



The LibPENN

The Official Newsletter of the
Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

The Libertarian Penn

December 2008

Upcoming Event:

LPPA Board Meeting

January 10, 12pm
Ted's, Dauphin County

LPPA Convention

May 2nd, All day event
Clarion County

Clarion Co. LP

January 5th, 5:30pm
BJ's Eatery

Cumberland Co. LP

January 12th, 7pm
Market Cross Pub

Dauphin Co. LP

February 19th, 7pm
Hilton Harrisburg

Allegheny Co. LP

January 21st, 7pm
Ritter's Diner

York Co. LP

January 26th, 7pm
First Cap. Dispensing. Co.

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Pragmatism vs. Purity, a Libertarian Fork in the Road

By Jimmy Cox -
Member, LPPA

For the past thirty-plus years the Libertarian Party has run on a "radical" platform. While I personally agree with the purity of radical libertarianism I realize that it hasn't achieved many results. Sure, the LP has stimulated the debate even though it has won no more than 2% of the vote in past elections.

Radical purists have brought issues like medical savings accounts, sunset provisions, ending the drug war and privatization to the mainstream. I personally enjoyed voting for radical LP candidates. While my friends, family, and co-workers were fighting over the "lesser of two evils" in the Republican and Democratic parties, I could sit back and hold my head up high knowing that I couldn't be blamed when my country fell

apart. When people were arguing about how to save Social Security, I was proud to make bold statements like, "Let's abolish Social Security altogether!" But is this enough?

Considering that most Americans don't even know anything about libertarian philosophy or if the Libertarian Party exists, then my answer is, "No!" The Libertarian Party needs to break into the mainstream. It needs to take a softer approach to solving political problems of our day. Instead of advocating the abolishment of Social Security, suggest streamlining the bureaucratic overhead costs of the program in order to bring more benefits to the taxpayer and allowing young taxpayers to opt out of Social Security by allowing them to choose a different investment vehicle.

Instead of saying that we should legalize all drugs including heroin, crack, meth, and

PCP; just argue that state governments should decide these issues instead of the federal government. Or just focus on decriminalizing marijuana for medicinal use.

Instead of shouting, "ABOLISH THE IRS!", discuss streamlining and simplifying the tax code and cutting wasteful government spending. The only government spending that John McCain is trying to cut is earmarks which make up a small percentage of the federal budget. So any suggestion that LP Presidential candidate Bob Barr suggests beyond earmarks will be considered "radical" in the eyes of non-libertarians.

The LP needs to take a softer approach when promoting libertarian philosophy. Once voters begin to understand and agree what they hear, then the LP can incrementally shift towards more radical policies.

Libertarians also need to fight
(Cont. on Pg. 3)

Smile, you're on PennDOT cameras (continued from last issue)

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

An Unholy Union

In its "2005 Report to Leaders" the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America

(www.spp.gov a.k.a. the North American Union), reported under its "Biometrics and Secure Documentation Vision" section that, "We will devise a single, integrated global enrollment program for North American trusted traveler programs within the next 36 months." U.S. signatories included Department of Home-

land Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez.

The "global" aspect strongly suggests that there's more to come with REAL ID. Passports now include special electronics called a radio frequency identify-
(Cont. on Pg. 3)



Ron Goodman, CCLP Chair, speaks at Temple Univ. sponsored presidential forum Harrisburg, PA

**Something
to say? Send
Letters to the
LPPA or visit
the forum at
www.lppa.org**

Chair's Corner —

By: Michael J. "Mik" Robertson
Chair, Libertarian Party of
Pennsylvania (LPPA)

Thank you to all of our candidates and supporters this past election. Our statewide candidates had three of the four highest vote totals ever for Libertarian Party candidates in Pennsylvania. The only higher Libertarian Party total was the 1992 US Senate campaign of Jack Perry who ran a strong pro-life campaign, and the LPPA board withdrew their endorsement of his campaign.

All three of our candidates for statewide office reached the threshold to allow the LPPA to regain status as a minor political party in the Commonwealth. We are the only other political party recognized in Pennsylvania, although the two old parties still have the advantages of favorable laws and public funding. It is time we leveled the playing field.

