



VIRGINIA LIBERTY

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GEAR UP FOR BALLOT ACCESS

Ballot Access: A Must Read!

By Shelley Tamres
LPVA Ballot Access Coordinator

By now, you should have received a mailing including copies of the petitions for our two statewide candidates: President and U.S. Senate (please note that the names on the Presidential petition are stand-in names that will be replaced following our national nominating convention in July). If you have not received copies of the petitions, please contact me ASAP.

Contact info: 108 Willow Place, Sterling, VA 20164, phone 703-450-0218, e-mail: ShelleyTam@aol.com

I am asking each of you to collect signatures on both petitions from just 20 of your friends, neighbors and relatives. If each of our current members collects 2 signatures apiece (one on each petition) from 20 registered voters, our petition drives will be over. It isn't that hard to collect so few signatures and you will then

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U.S. Senate Run for Gary Reams

Historic Contest for LPVA

Gary Reams, current Chair of the LPVA, is entering the race for U.S. Senate from the State of Virginia. Mr. Reams' decision, if confirmed by nomination at the party convention, will result in the first statewide Libertarian Party of Virginia candidate in commonwealth history. Reams' term as Chair will expire in May.

Reams' staff is putting together a campaign organization. If you would like to help, or want additional information, contact:

Gary Reams directly at
Phone: (703) 791-4855 or
E-mail: freeamerica@erols.com

Or the campaign staff at
Gary Reams for US Senate
% John H. Girardeau
13625 Twin Team Lane
Midlothian, VA 23113

LOCAL AFFILIATES REPORT ACTIVITIES

CAMPUS ORGANIZING

By James W. Lark, III
Advisor, The Liberty Coalition, University of Virginia
Campus coordinator, Libertarian Party of Virginia

University of Virginia:

Students for Individual Liberty (S.I.L.), the oldest and largest of the Liberty Coalition groups, will sponsor several speakers during the spring semester, including Philip Van Cleave (Virginia Citizens Defense League), Peter Ferrara (Americans for Tax Reform), and Chad Thevenot (Criminal Justice Policy Foundation). In addition, we shall probably show the film "Waco: The Rules of Engagement."

University Libertarians will concentrate during the spring semester on helping with the LPVA ballot access effort. UL members will also assist the Jefferson Area Libertarians with the various efforts of the J.A.L.

In late November, I prepared an invited article entitled "A Libertarian's Foreign Policy Wish List" for the U.Va. publication *Hoo Knows*. I have been invited to participate in a "Diversity and U.Va. Admissions" panel discussion on Feb. 9, and to discuss Libertarian ideas during the "Tuttle Tuesdays" lecture series at U.Va. on March 28.

Other Campuses:

We have Libertarian contacts this year at Radford University, James Madison University, Virginia Tech, Mary Washington College, William and Mary, Old Dominion University, and Washington and Lee. On Dec. 16, I spoke to three law students from William and Mary who attended my speech to the Peninsula Libertarians club in Hampton. They wish to build a Libertarian club at William and Mary. Sharon Wood and Joe Cadrin of the Peninsula Libertarians are working to build groups at several campuses in the Tidewater area.

During the next weeks, I am planning to contact all of our campus activists to enlist their help with the ballot access effort, and to lay the foundation for the "Reams for Senate" campaign on college campuses. I shall endeavor to visit several colleges during the spring to assist with the ballot access effort and the Reams campaign. I also wish to prepare a coordinated petitioning/outreach effort to high school students.

FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

By John Mitton

Good News!! Libertarian compatriot Frank Bardinelli announced his candidacy for mayor of Hallwood, Virginia in this May's election. This is in the 1st Congressional District over on the Eastern Shore. Mr. Bardinelli can be reached at:

11471 Corbin St.
Hallwood, Va. 23359-2634
(757) 824-6153
jfvn@dmv.com

JEFFERSON AREA LIBERTARIANS

By James W. Lark, III
Secretary, Jefferson Area Libertarians
Charlottesville, Virginia

November 1999: J.A.L. members Jim Lark and Gary Westmoreland assisted candidates in other parts of the state. Dr. Lark and Mr. Westmoreland continued their effort to monitor the activities of local politicians, planning commissions, and other governmental agencies.

