



Free Nevada!

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Aaron Russo Joins the Libertarian Party

Aaron Russo has joined the party of principle – The Libertarian Party. The news was met with great enthusiasm throughout Nevada.

“We are so glad to have Aaron with us,” said State Director Chris Azzaro. “He is a true freedom fighter.”

After hearing the news, major stories were written in the Las Vegas Review Journal, Reno Gazette, and Las Vegas Sun. In fact, the Associated Press even picked up on the story, and spread the word all over the country. Network television stations carried the story as well.

Aaron Russo is a top Hollywood producer. His films -- which include "The Rose" (starring Bette Midler), "Trading Places," and "Wise Guys" -- have received six Academy Awards and two Golden Globe nominations. He also received an Emmy award for a program he produced starring Dustin Hoffman. He was the first producer in Hollywood history to command a \$1 million fee.

Russo has been remarkably outspoken in his opposition to "run-amok" government. In 1994 he attempted to launch a new political party, the Constitution Party, which had a platform almost identical in theme to that of the Libertarian Party.

Shortly thereafter he produced and starred in a sizzling hour-long videotape, "Aaron Russo's Mad As Hell." In the tape, which was sold via mail and also aired in some late-night "infomercial" spots, Russo goes after government abuses in a slash-and-burn style, sometimes humorous, sometimes angry, sometimes poignant. Among the major targets are the IRS -- which stands for, he says, "It Really Sucks" -- the War on Drugs, the Social Security scam, and the FDA. The tape looks like a pilot for a possible TV show, though no such show has emerged.

In 1998, Russo ran for governor of Nevada, as a Republican. During that race, he was able to mobilize hundreds of grassroots supporters and nearly won the nomination. He ended up with 26% of the vote -- finishing second in the four-way race and out-polling the sitting Lt. Governor.

Now that Aaron has joined the Libertarian Party, he is considering a run for US House of Representatives or US Senate. If he chooses to run, he has the potential to be the first Libertarian ever elected to federal office.

Welcome home Aaron!



Aaron Russo

Correction

The last issue *Free Nevada!* reported that two Libertarians are serving in public office in Nevada: Kristine McDonald in the Silver Peak City Council and Tim Emerson in the Las Vegas Minority Advisory Board. Since then, *Free Nevada!* was informed that Ron Grube has been serving on the Carlin City Council for about four years.

See the article on page 2.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- *Libertarian Party of Clark County meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Sahara West Library at 6:30 pm: (702) 382-1776*
- *Libertarian Party of Washoe County: (775) 359-6754*
- *Libertarian Party of Elko County meets on the second Saturday of the month at 3:00 pm in the Elko Library: (775) 753-0930*
- *Humboldt County Libertarians: (775) 623-1270*
- *College Libertarians, University of Nevada, Reno: (775) 829-1048*
- *Lake Tahoe: (775) 833-1411*

Something Brighter Than Gold

-by Michael Prescott

Libertarians used to imagine what victory would feel like, what it would taste like. Well, we don't need to imagine anymore; Libertarian victories are being achieved nationwide, as the December '99 issue of the *LP News* shows in its front-page stories.

We Nevadans enjoy a share of all this Libertarian achievement that is well worth celebrating.

Just imagine a city where the Vice-Mayor is a Libertarian. Try to picture a city in which the ambulance, fire, and even police services are all under the direction of a Libertarian Public Safety Commissioner. Now leave the realm of imagination, and step into the glittering reality that we can find in Carlin City, Elko County, -where the office of Vice-Mayor and position of Public Safety Commissioner are held by the same man: Ron Grube, Libertarian.

This long-running success story seems to have been one of the LP's best-kept secrets. Nevada's LP State Director, Chris Azzaro, was recently contacted and told that Grube has held government office in Carlin City, as a Libertarian, for nearly five years.

Grube's first major political success came in 1995, when he won an appointment to finish the term of city council member Linda Bingaman after she vacated to become Mayor. That gave us two years of Libertarian influence on the council: Grube reports that he and the other members were frequently "on the same page." Then, in 1997, Grube ran for the office and won it by election.

A 54-year-old Navy Veteran, Grube is a voracious reader who is self-employed as an electronics technician servicing about a 150-mile circle in northeast Nevada.

He does this work as he continues to input the Libertarian viewpoint into city policies from his post as city councilman, and now also as Vice-Mayor and Public Safety Commissioner.

Grube declares: "Mostly what I've tried to do is help keep the city on a businesslike basis, instead of the good old boy system it ran on for years." He has been successful with this, but says there is still a long way to go. Among his achievements: He pushed to "Libertarianize" Carlin City's zoning code as much as he could, to make it less restrictive on new businesses; he helped to write a cleanup ordinance; and he has worked successfully with the Elko County Economic Development Authority.

