



Virginia Liberty

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'LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!'

"Let's get down to business" --that

simple phrase will be the watchword of the Virginia LP and Libertarian candidates in 1995. It sums up in a few words the themes our candidates for the Virginia General Assembly will carry through their campaigns this year.

Yes, believe it or not, after all the flurry of activity we had last year, 1995 will be an election year in Virginia. The entire General Assembly -- State Senate and House of Delegates -- is up for election. In addition, various local offices, including County Boards, City Councils, and School Boards, will be filled in elections held either this spring or this fall.

My goal as chairman of the Libertarian Party of Virginia is to make sure *that every Virginian has a chance to vote for a Libertarian candidate in 1995.*

How can we do that? The most effective way will be for us to field one candidate for each of the 40 seats in the Virginia State Senate. This may seem like an ambitious plan, and perhaps it is. After all, in 1993 we fielded only 7 candidates for the House of Delegates. But in those races our candidates polled an average of 7 percent -- not bad for an upstart political party with first-time candidates.

Our candidates this year will come from among our members -- *that's you.* I believe strongly that Libertarian candidates will do well this year.

Republicans are planning to take over both the House and the Senate. We can have a major impact on whether or not that happens.

I want each Libertarian reading this edition of *Virginia Liberty* to think: "Are my ideas about the role of government in Virginia superior to those of my current State Senator? Are my strategies to make Virginia a better place to live better than the strategies of any Democratic or Republican challenger? Should I consider being a candidate this year?"

If you answer "yes" to any one of those questions, please call me. Let's talk about your potential as a candidate. Let's talk about how you can participate in the LPVA's full slate of challengers for the Virginia State Senate in 1995. Call me at home any evening at 703-920-4023, or leave a message for me at 800-619-1776. Let's talk so that we can see how you can take part in the revolution sweeping the nation -- and Virginia.

What does it take to be a candidate? Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Mason, and the other Founders thought that any citizen should be able to participate in government. I agree -- and I think you will, too.

Give me a call and we'll discuss the details. You'll be glad you did.

—Richard E. Sincere, Jr.
Chairman, LPVA

LIBERTARIAN ELECTED IN CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

Thomas N. Jamerson, a member of the Libertarian Party of Virginia, was elected on November 8, 1994, to the Chesterfield County Soil and Water Commission.

Jamerson becomes the first Libertarian in recent memory to be elected to local office in Virginia, and he is now the only elected Libertarian in Virginia.

A Desert Storm veteran and lifetime resident of Chesterfield County, Jamerson received almost 22,000 votes countywide. He faced 3 opponents in a contest for 2 seats.

Earlier in 1994, Jamerson had run in a special election for the State Senate, for a seat now held by Republican Steve Martin.

Jamerson has been an active organizer of the Chesterfield County Libertarian Committee and will be a featured speaker at the LPVA's January 21 conference in Richmond.

LPVA Joins the Information Superhighway

Like many Libertarians across the country, members of the Libertarian Party of Virginia are participating in the fast-growing (and fast-moving) information superhighway. Using the Internet and commercial providers (such as CompuServe, Delphi, Prodigy, America Online, and so forth), Libertarians are communicating instantaneously with each other and with the world at large in ways undreamed of by our Party's founders (not to mention the authors of the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions!).

The LPVA has joined the "infobahn," as it is known, by establishing bulletin-board-type folders in various forums on America Online (AOL), a rapidly-growing firm based in Vienna, Virginia.

Members of America Online can find the LPVA folders by using the keyword "Libertarian" and scrolling through the folders on the Libertarian Message Board or by using the keyword "Capital" and scrolling to the Virginia Forum. There is a Libertarian Party of Virginia folders there, along with folder containing messages on a wide variety of topics, such as "Repeal the Personal Property Tax" and "Virginia Tech Alumni," with many variations in between.

Rapid and direct communication among members of a political party is vital, particularly in an election year. Most Libertarian Party officials across the country have an e-mail address, and participation in mailing lists and forums such as LPUS (for internal LP communications) or Libernet and Libernet-D (for general libertarian topics, debate, meeting notices, and announcements) is growing.

