

LIBERTARIAN PENN

Newsletter Of The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

JAN. - FEB. 1981

From The Chairman

EVERYONE A CANDIDATE

Every organization - be it a commercial one, a religious one, or a social one - was organized for a purpose. Some Libertarians tend to forget that the purpose of the Libertarian Party is to promote the philosophy of individual liberty through participation in the traditional process of elections. To be part of that process, a Party must first have candidates for office. It doesn't matter how brilliant its membership is for without candidates the Party will not have the opportunity to engage in the election process. It may, of course, influence society in other ways but it will never start on the long and hard road to ultimate political success without first running candidates. The LP has grown fairly steadily since its founding in 1971. In 1980, over 500 Libertarians ran for office in the United States. It is obvious that we Libertarians are embarked on a serious and sustained effort to shape a new political direction in this country.

Yet, the effort is still spotty. Over 100 of those candidates were running in California. Many states with a much longer and stronger LP history than Pennsylvania failed to run even half as many candidates as we did. I remember reading that there were some 17,000 offices up for election in 1980, so the fact that LP candidates contested about 3% of them shows how small we still are, yet shows that there is a huge potential for further vote gains if we continue to contest more and more races every year.

Many Libertarians seem reluctant to run for office, even though they buy the idea that the LP must run candidates in order to ever be successful. Some believe that they don't have the "credentials" for office, or that "it isn't worth it if I can't get 10% or more". Let's deal with these two arguments to see if they hold water.

"Credentials" can be looked at two ways: in the eyes of the general voting public and in the eyes of fellow libertarians. Those in the public who won't vote for a Libertarian because he hasn't served six terms in the State Legislature, been on five Presidential Commissions and an Under-Secretary of State to boot, probably wouldn't vote for a Libertarian under any circumstances. While I don't think we have to match credentials with our major party opponents at this stage of the game, we certainly want to avoid situations where our candidates are unqualified to hold the position if they were to win. Running a railroad engineer for Treasurer is the kind of thing we must avoid if we are to be taken seriously. In many districts, the Congressional candidates of the major parties don't carry heavy credentials. In most State House races, the candidates are pretty much a bunch of ordinary middle-class people who have political credentials but may not even match LP candidates in terms of political issue awareness, professional achievements, education, or personality. When you get down to the level of municipal offices, you'll find many candidates with no credentials other than that they desire to serve the community in relatively thankless jobs. Those who aren't interested in serving the public are those interested in political careers who want to get the first foot on the ladder. Many have no more qualifications for office than that they live next door to a political bigshot who needs another puppet he can control in local office. It is the rare Libertarian who lacks the credentials to be considered for local office.

"Credentials" in the eyes of one's fellow libertarians have been vastly overstated. One does not have to be a professor of economics to be an articulate spokesman for libertarianism. One does not have to have read six shelves of books on foreign policy, the Constitution, and privatizing the police force before he runs for office. When one sees how truly ignorant the major party candidates are when it comes to having a political philosophy - how shallow and superficial is their understanding of rights - one can see how a Libertarian, with only a basic grounding in our philosophy, can successfully stand up to them in debates. Our candidates do not have to be awed by the major party candidates and they don't have to have the quick mind and in-depth knowledge of a Murray Rothbard to campaign. Once again, it is the rare Libertarian who cannot quickly grasp the themes that must be sounded in a campaign based on universal libertarian ideas.

I've heard the comment from many who obviously possess the basic understanding and credentials needed to be a candidate that "I don't understand the powers of that particular office and lack the specific knowledge in issues that pertain to seeking that office". That is valid, and certainly no one wishes to be made a fool of by advocating Libertarian programs that are beyond the power and responsibility of the office he is seeking. To ever come this hurdle, the LPP is researching the powers of local officials and tailoring campaign issues to them. This research is expected to produce viable campaign platforms this year for candidates for township commissioner, school board, mayor, and other local offices. In some respects, the first few candidates we run for any office are the pioneers who ferret out the "ins and outs" of the job. Our candidates for State Legislature last year helped us learn things we will need for the 1982 efforts for those offices. One way to help is to learn as much as you can about the local offices in your community and then decide which are best suited for Libertarian campaigns.