The main disappointment Grube has encountered as an elected official is the slowness of city council efforts to achieve

economic diversification in Carlin, which he characterizes as "approximately the speed of erosion."

"I was the only small businessman on the council for some time," Grube recalls, "and so I took a lot of hits early on for being too business-oriented."

Carlin City started out as a railroad town, later becoming a mining community (population about 2600). The city has largely leaned on the strength of gold for its financial health. Grube found it difficult to gain support for the idea of increasing the number and diversity of businesses, which he knew would improve the city's economic stability and strength.

"But with the gold price slump," Grube continues, "all of a sudden everyone's talking economic diversification and supporting local businesses. Better late than never."



Carlin Vice Mayor Ron Grube

The value of gold may have declined, but the value of having a capable, competent Libertarian in government is an investment that can only increase its returns. Grube's attitude: "Anything I can do to help spread the Libertarian message, just ask."

All that glitters may not be gold, but we have the gold standard in Libertarian achievement right here in Nevada, shining on the council in Carlin City. Way to go, Ron!

"Mostly what I've tried to do is help keep the city on a businesslike base, instead of the good old boy system it ran on for years."

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WANTED – LP Candidates for the 2000 Election

The election season is right around the corner and the time is now to consider running for office. The Nevada LP is committed to running the largest slate of candidates ever in the upcoming elections. Will you help us achieve that goal?

We need candidates for federal offices such as Senate and Congress, state offices like State Senate and Assembly, and local offices like County Commission.

If you decide to run, you will have a unique opportunity to have a voice in our political system - a chance to really make a difference.

By merely placing your name on the ballot, it helps the LP gain credibility and gives voters the pro-freedom choice on the ballot. You don't have to dedicate a lot of time to your race unless you want to. The only things you might have to do are interviews with editorial boards or candidate forums – and that can be a lot of fun!

Spreading the Word of Freedom!

Libertarian talk radio host James Dan has been talking the message of freedom to the airwaves for nearly three years now. During that time, he has been relentless in his advocacy of the Libertarian message.

"I've been amazed at the response of the listeners," said Dan. "It seems that people are very receptive to our message."

James Dan is the former State Chair of the Libertarian Party of Nevada, and ran for US Congress District 1 in 1996. His show can be heard every Monday morning from 10 to 11 am on KRLV, 1340 AM, in Las Vegas.

*The Libertarian Party of Nevada
now accepts donations via e-gold.
www.e-gold.com
Account number 111898*

If you want to run a race to win, we can help you. The Nevada LP is ready to do more than it has ever done to support serious candidates. Party support can include training, volunteers, direct monetary support, and even "Vote Libertarian" advertising. We can win elections. In 1998 we won two Libertarian victories at the City Council level. Currently, there are over 300 Libertarians holding public office, including four right here in Nevada.

If you would like to find out how to get involved in our 2000 election plans, contact State Director Chris Azzaro at (702) 260-8328 or nvdirector@aol.com. We need your help to make the 2000 elections our best ever. Let's give the Republicans and Democrats a real Y2K problem!



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Year 2000 LPN Convention Announced



The Libertarian Party of Nevada will hold its annual convention on Saturday, April 15th at the Palace Station Hotel in Las Vegas. Admission is only \$20 per person and a full-scale buffet style lunch is included.

The Keynote Speaker will be 1998 Libertarian US Senate candidate Michael Cloud, widely considered to be one of the most dynamic Libertarian speakers on the country. He is the creator of the *Essence of Political Persuasion* cassette tapes, and the author of a forthcoming book on Libertarian communication skills. Cloud plans on doing a series of talk radio shows and television appearances to promote the LP prior to the convention.

The convention will select our nominations for US Senate, Congress, and all other nominations for public offices.

We will also choose delegates to our National Convention. Nevada has been allotted 19 delegate slots. If you wish to be a delegate to the National convention, you must contact State Director Chris Azzaro at (702) 260-

8328 so we may place your name on the ballots.

Any dues paying member of the Libertarian Party is entitled to full delegate status for the convention. All registered Libertarians are allowed to vote on the nomination of candidates for public office. Guests may attend, but will not be given voting status. If you wish to be a delegate you must RSVP at (702) 260-8328 by April 1st so that we may pre-qualify your delegate status. Any delegate who does not RSVP will be charged \$40 at the door.

The Libertarian Party of Clark County will hold its convention concurrent with the state convention.

We have arranged a special room rate of \$99 per night for the 14th and 15th. Just call the Palace Station Hotel at 1-888-476-8706 to make your reservations. Please let them know that you are reserving for the LP convention to get the special rate.

Let's make this the biggest convention in the history of the LPN. This is your chance to get involved in the party. We hope to see you there!

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