The Voters Choice Act (Senate Bill 1578) introduced

by state Senator Mike Folmer (R-48) will expire at the end of the legislative session in December 2008. He plans to re-introduce it in January for the new session, and is seeking additional sponsors. Representative Eddie Pashinski (D-121) plans to introduce the bill in the PA house as well.

Please contact your state senators and representatives and ask them to co-sponsor this important legislation. You can locate your legislators and find contact information at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>. Please check our website (www.lppa.org) periodically for updates on this and other legislation of concern for the new session.

The LPPA is proud to again be a sponsor of the 2nd annual International Students For Liberty conference, to be held this year at George Washington University in Washington DC. The conference will be February 20-22, 2009 and students from Pennsylvania and

around the globe will be in attendance. Additional information can be found at <http://www.studentsforliberty.org/>.

**Our statewide
candidates had
three of the four
highest vote totals
ever for LP candi-
dates in PA.**

Your membership and financial support allow the LPPA to promote Liberty and bring this perspective to the electoral process in our Commonwealth.

Please remember to renew your membership for 2009 and consider becoming a 1788 Society member with your monthly pledge.

As always, your support is appreciated.

Liberty is a Young Man's Game

By Tom Weber - LPPA Member, (Dauphin)

The United States Constitution and its Bill of Rights are not documents that outline the, thoughts, actions, and behaviors that we, the people, can or can not, have, do, or engage in. They are an outline of restrictions on the government's powers to infringe upon our basic liberty to live freely and without reprisals.

The systematic deconstruction of our individual rights by an oppressive government clothed in the guise of "citizen protections" and "best interests," are prima facie attacks on the safety and tranquility of the populace, our liberty, and our Constitutional rights as a free people. The engagement by our government, its agents, and or its representatives, in unconstitutional behavior places itself squarely in opposition to the people they are sworn to protect. This opposition should be viewed as that of an enemy combatant- a combatant initiating force against a free people. It is unconstitutional, it is un-American, it is an attack, an act of war. Resist!

One can read daily in the newspaper, about the infringement of the people's liberty by a bloated overreaching government. Whether it is the establishment of "safety zones" in our nation's capital, where identification is needed to pass through security checkpoints before entering or leaving a city neighborhood; or the warrantless use of drug dogs on city streets in Lansing Michigan to sniff out houses that might contain illegal drugs without probable cause, the cases are clear, this government will take away and step on our rights one after another in the name of the common good.

These abuses of power will continue. Small infringements will occur, treading on our rights. It will happen slowly. It has been happening slowly since 1913 with the creation of the Federal Reserve System. We must fight these abuses. We must push back and take back our liberty. (Cont. on Pg. 4)



Libertarians march at the Autumn Leaf Festival Parade Clarion, PA

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

cation (RFID) chip. The PA turnpike EZ-Pass also uses RFID technology. Anytime your passport is near an RFID sensor, your passport signals the sensor. Thus, a passport is a tracking device.

Given that REAL ID will become the trusted traveler "passport" for U.S. citizens, it won't be long before government requires RFID chips in driver's licenses. It also won't be long before criminals obtain RFID readers and obtain RFID signals by leisurely walking through the mall.

You Can't Leave Home without It

Robert Moczny from DHS said "information sharing is appropriate around the world," and that DHS plans to create a "Global Security Envelope of internationally shared biometric data that would permanently link individuals with biometric ID, personal information held by governments and corporations." If you visit Canada or Mexico, consider that before you even cross the border, a criminal bureaucrat can instruct his "Pennsylvania office" to visit your home address.

What You Can Do

Contact your state representative and state senator in Harrisburg and tell them to oppose REAL ID. Emphasize that you don't want anyone converting our digital pictures into biometric images. Urge their co-sponsorship and passage of H.B. 1351 in the House and S.B. 1220 in the Senate.

There will be more committee hearings in the weeks and months ahead in both houses of our legislature. Call your state legislators during their summer recess and Stop REAL ID in PA.