If you already have access to e-mail through your home or office computer, you can reach the LPVA's officers like this: State Chair Rick Sincere (Arlington) is known as *delegate49@aol.com*; Secretary Jim Lark (Charlottesville) is at *jwl3s@virginia.edu*; and Treasurer David Brown (Arlington) is reachable at *davebbrown@aol.com*. Other State Central Committee members are also on-line. Membership Chair Dick



Johnson (Vienna) has just signed on as *rjohn95@aol.com* and R. Eriks Goodwin, director of special projects (Bon Air), can be reached at *delegate72@aol.com*.

We have found, for various reasons, that America Online offers the most efficient means for LPVA communications. If you would like to join the on-line revolution and enhance your participation in the LPVA, please leave a message at 1-800-619-1776. We will call you back to get the information we need to send you a free membership package in AOL (your name, address, phone number; type of computer; and type of operating system). Once you're signed on, send us your e-mail address and you'll soon be getting announcements, notices of events and meetings, news items, and other messages from the LPVA. **If you already have an electronic mail account and want to receive LPVA communications, please send your address to *delegate49@aol.com*.**

LPVA MEMBERSHIP GROWS in 1994

Surpasses 300, rises 10%

Dick Johnson, the Libertarian Party of Virginia's membership chairman, reports that at the end of 1994, the LPVA had "303 dues-paid members, up over 10 per cent from the end of 1993." At the end of 1993, the LPVA had 275 members.

We have 32 new members created from inquiries to the party in 1994. There are 25 LPVA members whose memberships have lapsed within the past 90 days; an additional 34 members will see their memberships lapse within the next 90 days, unless they return their dues in that period.

About two weeks ago, you should have received a membership card with a renewal notice. Among the goals for that letter was to "front-load" our membership renewals at the beginning of the year, so we can better plan our annual budget. Even if you have renewed recently, consider sending your \$25 today—or take advantage of a special \$19.95 in 1995 rate if you renew by January 31!

SHOULD WE SUPPORT GOVERNOR ALLEN'S BUDGET PROPOSALS?

(The following article by LPVA Chair Richard Sincere appeared in slightly different form in the Alexandria Metro Herald on December 30, 1994.)

Virginia Governor George Allen's proposal to cut the size and scope of the state government merits serious consideration by all voters and taxpayers.

Setting aside the numbers and the specific programs that will be cut or reshaped, observe the philosophy that animates it. George Allen quite clearly adheres to a Jeffersonian philosophy of government, which he has made explicit on many occasions.

Allen noted this Jeffersonian influence in his inaugural address last January. Allen said he shares Jefferson's vision of:

"A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall otherwise leave them free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned."

(It is no accident that this is the quotation Libertarian candidates for the House of Delegates used last year on the cover of their campaign brochures! Like Republicans, Libertarians share Jefferson's view of restricted, limited government.)

In more modern language, Allen expressed Jeffersonian principles as he explained how he formulated his budget proposals: His two overarching goals, he said, were "reducing the size and reach of state government and improving the ability of taxpaying, law-abiding, working Virginians and their families to keep more of their hard-earned money and spend it as they — not the government — see fit."

Understand that Governor Allen is not stating the obvious. Too many people, particularly those who have a vested interest in an expanding, expansive government, believe that the government has dibs on our earnings. They consider tax exemptions and tax credits, for instance, to be favors granted by government that we should be grateful for — rather than viewing them, correctly, as a mechanism for allowing citizens to keep what is rightfully theirs to begin with: the fruit of their labors.

According to most estimates, the average American works from January 1 through early May (the date moves closer to June each year) just to earn enough money to pay

taxes. This is wrong. If government is taking nearly 50 percent of our incomes, government is either doing too much or doing something wrong — and often both.

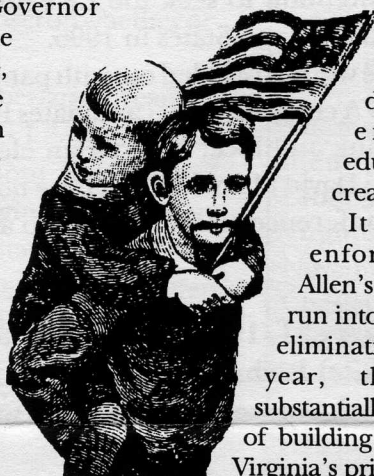
Governor Allen says the state budget should be shaped by asking about each program whether it is "essential for state government and taxpayers to provide" and whether it is "more important than a tax cut for all of Virginia's working families, or other priorities the voters demand in law enforcement, education, and job creation."

