



The LibPENN

The Official Newsletter of the
Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

The Libertarian Penn

February 2011

Upcoming

Events:

LPPA Board Meeting
February 19th, 12 pm
BJ's Ribs and Steaks,
Selinsgrove, PA

LP County Meetings,
Pg. 8

LPPA Convention -

Registration Form — Pg. 7

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Trivia question
for this issue:

On what day and in what year was the LP Founded?

Answer on next pg.

2011 LPPA State Convention Announced

Dear Libertarian Friends, Even though it is an off-year election, there is much that needs to be done to make the Libertarian Party all that it can be. Your voice is very important voice in helping to bring the Party to its full potential and there's no better place where you can express your views than at our annual State Convention.

This year that convention will be held in historic Franklin, Pennsylvania with many interesting and exciting things being planned. You will probably be greeted by good old honest Abe Lincoln or perhaps by Betsy Ross if she can get away from her flag making long enough. Or you might be greeted by Mark Twain or even Thomas Jefferson. Most of this will occur at the Friday night reception starting around 7:00 p.m. in the second floor conference room.

On Saturday in between our business meetings you will be treated to dynamic speakers during lunch and our Liberty Banquet. At Lunch you'll hear from a representative from VotePA who will spell out the problems that have been encountered since we went to electronic voting. While the speaker for the Liberty Banquet has not yet been determined, among the people we are negotiating with are Dr. Walter Williams and Drew Carey.

There's only one other thing you might want to consider: if you can swing a couple of extra days either before or after the Convention to tour the beautiful and historic region of Venango County you will undoubtedly have an interesting and enjoyable time. There's Drake's well – the first ever commercial oil well and the Debence Antique Music Museum to mention only a couple. There are twenty other reasons listed on the Forum you will want to consider taking a few days to tour historic Venango County. We of the LPVC stand ready to assist or answer any questions you might have. We'll see at the Convention.

The Libertarian Party of Venango County

Patti Fryman, Chair / Jim Fryman, Secretary/Treasurer / Vance Mays, Vice-Chair



Libertarian Party State
Senate Candidate Betsy
Summers volunteers at
State Rep. candidate Tim
Mullen's Campaign
Headquarters in
Allentown, PA.



Have We As a Nation Learned From Our Mistakes?

By David Kenepp
LPPA Member — Blair county.

“Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it.” That quote you've heard so many times came from Edmund Burke, whose wisdom seems near endless as I sift through his many notable quotes.

Right from the beginning of the economic downturn, calls for blame abounded. It was a little like a prison full of convicts arguing over who deserved to be there the most. Everyone's first response to trouble is to look for a scapegoat, and the first one we pegged was the big bank CEOs. Blame them if you like—they were wantonly irresponsible, to be sure—but in truth, blame falls on every person who bought a house he could not afford, every realtor who sold it to him and knew it would soon be foreclosed upon but didn't care, and to every bank that financed bad loans in the name of the golden calf of “growth.”

Enter Edmund Burke:

“Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites... Society cannot exist, unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters.”

I fear we live in a culture where instead of holding people—including, at times, ourselves—responsible for wrongdoings or failures, we will simply give up liberty for a vaguely defined “security” from the economic consequences of our own excess. You no doubt know the most famous variation of a Ben Franklin wisdom: “Those who sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither.” We will get neither.

“Those who sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither.”

Worse, when our government's incompetent fiscal management places us on the brink of economic catastrophe, we as citizens do not demand that its liberties be restricted; we allow it to seize even more power. Americans must wake up to this contradiction and declare, “no more.”

Ron Paul, the most Libertarian-minded Republican of note, won the recent CPAC straw poll, news that was met by some cheers and many boos. Many Democrats in the media cried good riddance when Evan Bayh, the closest thing to a Libertarian among Democratic senators, announced he would not seek reelection.

Both parties want nothing but power—total control over the country and its people. Libertarianism will not allow it, and for that it is mocked and scorned by rightly threatened powermongers.

The big parties are the chess masters, and we as individuals are the pawns—and we will remain so as long as we stand idly by and hand over the power and responsibility the Constitution guaranteed to us. At every opportunity make sure to enlighten all your friends who are Republican or Democrat of the liberty they give away with each and every vote they waste with a pick your poison candidate. It is not we who are wasting our votes.

Have you
seen the new
LPPA
website??
Visit
www.lppa.org



Trivia Answer:
December 11, 1971,
in the Home of
David Nolan

How Can I Do My Part?