Members of DCLP and CCLP making Barr for Pres. Signs About 100 signs made. Carlisle, PA

Pragmatism vs. Purity, a LP Fork in the Road (Cont.)

the political battle on multiple fronts. Republican congressman Ron Paul has brought libertarian ideas into mainstream debate and gained a lot of support. He also started a Campaign for Liberty organization that is developing a large following. It is basically trying to expand the libertarian Republican Liberty Caucus into a more dominant position in the Republican Party.

Once the Republican Party is successfully reshaped, electoral barriers can be broken allowing third parties a fair chance in influencing future elections. Most importantly, libertarian ideas can be brought into the mainstream even further.

What Would Barry Do?

By M.S. Jackson

LPPA Member & USMC Sergeant - Iraq

The stage was set for a moment of greatness in American History. An optimistic conservative from Arizona set his sights on the upcoming Presidential Election, building upon years of faithful service as a Senator respected by men on both sides of the aisle.

However, this respected Arizonan known for his loyal service to Country was not John McCain, and the year was not 2008. For this was 44 years past, at a time when America, while herself a young nation, was not without problems we find familiar today. The man was a symbol of her strength and kind spirit, a warm man named Barry Morris Goldwater.

Viewing the spectacle that has quickly become this Presidential election, I often wonder if Barry would find himself out of place in the whole experience of it. He was certainly no stranger to foes slinging mud. The controversial "Daisy" ad ran by President Johnson depicting a young girl, serene and innocent, picking flower pedals in a meadow while unaware of the immanent disaster as an ominous voice counts down to Nuclear Armageddon. The ad was distasteful, but effective. America saw Goldwater as a dangerous warmonger, threatening to cast all before him into catastrophic destruction.

But today, 44 years after a time when attack ads based not entirely in reality could desecrate the image of a man America barely knew, it's easy to see the cosmic stars align as history repeats itself.

The mudslinging is vast, perhaps more voluminous than ever. Two pre-packaged candidates wax rhetoric and empty promises while America looks on in fading interest. The issues are tough questions and demand tougher answers, and yet Obama and McCain seem unable to coherently answer them. It seems we're stuck with two options; hope for Change and see what happens, or pull the lever again for a man who compromises principle for personal prosperity. (Cont. on Pg. 5)

Join the
1788 Society
and help Lib-
erty grow.
Visit
[www.lppa.org/
Join_the_LPPa
/Pledge.html](http://www.lppa.org/Join_the_LPPa/Pledge.html)





Libertarian Party road sign
outside of Harrisburg
Harrisburg, PA

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Not a LPPA Member?

This complimentary issue of LibPENN is for you. For future issues, membership benefits and to help us grow, please join.

Only \$15 / year.

www.lppa.org

Letters to the LibPENN.....

I Told You So

Dear Libertarian Party,

There is no other way to say this than "I told you so." In an effort to gain popularity, you overlooked Barr's Congressional votes for the wars, prohibition, the Patriot aAct, gay marriage bans, etc.

His career as a federal prosecutor and with the CIA could have been another clue. But you claimed he had changed.

You said he would spread the libertarian message farther than ever before.

You were wrong, dead wrong. Barr did gain major media exposure, but he used his opportunities to talk about his mustache, rather than libertarianism.

You said he would build the party, but instead he chased away principled libertarians, frustrated activists and drove the Ron Paul revolution to the Constitution Party.

There is a lesson here that needs to be learned. Libertarianism can only be sold by libertarians. Your attempt to broaden the LP tent to include conservatives failed miserably, because instead of inviting them to join us, you pretended to be like them. You sacrificed our only strength: principle. For what? 0.3% in Pennsylvania.

When the posers show up at the next convention, please tell them to sit in the back, shut up and learn from the real libertarians, who stand firmly behind the non-aggression principle.

Jim Babb

Immoral bailout mentality must end.

The central planners claim bailouts are necessary because sections of the economy have become too important to be self-sustaining and too many other folks are tied into them to let them falter. The reality is, these government-supported industries now have the political might to use Congress and governors to blackmail the rest of the people to cover their malfeasance.

One of the most annoying false rationalizations is that the market downturn proves that the free market failed due to greed. That claim hides the fact that government regulatory policy encouraged the problem.