For those who want to wait until they can make a "decent" showing, the obvious reply is to ask, "How would the LP ever get started if everyone were to wait until then?" There have to be pioneers who will go out and get only 2% or 3% while making voters aware of Libertarianism. Without these people, the LP will never grow to the point where those who come in the future can make 10% and 20% and then win. If one is inclined to ever be a candidate, then the time is now; the time is every time that there is another opportunity to place a Libertarian and his ideas before the voting public.

It may seem outrageously funny to ask, but why not go ahead: "Why not have every Libertarian be a candidate?" What is wrong with ten or fifteen Libertarians in an area all standing for every possible office, even while they are the campaign managers, leafleteers, etc. for each of the other candidates? We know that we don't have the financial resources and the patronage volunteers to run full-time, hard-driving campaigns for every office - but what's wrong with surrounding one or two serious campaigners in an area with a bevy of "token" candidates? Experience has shown that even a "token" candidate (one who answers the League of Women Voter's questionnaire, has his name on somebody's literature, and talks to a few reporters and at available

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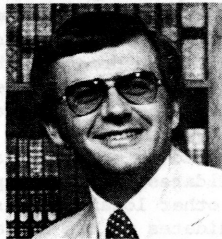
candidates' nights) will broaden the support for the LP and will attract new supporters, new members and new activists who would not otherwise have heard of the Libertarian Party.

The 1981 election in Pennsylvania features thousands of local opportunities to run for office. In the municipalities of Bucks County alone there are some 200 positions up for election: There are opportunities to run for Mayor, borough council, sheriff, magistrate, district attorney, school board, township commissioner, and register of wills, not to mention other elected offices in some counties, townships and boroughs. While one may look around and see that one's county is running an election for district attorney and one's borough has several council seats open, a concern that is always voiced is petitioning requirements. Some of these positions need only 25 signatures for independent candidates to file! While some County offices will prove burdensome in that 3,000 signatures are needed, there is not one Libertarian who wishes to run for an available post in this state who cannot meet - with relative ease - the signature hurdle for local office.

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania stands ready to help anyone of our members who wishes to run for office in 1981. We plan to do a statewide fund-raiser, we plan to hold a candidates training session, we plan to help with petitioning, we plan to research the issues and provide suggested campaign platforms for every position that our members seek. The first step is easy: decide to be a candidate, identify the local post you want to try for, let me know that you want to run.

All those planning to run in 1982 should "tune up" by running in 1981. The local offices cover relatively small geographic areas and should not be a campaigning burden for anyone. OUR GOAL FOR 1981 IS TO RUN AT LEAST FIFTY CANDIDATES. That goal could be surpassed with ease if each of our county organizations slated as few as five people. While most of the candidates will come from those areas where there already exists a core group, I hope that many who live in areas where there are only a few libertarians will realize that to get the ball rolling there must be local campaigns. I hope to see quite a number of candidates from towns where they, and a few friends, are really pioneering the libertarian message.

Growth will come as we run more and more candidates. More and more candidates means a growing awareness and acceptance of libertarian ideas. Each of us can, and must, take part. As the LP's most successful elected official, Dick Randolph, would say, "The only thing to it, is to do it."



Dave Walter

EFFECTIVE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Reaching others with the libertarian message is an essential task that each LPP member should perform. One good way of doing this is through the "Letters to the Editor" section of your local newspapers. Many of our members take the time to write, and they get their letters printed because they know what editors are looking for in a letter. The rest of us Libertarians should get into the habit of letter-writing, too. Search the papers for issues worthy of comment - on local, state or national news - and try to write once a month (or more often if there are a number of papers circulated in your area). In those cases where it is appropriate to mention the LPP, do so as this will enable those who agree with the message to get in touch with you. Since most newspapers get far too many letters to publish, it's your job to present your message in such a way as to stand out from the rest. Some ideas on how to do that follow:

1. KEEP IT BRIEF. Most letters which get printed are short; letters over 400 words are not likely to be printed. Look at the letters which appear in your newspaper to determine the average length, and then keep yours to that length.

2. BE SPECIFIC. Refer to a specific news story or issue, and focus your message on that.

3. STAY ON ONE TOPIC. Unless there's an obvious telling point to be made by relating more than one issue, write about only one issue at a time.