It is in law enforcement that Allen's budget plan may run into difficulties. By eliminating parole last year, the Governor substantially raised the costs of building and operating Virginia's prisons. He could make significant cuts in the state budget — and free up more money to create jobs and stimulate the state's economy — if he adopted the LP's crime-fighting program, called Operation Safe Streets (OSS).

OSS has five components: (1) *Protect Victims' Rights*, (2) *End Prohibition*, (3) *Get Tough on Real Crime*, (4) *Protect the Right of Self-Defense*, and (5) *Address the Root Causes of Crime*.

Governor Allen may question some of these solutions. But just as his praiseworthy budget proposals deserve serious consideration, so do the proposals in Operation Safe Streets, which address both budgetary and public safety questions.

If Governor Allen wants to study Operation Safe Streets, he can call us at 800-619-1776 and we'll send him a copy. We'll send one to you, too, if you request it. Operation Safe Streets promises to have a powerful effect on the debate about government priorities in Virginia and across the United States.



Richmond area LP activism heats up

Richmond area Libertarians have been hosting The Patrick Henry Supper Club (PHSC) for several months, coordinated by Marc Montoni. The Club's goal is to introduce area Libertarians to each other in a social environment and to present information that will spur them to greater levels of activism. The prime theme of the meeting series is to encourage members to run for winnable public offices.

Each meeting features an "action" project; for example, our group submitted written testimony to the Governor's strike force on ways to reduce state involvement in the economy. Our testimony addressed auto dealer and trucking deregulation.

Four recent speakers have been Marshall Fritz, speaking on his work promoting the idea of returning the operation of schools to the private sector; Tom Jamerson, speaking about his (successful) campaign to win public office in Chesterfield County; Bumper Hornberger of the Future of Freedom Foundation on "Halting the Destruction of American Liberty"; and Ed Alexander with a brief presentation on various subjects. House of Delegates candidate R. Eriks Goodwin also spoke about his emerging campaign.

The Patrick Henry Supper Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Morrison's Cafeteria. Admission is free but a donation of \$5.00 is encouraged to cover the cost of mailing announcements and other minor expenses. Kindly RSVP to Marc Montoni. 804-264-1776 at least two days in advance.

ROZELL TO ADDRESS LPVA CONFERENCE

Mark Rozell, a distinguished political scientist and professor at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, will be the dinner speaker at the January 21 LPVA Post-Election Conference at the Radisson Hotel Richmond. Rozell is a widely-quoted analyst of Virginia politics. He plans to offer us his views on last year's Congressional elections in Virginia and a preview of the 1995 General Assembly races.

Delivering the keynote address will be South Carolina Libertarian Party activist Jo Jorgensen. Ms. Jorgensen, who ran for Congress in 1992, will arrive in Richmond fresh from announcing her intention to seek the LP's nomination for Vice President of the United States in 1996.

The conference will be rounded out with panel discussions featuring 1994 LPVA congressional candidates Bob Rilee and Gordon Cruickshank and local Libertarian elected officials Tom Jamerson and David Morris. If you have not received an invitation to the conference and would like to attend, please call 1-800-619-1776.

Saturday, January 21, 1995, 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m.

Radisson Hotel Richmond, 555 E. Canal Street

State Central Committee meets at 10:00 a.m.

1995 LPVA CALENDAR

January 21 - State Central Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m., Radisson Hotel Richmond

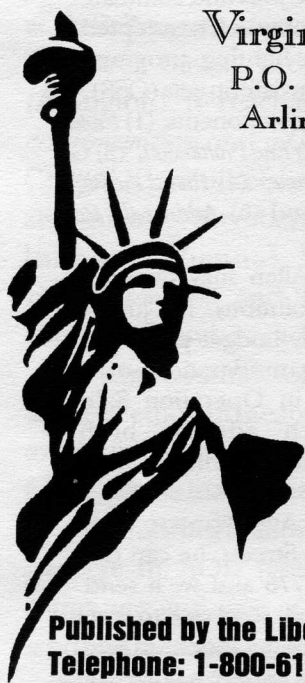
January 21 - 1994-95 Post-Election Conference, 12:00 noon, Radisson Hotel Richmond

February 10 - deadline for submissions to Virginia Liberty

Mid-May - LPVA State Convention, place and date to be announced

June 13 - Filing deadline for General Assembly candidates

November 7 - ELECTION DAY



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