The push by federal and state agencies subsidizing easy credit has inflated market segments until they were inevitably pulled down by the bursting of the market bubble.

Government-subsidizing risk-free speculation, in which profits are to be reaped yet losses are paid for by taxpayers, is socialism, not capitalism.

It does not matter whether it is Congress making me pay more in taxes on my Toyota to subsidize GM or the Governor taxing me more to shop at Wal-Mart in order to subsidize Boscov's, these policies are morally and economically bankrupt.

Another foolish notion is that government must stimulate the economy so we can borrow our way out of this mess. In case anyone forgot, we have a more than \$10 trillion federal debt because of our ongoing "stimulus" policies.

We are in a deep economic hole. To get out, it is wisest to first stop digging.

Tom Martin

Send Letters to the LibPENN to:
dauphin@lppa.org
Letters subject to editing for Grammar and publishing purposes.
Under 100 words please.

LP Photos also welcome. Send to:
dauphin@lppa.org
Include who, what and where

Thank you -
The LibPENN Committee

Liberty is a Young Man's Game (cont.)

Sadly, these battles must be fought by the young and the poor who have both the time and the inclination. The old it seems have too much to loose, what with family and property, and some amount of wealth or savings. The old will not awake in time to fight back or turn the tide. They will wait, hoping that things get better. It will not be until the youth and the poor are beaten into submission, that the authorities, high stepping and jack booted, will come for your possessions and firearm. They will have lists and records of purchases. Your neighbors will have spied and filed reports on you. Their masters will come and take away your last breath of liberty. They will tell you that it is for the common good, for your best interest, for civic protection. They will have stripped you of your ability to fight back. You will be numb and dumbed down and you will wait on the bread lines of their choosing, until you are crushed like dust beneath the wheel of government control. In "A tale of two Cities," Dickens wrote:

..."It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known."

Perhaps someday we will wake up and fight our government's systematic abuse of our civil liberties; today however it seems we stand in line waiting for our own civil disfigurement.

What Would Barry Do? (cont.)

It's hard to picture John McCain as a Senate successor to Barry Goldwater; the men seem polar opposites on a myriad of issues. But it isn't hard to imagine how Goldwater would confront Obama's empty promises and the Hope for Change; he'd announce to the world that "The man is a flat out Socialist." Ever outspoken, Goldwater could always be counted on to tell you exactly what he was thinking.

So what would Barry do, if he were alive and active today? I believe he'd take the stage and tell us all just how this government is "getting to be like a cookie factory."

All articles in this issue are available for discussion on the LPPA forum. Visit www.lppa.org. See you there!!!!

Thank you for supporting the LPPA!!!!

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.

General Fund: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: _____

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Member Contact Information:

Name: _____ County: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____
Phone: _____

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

Visit www.lppa.org to join, renew or donate online



2009 LPPA State Convention — May 2nd (save the date)

The 2009 convention of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the Holiday Inn near Clarion, PA (exit 62 of Interstate 80). It will be a one-day business session.

In addition to the election of Party officers, any proposed revisions to the LPPA platform, constitution, or bylaws will be considered. Any proposed changes to these documents must be submitted in writing to the secretary at secretary@lppa.org no later than April 2, 2009.

Nearby activities include golfing, hiking, and canoeing. Additional information will be available soon. Hope to see you all there!

Dear Supporters and Students of Liberty,

Students For Liberty is proud to announce that the 2nd Annual International Students For Liberty Conference will be held 2/20/09 — 2/22/09 at George Washington University. This conference will bring together student leaders of liberty.

The inaugural Students for Liberty Conference was held at Columbia University in February, 2008, and drew 100 students from 42 schools in 2 countries. This year's conference promises to be even larger with applications from 9 different countries within the first two weeks of announcing the conference. The LPPA sponsored the inaugural conference and is a sponsor of the 2009 conference as well. We highly encourage all students dedicated to liberty in Pennsylvania to attend this conference. Registration and additional information can be found at www.studentsforliberty.org.

Yours In Liberty,

Alexander McCobin — Founder and Executive Director, Students For Liberty

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future LIBPENN's?
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