By Mik Robertson
Chair — LPPA

One of the goals of our state party is to encourage relatively small actions from each of our volunteers to spread the workload and be more grassroots oriented. Some examples of “high impact – low maintenance” activities to help our cause are listed below:

1. Register as a Libertarian – This simple act sends a strong message 365 days a year that you stand for small limited government.
 2. Join the LPPA Forum on the www.lppa.org website – Great way to exchange ideas and discuss issues of the day.
 3. “Cato’s Letter” Subscription – The Cato Institute publishes a quarterly newsletter containing excellent libertarian articles. In each issue Cato provides a form to add 4 people to their free distribution list. This is an excellent non-intrusive way to plant the seeds of libertarian philosophy in the minds of local opinion leaders or friends and family. Go to <http://www.cato.org/pubs/catosletter/subscribe.html> to subscribe and then begin signing up local opinion leaders.
 4. “Free Market” Subscription – The Ludwig von Mises Institute publishes the Free Market newsletter 11 times a year. Another great way to spread the message of liberty. Go to <http://www.mises.org/freenewsletter.aspx> to subscribe. This publication is better suited for people who are already oriented toward the libertarian way of thinking.
 5. Create your own E-Liberty e-mail group – When you come across a good libertarian based article forward it on to friends and family to continue planting those seeds of libertarian thought.
 6. Write Letters to the Editor (LTE) – When you write 3 LTE’s per year using the word libertarian or Libertarian Party in a positive manner you can qualify for the Lights of Liberty Award from the Advocates for Self Government (www.self-gov.org). This is another free outreach tool and LTE’s are the most widely read section of the newspaper.
 7. Attend a County Chapter meeting or take the lead in starting a County Chapter if none exists. Visit www.lppa.org and click on County Parties in the upper right hand side of the home page to contact a local County Party leader.
 8. Run for Local Office in 2009 – There are many entry level government positions up for election in 2009 and this is where the LPPA has had its greatest success. E-mail election@lppa.org if you are interested in running.
 9. Join a Committee – This is where we could use the most help to move the Party forward and you get to meet a lot of great people in the process. Most Committee work takes place over the internet so don’t worry about your location. Please contact Mik Robertson at chair@lppa.org to join a Committee.
- **Election Committee** – helps find, recruit, educate and train potential LPPA candidates along with coordinating ballot access drives.
 - **Fund Raising Committee** – primary function is to design and implement fund raising ideas to fund the needs of the party.
 - **Legal Committee** – evaluates the legal positions of major actions or activities (Cont. on pg. 4)

How Can I Do My Part (Cont. from Pg. 3)

- **Legislative Committee** – researches Bills in the PA General Assembly or Senate that we should support or try to defeat in the name of expanding liberty and freedom.
- **Membership Committee** – performs database management and record keeping functions along with designing and implementing outreach campaigns to grow our membership
- **Research Committee** – provides basic research on issues to help form a libertarian perspective or opinion on some of the hot button issues of the day
- **Convention Committee** – responsible for organizing and coordinating with County Chapters who are responsible for running the Annual LPPA Convention.
- **Marketing Committee** – develops and implements plans and strategies designed to help build a strong “brand name” for the Libertarian Party including outreach activities, literature development and website content
- **Media Relations Committee** – drafts and publishes official LPPA Press Releases on the important topics of the day.
- **Newsletter Committee** – Collects and writes articles along with layout, publishing and distribution of the Libertarian Penn newsletter.
- **Website Committee** – maintains, organizes and creates web pages and content in support of the parties needs.

Free To Be Your Best

By: Troy Miller
LPPA Member — Dauphin County

In a land where equal opportunity is downgraded into redistribution of wealth, and the pursuit of happiness becomes fumbling for fairness, this is no place for the audacity of hope; instead, it is a land trumpeting the pusillanimity of selflessness.

On January 5th, the Yates High School basketball team set a Texas state record when they scored 170 points. Instead of applauding the excellence inherent in surpassing an 18-year old record and celebrating the achievement of a team that is working to defend a state championship, the national media is concentrating on the 35 points the Lee High School team put up in defeat. The nation responded in kind. Nameless people on comment boards called the actions of the winning team “deplorable,” “sick,” and “disrespectful,” and more than one citizen trumpeted the merits of “sportsmanship” and “fair play.” Some even called for the coach’s job.

Imagine being fired for succeeding! Unfortunately, it is no longer so hard to envision. Not everyone can be the best, but everyone can try to be better and then we all move forward. Force the best to regret their skills they’ve worked so hard to attain for fear of upsetting those that loiter and loaf and we all diminish.

Michael Jordan was cut from his Junior High basketball team. Had he not been challenged, would he have learned the drive it took to be the best? It is doubtful, and the world would have been deprived of his greatness on a basketball court. Struggle teaches perseverance. Defeat promotes effort, and finally, success.

(Cont. on Pg. 6)

Want to Contribute to the LibPENN?

