking gets after it the most when things just don't jive. The establishment would have me think it's okay for the government to tell me what, when, where, how, and why to be what the government thinks I ought to be. I'm not supposed to be able to work without the government knowing about it. That's so the government can take my earnings while pointing a gun at me and threatening me with imprisonment if I don't give them what they demand so they can redistribute the wealth the way they want, whether I like it or not! If any of us tried that, we'd be called thieves and robbers and be thrown in jail; but the establishment says it's okay for the government to do that. Dead or alive, the government wants to know where I am, what I'm doing, why I'm doing it, how I'm doing it, and when does the government get its cut! Pardon my Latin, but **SCREW THE DAMN GOVERNMENT!**

I'm getting pretty damned tired of having to think about how the government interferes with the way we conduct our responsibilities in a free society! I think freedom means being responsible for **LIFE** without fearing government interference. I think freedom means being responsible for **CHOICES** without fearing government interference. And our government is becoming less and less freedom oriented and is driving me to think!

Are you pro-government?!
OR ARE YOU PRO-LIFE **AND** PRO-CHOICE?!

TULSANS SURVIVE RAFT RACE

Tulsa area Libertarians hauled out the Party raft and joined the annual Labor Day Great Raft Race for the second time.

Robert Platt was captain, crew members included A.C. Platt, Mike Wair, and Candyce Van Etten. The raft and all on board survived in spite of headwinds, lightning, and heavy rain.

Much credit goes to the ground crew, Anne Fruits and Debby Wair, for transportation, great raft banners, and for making sure the raft was ready to launch on time.

Which U.S. president signed into law the bill that created the Internal Revenue Service? Woodrow Wilson? or Franklin D. Roosevelt? Guess again. Abraham Lincoln appointed the first IRS commissioner in accordance with the Revenue Act of July 1, 1862. I wonder when a U.S. president will free the slaves?

**MERGER
ANNOUNCEMENT
I.I. & S.I.L.**

We are pleased to announce that at the S.I.L. "20th Anniversary of the Movement Banquet" held in Philadelphia on August 30, 1989, *Libertarian International* and the *Society for Individual Liberty* merged to form the movement's premier grassroots networking and support organization -- the new **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY**. For an info-pack, including a complimentary newsletter, sample position papers, and information about ISIL's World Environmental Conference to be held in San Francisco (Aug. 10-14, 1990) please write:

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY
9308 Farmington Dr., Richmond, VA 23229**

Opinions and articles contained herein do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

(The following book review is by Loren Baker, long-time LP activist and member of the LPOK state executive committee.)

The Mirror Maze by James P. Hogan, (Bantam Books, 1989, \$4.95, 439 pages) James P. Hogan, author of the Prometheus Award-winning novel Code of the Lifemaker, has written another expert thriller, this time abandoning hard science extrapolation for political speculation. In the year 2000, Hogan sees a libertarian revolution taking place.

Not a real revolution, but the election of the candidates for President and Vice-President (and hundreds of Senators, U.S. Representatives, state legislators, etc.) of the "Constitutional" Party. There is no doubt of its being libertarian, rather than ultra-right (which is what "constitutionalist" usually means to me) - the dialogue that is spoken in the book proves it - it is of the kind I've been hearing (and speaking) for years.

The Mirror Maze is an engaging, exciting story. I found it difficult to put down. It's plot concerns (among other things) an attempt by the "establishment", threatened by the impending electoral victory of the Constitutional Party, to subvert the election and retain control. Hogan has obviously done a lot of homework in the area of just who (or what) this "establishment" is and what might be their reaction to a libertarian electoral victory. I have always suspected that the ruling establishment of this country would not be likely to peacefully transfer political power to an explicitly libertarian party. I have always regarded a coup d'etat or an assassination (a la Kennedy) as a distinct possibility. Hogan has a different view of the establishment's reaction.

This book would make an ideal gift to science fiction lovers and for persons who like to read political thrillers such as those penned by Frederick Forsyth or Tom Clancy. It is an excellent introduction to libertarian theory and practice.

(Editor's note: unlike many of the books reviewed in this column, The Mirror Maze is available damn near everywhere.)

Declaration of Chinese Patriots

As the world watches, we, the Chinese people, are today engaged in an epic struggle to cast off the chains that have bound us for two generations. The present system has been tried in China and has failed. It has produced hunger where there should be plenty, corruption where there should be integrity, servitude where there should be freedom. The Chinese Communist Party and the government it created are today under siege because they have failed to understand that the Chinese people will no longer tolerate these conditions. The Chinese people yearn to be free. We yearn to join the community of free peoples. We will not rest until we do.

Therefore, we, Chinese patriots, declare to the world the principles that guide our struggle for freedom.

1. Every individual is born with equal and inalienable human rights.
2. The basic right of every individual is the right to be free, the right to plan and live his or her own life. This right entails all other rights, including the rights of speech, press, assembly, association, religion, property, and privacy.
3. To secure these rights, individuals create government, to which they give only as much power as necessary to secure their rights.
4. A government is legitimate only if it rests on the consent of the governed.
5. The people retain the right to deny legitimacy to their government by withdrawing their consent.

To secure these principles through law and legal institutions, we call for a constitutional convention where the people's representatives, selected in free and open elections will write a constitution for a free China.