4. STATE THE ISSUE UP FRONT. Newspaper caption writers make snap judgements about how to title your letter based on what they read in the first two lines, or perhaps upon the closing line. If you start a letter about the Libertarian Party with an H.G. Mencken story, you may end up with a letter entitled "Mencken Fan Writes". Get to the point.

5. USE A TITLE. If you can sign your letter, "Kate Smith, Vice-Chair, Libertarian Party of Bedford County", instead of "Kate Smith", the newspaper will print the official title as well as your name. It's even better if you use LP letterhead. Even if you don't have a title, signing "Member, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania" can be effective.

6. KEEP TRYING, AND LOOK FOR COMMENTS WHEN YOU GET PRINTED. Many good letters don't get printed for lack of space, or because the newspaper received many letters on the same topic. When you appear in print, learn from the personal feedback you get; it's the best way to improve your writing.

7. LOOK FOR FELLOW-TRAVELERS. Read the letters section for writers who take a libertarian position on an issue, then contact them with a phone call or brochure. There are an awful lot of libertarians out there who just don't know it yet, and many will join the LPP once they've heard about it.

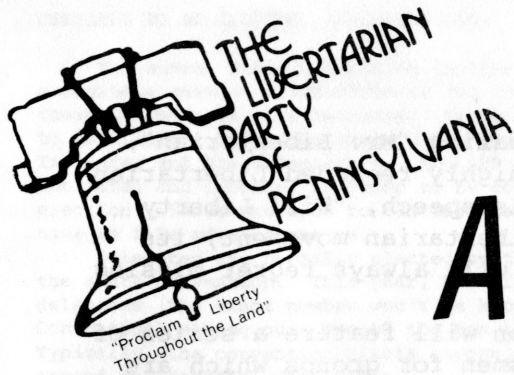
THE LIBERTY LINE

by George Meyer

When discussing the Libertarian philosophy, supporters inevitably get the question "that's all well and good, but does your philosophy work in the real world?" This column will attempt to give examples of how the free market helps people. Some space may also be given to current ways that the statist are trying to limit our freedom. If the information has come from a publication, credit will be given. Any clippings on subjects you think should be brought to the attention of other libertarians are welcome. Please send them to me at 516 S. 13th St., Phila., Pa. 19147.

* Everyone has been arguing over who should pay for the \$1 billion plus clean-up of Three Mile Island. Yet, no one gets to the real question: Can't the customers of a monopoly utility have the choice of using energy from another source? In Lubbock, TX. the answer is yes. There, residents have two electricity firms serving the entire population of 160,000 each with their own poles and lines. Two important outcomes of this competition are that prices are low and service is high. Customers save an average of \$60 a year over nearby communities because each utility has to keep their prices competitive. And, more importantly, the firms respond quickly to their customer's problems since customers can switch systems by giving three days notice. (REASON MAGAZINE, Oct. 1980). Now, why can't we Pennsylvanians be allowed to have the same thing?

* Ownership of roads, which has always been one of the thorny problems libertarians face, seems to favor the private sector in Berne, Indiana. There Amish horse-drawn buggies will no longer have to compete with cars on busy U.S. 27. Local merchants are building a half-mile street of narrow gravel roadway, the sort horse drawn vehicles favor. The Amish had always been apprehensive of the public road (make that government road) which pitted horses against fast cars and trucks. To help their customers, local merchants got together and agreed to construct a road on private land. Now the Amish can go to town to shop without the fear of being run over. (Phila. INQUIRER, 12/14/80). Certainly existing roads in commercial areas could be the first targets for sale to, and maintenance by, the commercial interests lining them. Want to bet that PennDOT would have a tough time competing against for-profit road corporations?



PRESENTS ITS 1981

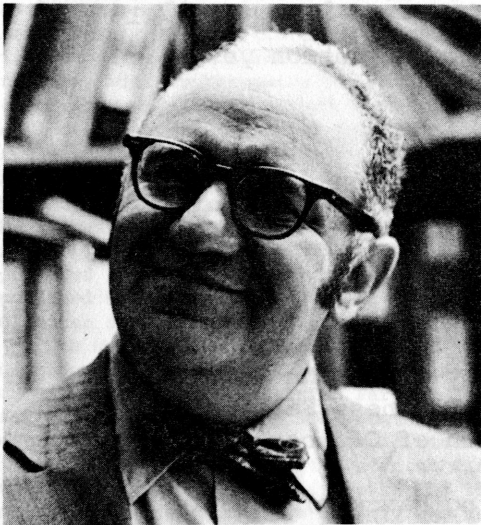
Annual Convention

FEATURING

"MR. LIBERTARIAN"

DR. MURRAY
ROTHBARD

"WILL LIBERTY TRIUMPH?"