Do you have something to say? Who am I kidding, we're Libertarians. So why not join the LibPENN, the LPPA Official Newsletter committee. There is minimal commitment and you can work from home on your own schedule. You basically write Libertarian articles that you feel other Libertarians in PA would enjoy reading, send them in and you're done. If you would like to help out, but not write an article, maybe serve as a proofreader or send in article suggestions to the committee.

What kind of articles are we looking for? Current events are always popular and even better if they are Pennsylvania-specific. To get you started, all I need is a title of your masterpiece and a due date. Interested? Contact weneedjohnfalt9@yahoo.com for more information.

Thank you for supporting the LPPA!!

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Membership Form

Membership Options

- ◇ **New or Renewal Full Membership (circle) - \$15.00**
- ◇ **Associate Member - FREE (with valid e-mail)**
- ◇ **Student Membership - \$5.00 (Full-Time Students)**
- ◇ **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: _____

Ballot Access: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other: _____

\$_____ Total Enclosed (Checks payable to "Libertarian Party of PA")

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

Free To Be Your Best (Cont. from pg. 4)

It is only when we see the best in us that we know we can be better. Achievement breeds achievement. Mediocrity, especially that mediocrity forced upon us by those that preach fairness over equal opportunity, diminishes us as a people, and belittles those false ministers as men.

Instead of cursing the athletic skills of the young men on the Yates High School basketball team (including the third string that played most of the second half of the game), we should applaud their work ethic, and celebrate their success. Those kids at the end of the bench that don't see much action in front of a crowd, but give it their all every day in the practice gym so that they can better themselves and their teammates, don't deserve the opportunity to succeed when they get their chance to shine?

Shame on us if this is who we have become. It is in youth where dreams are most bright. It is in youth where the opportunity for success is least clouded by cynicism and fatigue. These young men on a basketball court deserve to be prepared for the world. Don't throw them unprotected and naked into the battle, arm them with the realization of what it takes to succeed and they can work now to accrue the skills it will take to be the best they can in the future.

In the next couple of weeks, a parent of a child who loses an athletic contest will sue the officials that oversaw the result or the school that paid the officials, for the resulting mental anguish their child had to undergo in defeat. Not long after, another will also sue the winning team for their skill, and the resulting lack of esteem it provoked in their little athlete. Isn't this the next logical step?

When pure effort is replaced by the morass of litigation and the slogan *Just Do It* become *Just Sue It*, the cult of mediocrity has overwhelmed the moral of excellence. Children are no longer armed with the skills it takes to succeed, instead, they are taught to hire a lawyer and file a lawsuit. Be excellent, your children are watching.

Proposed 2011 SOP and Platform for LPPA Convention

Statement of Principles —

"We, members of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, believe that (1) all human beings have individual rights to life, liberty and the products of their labor; that (2) these rights are the basis of justice and thus serve as the only legitimate purpose for laws among people; and that (3) any and all systems of government, therefore, should be strictly limited to acts which secure and preserve these rights."

Free Markets —

1. All individuals should be secure in their rights to freely exchange goods and services. 2. All citizens should have equal access to any government protections and services. 3. Systems of currency, regulation and public finance should be fair, simple and equitable to all citizens.

Free and Open Government —

4. All citizens should have free and equal access to the electoral process. 5. The legislative process, and the administration of government, should be open and transparent. 6. The limits of government authority should be clear and concise.

Free Society —

7. All individuals should enjoy free and equal protection under the law. 8. All individuals have a responsibility to respect the equal rights of others. 9. Public policy should always seek to minimize aggression and to maximize individual liberty.

The Party of Principle —

10. Libertarian Party candidates are free to interpret and develop their own policies with respect to this Platform.

Convention Registration Form Here



Local Libertarian Meetings Near You — *Get involved today*

ALLEGHENY CO.— 3rd Wednesday of Month, 7pm — Ritters Diner

LANCASTER CO.— 3rd Tuesday of Month, 6pm — Symposium Restaurant

DAUPHIN CO.— September 7th, 6pm — Doc Holidays, New Cumberland

YORK CO.— 4th Monday of Month, 7pm — First Capital Dispensing Company

CLARION CO.— 1st Wednesday of Month 5:30pm — BJ's Eatery

MONTGOMERY CO.— 1st Wed. of Month, 7:30pm — Phila. Inquire Building

CUMBERLAND CO. — March 14th — Market Cross Pub

NEPA LIBERTARIANS — Sunday, Feb. 20th — Yellow House Cafe

VENANGO COUNTY — February 17th — Kings Family Restaurant

For More Libertarian County Meetings, Visit the forum at www.lppa.org

Recycle the LibPENN, share with a friend or neighbor



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