Drafted June 7, 1989

PETITION IN SUPPORT OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN CHINA

We, the undersigned, deplore the violent treatment of Chinese student protesters by government forces in the Tiananmen Square massacre. We consequently urge the government of China to cease its current repression of student leaders and to instead continue on with ever more liberalization and democratic reforms. These alone will bring prosperity and civil tranquility to China.

We heartily endorse the **Declaration of Chinese Patriots** drafted by the "Alliance of Chinese Patriots". It is an excellent document and a good focal point for a Constitutional Convention.

Name	Address	Signature

Please send completed petitions to:

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY
9308 Farmington Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23229

IN REMEMBRANCE

FROM THE SMOKE FILLED ROOM



On June 16, Sammy Reece was buried in Guthrie. The preacher was brief. He said his ashes to ashes thing, then talked about Sammy. He said: "Sammy Reece was a free spirit. He believed in free enterprise and was a member of the Libertarian Party."

Now, I don't know if his membership dues were up to date, but his dues in life were. He lived his beliefs. He made his way in the real free market. His goods were top quality, his prices fair. Always. And with every free market purchase, he gave a lesson. He explained the way of free markets.

Sam never ran for office, but I'll bet he spread the word among the free folk better than anyone else. So this is in remembrance. We lost a true brother, a battler on the barricades. And I must add, a true and righteous friend.

Socrates said upon facing his death that he saw but two alternatives. When we die, we either go someplace or we don't. If we go someplace, then all the heroes of all the ages will be there. What a wonderful thing that would be! Or, we go nowhere. In that case, all of eternity is just a single night.

Goodbye Sam.

(Contributed by a friend of Sam Reece)

It could probably be shown by facts and figures that there is no distinctively native American criminal class except Congress.

Mark Twain

Well, you missed a good one. The 1989 National Convention was as about as exciting as they come: another stunning one-vote-majority-first-ballot-election, major bylaws changes, big name speakers, and three days on national television. We're talking 1300 phone inquiries a day and uncounted letters on the way. People will be talking about this convention quite a while.

Because I had called for an SEC investigation of the Ballot Access Committee's books, some of the National Committee members tried to suspend me, the Executive Committee wanted my resignation, and the American Libertarian provided each delegate with many column inches of well-crafted propaganda blasting me as a government informant. To add to the excitement there was the cover-up of the mishandling of the half-million dollar Ballot Access account, a movement to reduce or eliminate the National Committee, and what promised to be a bitter race for Chair between Matt Monroe and Dave Walter. To stir things up and defend my reputation I threw my hat in the ring as a Chair candidate.

I can't put on paper a detailed report of all the maneuvering and rhetoric and machiavellian plots that went on, half of it would be guesswork anyway. I can only say that I was proud of the courteous way the delegates handled a potentially explosive situation, especially in front of the C-Span camera. No shouting matches, no fights, and only a few self-serving remarks.

Everyone there agreed on one thing - it's time to design, produce and air tv advertising. We won't be real to the American people until we do. David Nolan is now Chair of the Advertising Development Committee, and we should see some action soon.

Despite all the pre-convention tribulation, and the potential for a major split in the party, most of the delegates were left with a feeling of guarded optimism, and I think everyone was kind of surprised by an unexpected sense of unity when it was over. All in all, it was a stimulating experience.

-RTM

*** ATTENTION TULSA COUNTY READERS! ***

Be sure to get out on Halloween and scare the bureaucrats by voting against the 54.9 million dollar (\$100 million if you include interest) jail bond issue. Yard signs that look like bright orange pumpkins with the message "DON'T BE TRICKED AGAIN - VOTE NO OCTOBER 31ST" have been produced by a group of Tulsa county residents (including several Libertarians) meeting weekly in Tom Quinn's airplane hangar. Tulsa county residents who wish to get involved in our effort to stop government waste are urged to contact Tom Quinn at 445-1035 or L.L. Fincannon at 836-4138.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF OKLAHOMA MEMBERSHIP

THE OKLAHOMA CAUCUS

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- \$5 Student
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I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature _____

CALENDAR

Oct 19-22 Tulsa Oktoberfest, River West Festival Park
Oct 31 Tulsa County jail bond election. Don't be tricked again, VOTE NO!
Nov 1-5 Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature session, State Capitol, Oklahoma City.
Contact Joe Tomlinson, (405) 377-5028, for more information.
Nov 11 Region I (Tulsa area) meeting, Saturday 2 pm, Garfield's Restaurant & Pub, 4515 E 51st St,
Tulsa. Call Region I Chair, Anne Fruits, for more info, (918) 747-5386. Visitors welcome.
Nov 12 Region IV (Southwest Okla., including Norman & Moore) meeting, Sunday 2 pm. Call Whitney Boutin,
Jr. at (405) 329-2234 for further information. Visitors welcome.
Dec 10 LPOK State Executive Committee Meeting, Sunday 2 pm, The Hideaway Restaurant, 230 S Knoblock,
Stillwater, OK, (405) 372-4777. Visitors welcome.
Jan 7 Region IV meeting. Contact Whitney for updated information. Visitors welcome.
Jan 13 Region I meeting, see Nov 11 above for time, place, etc. Visitors welcome.



LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF OKLAHOMA

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