December 1999: The sixth issue (in 1999) of the *J.A.L. News* was published. On December 15, Greg Cunningham, Jim Lark, Gerhard Schoenthal, and Gary Westmoreland held a "Bill of Rights Day" celebration in front of the Federal Building in downtown Charlottesville. They distributed literature about the J.A.L. and LP, exhibited signs, which provided information about the Bill of Rights and the LP, and read aloud the Bill of Rights. Dr. Lark distributed a press release about the event to local media. *The Daily Progress* mentioned the event in its Dec. 15 issue. WINA radio interviewed Dr. Lark at the celebration and ran the interview at various times (including an airing on Jan. 3, 2000). Note: J.A.L. member Nancy Howell deserves special mention for her work in helping to plan the celebration.

January 2000: On Jan. 10, the J.A.L. held a business meeting at the Golden Corral restaurant in Charlottesville. The major item on the agenda list concerned activities during 2000, with emphasis on the ballot access drive and the Reams for Senate campaign. A goal of 2000 signatures gathered by J.A.L. area members has been set. ("2000 in 2000.") In addition, the J.A.L. has established an ambitious list of outreach activities during the coming year.

Gary Westmoreland attended the Jan. 12 meeting of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and spoke against the proposed purchase of "conservation easements" by the county. Mr. Westmoreland's comments were used in a news story by WINA radio.

NINTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

By James W. Lark, III
Ninth District Representative, State Central Committee

The LPVA will hold its first Ninth District convention on Saturday, February 12, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Wytheville. Activities at the convention will include selection of the Ninth District SCC representative, discussion of outreach activities, and a brief workshop on petitioning. Gary Reams, LPVA chairman and prospective U.S. Senate candidate, has indicated that he will appear at the convention. The Holiday Inn is located near the intersection of Route 11, I-81 and I-77; the phone number of the Inn is (540) 228-5483. Those who wish more information should contact me at (804) 973-5958 or jwlark@virginia.edu.

Todd Pukanecz, New River Libertarians contact, is coordinating petitioning activities in the area. Mr. Pukanecz can be reached at pukanecz@exchange.vt.edu and 3109 Happy Hollow Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060-8729. Anne Panella, who lives in Giles County and works at Va. Tech in Blacksburg, indicated that she also plans to be active in the petitioning effort. I hope to coordinate a substantial petitioning/outreach effort at both Va. Tech and Radford University during the spring semester.

Mike Porter of the Virginia Highlands Libertarians (based in Abingdon) can be reached at (540) 628-2656 and mporter@preferred.com. Adam Light of the Libertarian Party of Southwest Virginia (based in Tazewell County) can be reached at ajlight@naxs.net or (540) 596-9908.

PENINSULA (HAMPTON ROADS) LIBERTARIAN CLUB

By Joe Cadrin

On Target

Sometimes, you have to take what you can get. While the Peninsula Libertarian Club asked for a free booth at the gun show at the Hampton Coliseum, the show management graciously allowed the Club to stock the LP pamphlet "Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners" at the information table on November 13 and 14, 1999.

Looking for Common Ground

At the December 7, 1999 meeting of the Peninsula Chapter of the Virginia Society for Human Life, Sharon

Wood gave a fireside chat that explored the possibilities of working together for some common goals. Some shared interests included denying federal funding for abortions or for the groups that promote them.

Speak with a Silver Tongue

Listeners to WTAR 850 AM's "The Tony Macrini Show" are used to the host challenging guests and callers while remaining polite and considerate. They were not disappointed when Tony Macrini interviewed Dr. James Lark during the show's December 16, 1999 broadcast. Seven listeners were so impressed that they attended the monthly meeting of the Peninsula Club later that night. At the meeting, Dr. Lark conducted a fireside chat "The Libertarian Movement: Where We Are, Where We Are Going". Excited by the prospect of working for Libertarianism, members Nicholas Boring, Dennis Callahan, his friend Jennifer, Dale Rowand, James Hicks, Steve Stahl, Sharon Wood, and Joe Cadrin volunteered to petition for ballot access. Greg Goy will be the Alternate Rep for the Third Congressional District.

Sign Here, Please!

Recounting his early days petitioning on California beaches in the seventies, Sanford Pankin passed on his experience in effective petitioning during the monthly meeting of the Club on January 19, 2000. Three students from the law school at the College of William and Mary expressed their intent to form both a Federalist Society and a student ~~chapter~~ of the LP during this spring semester.