MARCH 7th & 8th — MONROEVILLE, PENNA.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

HOLIDAY HOUSE,
ROUTE 22 AT TURNPIKE ENTRANCE

ONLY \$25 INCLUDING BANQUET
(\$18 not including banquet)

A TWO DAY LIBERTARIAN GET-TOGETHER FOR EDUCATION, POLITICAL ACTION AND FUN !!

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ERIC O'KEEFE, new National Director of the LP
ELECTION OF NEW L.P.P. OFFICERS
ENDORSEMENT OF 1981 CANDIDATES
ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO 1981 NATIONAL CONVENTION
BANQUET, COCKTAIL PARTY and ENTERTAINMENT

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Mail your reservation to: 1981 CONVENTION COMMITTEE, 894 Pine Rd., Warminster, Pa. 18974

Enclosed is my Convention registration fee. Please hold tickets at the door for me.

NAME/S _____ # _____ tickets at \$25.00 each
(includes banquet)
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ # _____ tickets at \$18.00 each
(does not include banquet)
Telephone number: _____ County: _____

Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party of Penna.
Enclose SSAE if you wish confirmation of your reservation.

Banquet entree choice/s:

1. Baked Ham # _____
2. Baked Chicken # _____
3. Fillet of Sole # _____

MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 3RD

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CONVENTION INFORMATION

This year's convention offers the excitement of hearing "Mr. Libertarian", Dr. Murray Rothbard. Dr. Rothbard is perhaps the most highly regarded Libertarian speaker, author, and advocate of individual liberty. His speech, "Will Liberty Triumph?", draws on his long-time observations of the Libertarian movement, its factions, and its personalities. He is one speaker you will always regret missing if you are unable to attend this convention.

In addition to the business session, the convention will feature a series of workshops that will key on state-related issues. Spokesmen for groups which are not libertarian, but who share our anti-government views on specific issues, will be invited to discuss their special knowledge with us. It is a perfect opportunity for Libertarians to hear from experts, and for us to expose our ideas to non-libertarians. This should be the biggest and best L.P.P. convention yet -- please attend.

AGENDA:

Saturday, March 7th	10am to 10:45am	Registration
	11am to 1pm	Eric O'Keefe, Strategy Discussions
	1pm to 2pm	Lunch Break
	2:15pm to 5:30pm	Workshop Panels and Speakers
	6pm to 7pm	Cocktail Party - cash bar
	7pm to 10pm	Banquet.
		Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rothbard
	11pm to ?	Music by "The John Galt Trio"
Sunday, March 8th	10am to 1pm	L.P.P. Business Session - Election of Officers, Delegates

PRICES: The all-inclusive price (all events, including banquet) is only \$25.00 per person. Reservations which includes the banquet **MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE BY MARCH 3rd**. **THERE WILL BE NO DOOR TICKETS AVAILABLE WHICH INCLUDE THE BANQUET**. A price of \$18.00 has been set for those who wish to attend the convention, the workshops, and hear Dr. Rothbard, but who are not entitled to the meal. These tickets will be available at the door, but advance registrations are preferred.

BANQUET: You can choose from one of three meal entrees (use reservation form); this is a nice departure from the usual no-choice banquet fare. The three options are: Oven Baked Chicken (one-half) with gourmet stuffing, Baked New England Style Ham with fruit sauce, Fillet of Ocean Sole. Salad, Appetizer, Vegetables, Dessert and Beverages included.

DIRECTIONS: The Holiday House is located at 3755 William Penn Highway, Monroeville, Pa. This is about 2 miles west of Pa. Turnpike Exit #6 - Pittsburgh. When exiting the turnpike, follow signs to Monroeville, Business Route 22, West. Location is not the Holiday Inn which sits right at the exit.