Three's the Charm

Having tried twice before to get published, Joe Cadrin was elated when Amy from the Daily Press asked him if the Hampton Roads daily could publish his Letter to the Editor. The Letter, published on January 20, 2000, criticized the Federal Election Commission's new criteria for candidate inclusion in the televised presidential debates.

Thank You, Candidate Allen

Former Governor and U.S. Senatorial candidate George Allen inadvertently raised interest in the Libertarian booth at Talk Fest 2000 when he failed to answer a question specifically. During his "First Town Meeting", Allen was asked: "You mentioned your desire to reduce taxes. Which specific areas of government spending--and I don't mean giving tax credits--would you cut by introducing legislation?" Following the candidate's vague response, several attendees looked for the Libertarian booth. Talk Fest 2000 is an annual event during which nationally syndicated talk show hosts broadcast live from the Tidewater Area. Ken Hamblin, The Black Avenger, joined local talk show host, Tony Macrini, attracting crowds to the Chesapeake Conference Center. Libertarians Greg Lloyd from

Richmond and Richard Braun from the Southside Club joined Peninsula Club members James Hicks, Greg Goy, Steve Stahl, and Joe Cadrin to give the World's Smallest Political Quiz to scores of attendees. Fighting fatigue during their twelve-hour shift, volunteers were re-energized when talk show host Tony Macrini mentioned the presence of the Libertarian Party several times on the air.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

By Philip Hodson

The Prince William County Libertarian Party had near-record attendance at its annual convention. Robert McBride was elected chairman, and his election was reported in the Manassas Journal Messenger in an excellent above-the-fold, front-page article. For six consecutive years, our candidates have had a superb record of generating press coverage, but this is the first time that the press has covered party activity. One of the major benefits of running for office is the free news coverage our candidates generate. The party would have to pay thousands of dollars for the space that the news department gives us free, and, of course, we can't buy space on the front page. Congratulations to Robert for continuing to keep the LP in the public eye.

Pat Snider was reelected to the position of Treasurer, and Max Leonard was returned to office as Secretary of the party. The new LPWC board has decided to change the time and place of our regular meetings. During Y2K we will meet on the second Monday evening of every month at the Jazz Street Grill in Woodbridge. The Jazz Street Grill is located in the Potomac Festival Shopping Center at 14345 Potomac Mills Road, just across Smoketown Road from the Potomac Mills Mall. We will gather starting at 8:00 PM.

Jim Vencill's excellent relations with the press have also resulted in a bonus for the party. At the conclusion of his campaign for school board the Prince William Journal offered Jim a regular column on local politics. Jim's ability to articulate fresh alternatives to the problems created by the incumbent parties will, undoubtedly, help us to continue to influence the political process.

The official LP Prince William County web site is now online at <http://www.lpva.com/pwc/>. Thanks to Danny Bird for his excellent work creating a very attractive web site.

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

By Joe Cadrin

On Nov. 13, 1999 Greg Goy, Sharon Wood, and Joe Cadrin made available the LP pamphlet "Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners" at a two-day gun show at the

Hampton Coliseum. Sharon connected a gun dealer from Pennsylvania with the National Press Secretary to arrange for free LP advertising in the dealer's newsletter (circulation 100,000).

The Daily Press, one of two major Hampton Roads daily newspapers, published a Letter to the Editor by Jim Hicks. Jim's defense of Microsoft was so powerful that it caught the attention of local radio talk show host, Tony Macrini. Tony read the Letter on WTAR 850 AM.

Sanford Pankin will be the Elector for the Third CD. He has agreed to train members on petitioning.

ACCESS (from Page 1)

be able to vote "Libertarian" for the two highest offices in this year's election. And remember that submission of just these few signatures will qualify you for a drawing of a new DVD player (drawing will take place at our State Convention in May). So, PLEASE do your share!

As soon as the weather warms up we will begin collecting larger numbers of signatures at stores, libraries, DMVs, etc. (Of course, if each and every one of you "does your share" before then, this will be unnecessary!) If you can help with the petitioning effort, or if you are available to serve as a petitioning coordinator for your area (coordinators will be scheduling petitioners and places to petition), please contact me.

On the legislative front, we failed to find a State Senator to introduce another Party Petition Bill in the VA General Assembly this year. Delegate Callahan also refused to re-introduce one since it would waste his time to get it through the House a second time without support on the Senate side. We will need to build public pressure to get the Senate to act on this issue.

Delegate Marshall has introduced House Bill (HB) 807, which is one of several Party Labeling of Ballots bills. This is the only one that supports labels for unrecognized parties. Please call the Legislative Hotline (800-889-0229; in Richmond 225-4973) and ask your representatives to support HB 807 and NO OTHER PARTY LABELING BILL. Also, please send a "thank you" to Delegate Robert G. Marshall for introducing it (House of Delegates, POB 406, Richmond, VA 23218).

Meet new people
Educate your friends
Make Libertarianism visible
when you

GET PETITION SIGNATURES!

From the Chair

As we emerge from the Decade of Deceit, broad dissatisfaction with the status quo continues to rise. This is amply demonstrated in the tepid support for major party presidential candidates, continued declines in citizen participation in the electoral process, and growing interest in third party activities. Fueling this dissatisfaction is continuing exposure of rampant hypocrisy, political corruption, and political opportunism of major party politicians.

At the same time, the Libertarian Party continues to gain wider recognition, membership growth, and increasing numbers of citizens willing to carry our message as candidates or spokespersons. Today, more than ever, we have a window of opportunity to establish limited and restrained government.

To take advantage of this opportunity, the leadership within the Libertarian Party of Virginia has decided to hire a full-time libertarian in order to expand our party base. There is no other better time for us to take this bold action. And, I am optimistic that our rewards will be great.

But, to ensure we make the most significant gains, I encourage you to either run for office or support our candidates. Virtually all the township and city elections will be occurring in May (filing deadline in early March). If you are interested in running for office please contact either Abel Ashbridge or myself. We want to support you. The importance of having candidates cannot be overstated.

For this reason, I am seeking the LPVA's nomination for the U.S. Senate. Although my official announcement will not be made until the spring, I have put together a team of seasoned libertarians who are enthusiastic about providing all Virginians an opportunity to vote Libertarian. With your help we can provide voting opportunities in the May elections, and full slates in the November elections.

What else can you do? Petitioning for ballot access is underway. Volunteer to be a regional ballot access coordinator. Or, at the very least, volunteer time petitioning. This is the most critical stage of our campaigns. Please support them.

Additional ways you can help include donating money to the party, candidates, or CRPAC. Volunteer your services to our candidates. Attend your local affiliate meetings. Attend your congressional district's caucus and, later, the state or national convention. Write letters to the editor remembering to mention libertarianism and the names of our candidates.

Together we can make the largest gains for liberty in Virginia. Thank you for your help.

Freeamerica,

Gary Reams
State Chair, LPVA

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THE LIBERTARIAN

By Vin Suprynowicz

The rich get richer, the poor ... pay Social Security tax

It came as no great surprise when two Washington think tanks -- the Economic Policy Institute and the Center on Budget and Priorities-- reported this week that the gap between America's haves and have-nots has expanded in the past decade, with the earnings of the poorest fifth creeping up only 1 percent, while fat-cat income has jumped 15 percent.



"The benefits of this booming economy are not being evenly distributed," said Jared Bernstein, economist at the Economic Policy Institute.

The main questions should be: Is this evil, and should government do anything about it?

In fact, even the report's authors concede: "In the last few years, persistent low unemployment and increases in the minimum wage have fueled wage gains at the bottom. As a result, there has been a lessening of wage inequality between the bottom and the top, although the gap between middle- and high-wage workers continues to grow."

Nonetheless, the redistributionists predictably intone in this report that "As the administration and financing of government programs continue to be shifted from the federal to the state level, state policy-makers must be prepared to shoulder additional responsibilities for pushing back against growing income inequality."

What the states should do, according to the analysts, is continue to raise the minimum wage; "implement a wide range of supports for low-income working families"; and, of course "reform regressive state tax systems" -- raise taxes on the rich.

There are a few problems with this prescription.

First, the poor are not worse off in America than they have been. America's "poor" would be considered

wealthy anywhere else in the world. The statistics used in these studies don't even count non-cash government benefits to the "poor," like Food Stamps or Medicaid. The Cato Institute reports America's poor people manage to spend a dollar and a half for every dollar these government statistics claim they have.