MOTEL ROOMS: Rooms should be reserved directly with the Holiday House, 3755 William Penn Highway, Monroeville, Pa. Rates are \$22 per night for single or double occupancy. Mention L.P.P. when making your reservation and include a \$10.00 deposit. Phone number of Holiday House is (412)824-4000.

CAR POOLS: In order to save money, and help insure a large attendance by Libertarians who live outside the Pittsburgh area, car pools are suggested. If you want to drive and wish to take riders to help pay for gas - or if you are in need of a ride and are willing to share travel expenses call your local car pool organizer:

Central Penna. - Janice Lehman, YORK 717-843-3691
Phila. Area - Joe Sabatina, 215-FI2-1196(h) or
232-4114 (w)
Lehigh Valley - Court Hough, EASTON, 215-253-3601

The annual State Convention (notice enclosed) includes a business session where officers for 1981 are elected by those LPP members in attendance. There are four positions to be filled: State Chairman, State Vice-Chairman, State Treasurer and State Secretary. Any LPP member can be nominated and seconded in order to be considered in this election. Those who wish to run for these offices do not have to file advance notice.

Delegates are normally elected by the membership at the state convention. This year, LPP will have about 16 delegates (the exact number won't be known until after the Convention) making ours one of the ten largest delegations. Typically, the convention elects anyone who intends to attend the National Convention.

This year, the convention will elect as delegates those who attend the convention and want to be delegates to the National Convention. If more than 16 present themselves, those not finishing in the top 16 positions will automatically become alternates. Those members who know they will be attending the national convention in Denver, but who cannot attend the state convention, can be elected delegates only if less than 16 people present at the state convention wish to be delegates. (Such members who cannot attend should send a note to the State Chair announcing their desire to be a delegate in Denver.) Once the 16 delegates are elected, and any alternates elected, anyone else who attends the Denver convention will be appointed an alternate delegate by the State Chair. The appointed delegates can only cast votes if the regular delegates and alternates are not present for the vote.

The National Convention in Denver (August 27-30th) is going to be a special one because it marks the tenth anniversary of the Libertarian Party. It will also be the last convention until the 1984 nominating convention in New York City. There will be ample time to see some of the sights in Colorado, meet and listen to all the top libertarian speakers, and socialize with the libertarian activists from all over the country who are working so hard for the cause of individual liberty.

Many state newsletters contain paid advertising by members with a product or service to sell - tax return services, interior decorating, insurance, auto parts store, computer services, etc. Not only does the revenue help to offset costs of the newsletter, but the ads also enable other libertarians who want your service to deal with fellow libertarians. Advertising is, of course, tax deductible as a business expense.

Some advertisers have their business card reproduced, others design camera ready ads. Whatever your business, why not consider advertising to your fellow libertarians in LIBERTARIAN PENN? Each eighth of a page ad costs only \$7.50. Quarter page ads are \$14, half page ads \$26, and full page ads are \$50. Contact LIBERTARIAN PENN, P.O. Box 1984, Warminster, Pa. 18974.

Here is a list of resources that you might wish to use in increasing your own understanding of our philosophy, and libertarian positions on current issues.

MAGAZINES:

Reason Magazine
Box 40105
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
\$15 per year

Libertarian Review
1620 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
\$15 per year

The Freeman
Irvington on Hudson, NY
10533
64 pgs. each month — Free

NEWSLETTERS:

Individual Liberty
P.O. Box 1147
Warminster, PA 18974
\$5 per year

Frontlines
1129 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
\$15 per year

ISSUE PAPERS:

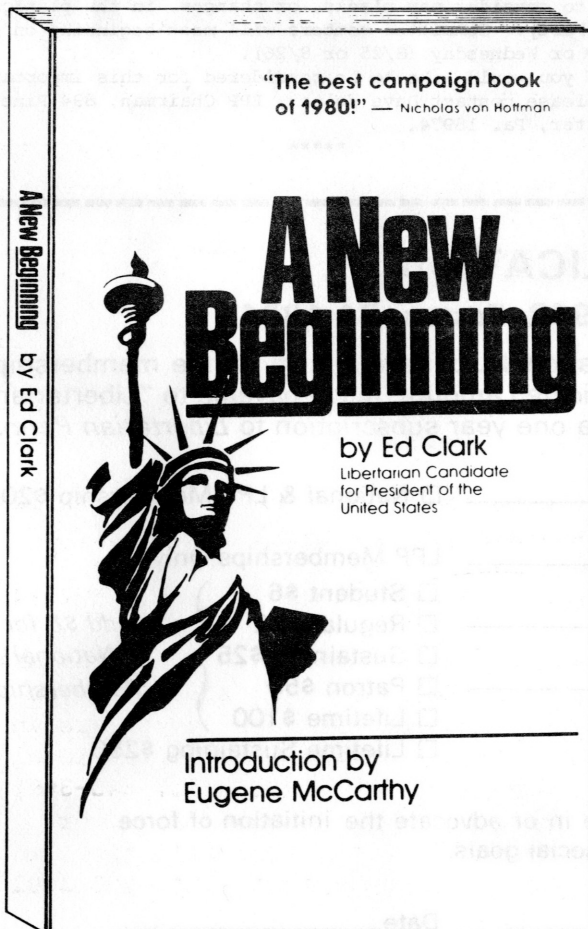
Society for Individual Liberty
P.O. Box 1147
Warminster, PA 18974

45 different issues bound
in one packet—\$3 postpaid

BOOKS:

Laissez Faire Books
206 Mercer Street
New York, NY 10012

This bookstore has the
biggest selection at
reasonable prices. Write
for a catalog.



Copies remain of Ed Clark's campaign book, A NEW BEGINNING. It is an introduction to libertarian ideas suitable for those who are newly attracted to the LP. Copies are \$1 each, postpaid.

Mail order to: LPP, BOX 1984, Warminster, Pa. 18974. Checks payable to LPP must accompany order.

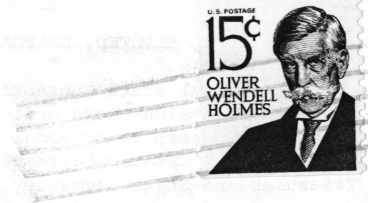
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania
 P.O. Box 1984
 Warminster, PA 18974



David Nolan
 1818 A. Jasmine
 Denver, Co. 80224

**Register/Vote
 LIBERTARIAN**



MEMBERSHIP IN LPP, NATIONAL PARTY IS VITAL TO SUCCESS:

Recently, the entire LPP mailing list was sent a membership solicitation letter by the State Chairman. Initial response has been encouraging, but many more dues-paying members are needed to contribute to the success of the goals set by LPP and the National Party.

This newsletter, for instance, can only continue if enough libertarians pay their state dues for 1981. It just is not possible to continue providing it to large numbers of people who claim to be interested in our ideas but who make no effort to finance the growth of the LPP.

There is a membership application at the bottom of this page. Please use it to join LPP and National LP today. Here's what you'll be supporting: continuance of this newsletter and its mailing to all members of the media in Penna.; developing 50 county organizations in Penna. this year and finding at least 50 candidates for office; laying the groundwork for the important 1982 races; research on state and local issues; hiring of trained, professional

field coordinators by the national organization; candidate and activist training schools; early support for the major races in 1981 in New York City, New Jersey and Virginia. Thousands of Libertarians have climbed out of their armchairs to take part in shaping their future in a free America; won't you please join them?

WANTED: PLATFORM COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Pennsylvania, due to its number eight ranking in terms of national membership, has - for the first time - the opportunity to name one member of the platform committee. The Committee will meet at the National Convention in Denver to consider new planks, or changes, in the platform of the Party. Committee members will meet beginning on Tuesday or Wednesday (8/25 or 8/26).

If you would like to be considered for this important post, please contact Dave Walter, LPP Chairman, 894 Pine Rd., Warminster, Pa. 18974.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, Box 942, Easton, PA 18042

YES! I want to join the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania/National Libertarian Party in the membership category I've checked below. Enclosed is my check for the indicated amount, made payable to "Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania". I understand that this entitles me to a one year subscription to *Libertarian Penn.*

Name _____ Phone _____ National & LPP Membership \$20.

Address _____ LPP Memberships Only:

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Occupation or school _____

Student \$6
 Regular \$12
 Sustaining \$25
 Patron \$50
 Lifetime \$100
 Lifetime Sustaining \$250

} Add \$8 for National Membership

Member's Pledge: "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 _____ Date _____