More importantly: If sharecroppers in the 1920s saw their incomes tripled when they moved to Detroit and went to work building cars for Henry Ford, but Mr. Ford's own personal income jumped by a factor of 100 in the same decade, who did that hurt? Would anyone (other than the bureaucrats) have been better off had government stepped in immediately with punitive taxes to impoverish the Ford family -- even if the result had been cutbacks and layoffs at the factories?

Third, many "rich" families were actually in the "poorest fifth" a few decades ago. Then struggling college kids, they are now two-income couples at the top of their income potential -- doctors, lawyers, executives and airline pilots. Is it really right to try and "redistribute" their wealth to the young, the indolent, or those who decided to drop out of school to bear illegitimate children, at just the time in their lives when these high wage earners are finally educating the children they waited for, and trying to invest for their own retirements?

Finally, there's the question of whether policies advanced by outfits like the Economic Policy Institute and the Center on Budget and Priorities have actually contributed to this perceived "problem."

"I find there's a great deal of irony here," explains Michael Tanner of the Cato Institute.

"It's true that wealth is moving into fewer and fewer hands. We are in a society where about one fifth of the society holds about half of all the wealth. But these two groups (that issued the report) are the most active in fighting the remedy ... which is primarily Social Security privatization.

"The real reason for the wealth gap is that the wealthy can invest, and the poor can't," Mr. Tanner explains. The poor are "left with 12 and a half percent going into the Social Security program, which has a negative return and leaves them nothing to invest anywhere that will generate real wealth."

Martin Feldstein at Harvard has estimated privatizing Social Security would cut the "wealth gap" about in half, Mr. Tanner reports.

"We still have one of the most mobile societies in terms as moving from rich and poor, and vice versa. In 10 years, 14 percent of the poor will still be poor, and 14 percent will be rich. It's just that wages are becoming progressively less important; we have to create opportunities to invest," Mr. Tanner concludes.

Which means freeing the poor from the Social Security Ponzi scheme -- often the single biggest tax they pay.

As mundane as it may sound, incomes are still generally a factor of job skills and early life decisions. The best way to become financially secure in life is to complete one's education, get a job, and marry before having children. If state governments instead follow these analysts' advice and intervene with ever more redistributionist tax schemes -- removing both the incentives for those who work hard, and the real-world disincentives and penalties for those who indulge dead-end behaviors -- who do we really think that's going to help?

Vin Suprynowicz is assistant editorial page editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. His new book, "Send in the Waco Killers: Essays on the Freedom Movement, 1993-1998," is available by dialing 1-800-244-2224.

Ongoing Activity

Falls Church – Arlington – Alexandria

The Farlandria Libertarians and anyone else who wants Social Hour -- Crystal City Marriott Lounge
Wednesdays 'tween about 5:30 and 7:00ish

Fredericksburg Area

The monthly Fredericksburg Area Libertarians meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00p.m.

in the cable TV room at the library in downtown Fredericksburg at the corner of Caroline and Lewis Streets. John Mitton, 540-372-9954

New River

New River Libertarians Social Hour & Meeting
Bogen's Restaurant, 622 N Main St., Blacksburg
Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at Bogen's. For directions or other information contact Todd at (540)-552-3586 or
NewRiverLibertarians@excite.com

Peninsula

The Peninsula Libertarian Club meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM at the Hampton Public Library, Meeting Room B, 4207 Victoria Boulevard, Hampton. The exceptions will be Tuesday, June 20, 2000 and Tuesday, July 25, 2000.

Prince William County

The Monthly Meeting of the Libertarian Party of Prince William County is at a New Place and New Time for the New Year and the Alleged New Century and New Millennium!

The Jazz Street Grill

Located in Potomac Festival Shopping Center
Woodbridge, VA 14345 Potomac Mills Rd. Woodbridge, VA 22192 (703) 497-8888

Philip Hodson PhilipHods@aol.com, 703-257-1712

HISTORY-MAKING EVENT!

Nominate first statewide LPVA candidate
Elect delegates to national nominating convention

HEAR GREAT SPEAKERS!

Gary Reams, LPVA U.S Senate Candidate

David Boaz, "Politics 2000: Exposing the Enemies of a Free Society"

Jim Lark, "State of the LPVA"

Steve Dasbach, "State of the LP"

Ron Crickenberger, Robert McBride, Gary Myers, Jason Willency

LPVA 2000 STATE CONVENTION

FREDERICKSBURG HOLIDAY INN NORTH

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2000

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PLAN **NOW** TO ATTEND

