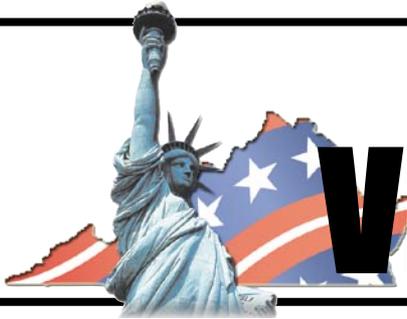


# McBride Endorsed By Republican Incumbent!

see page 4



# Virginia LIBERTY

The Official Newspaper of the Libertarian Party of Virginia \* September/October 2003



Newly elected LPVA Chairman Steve Damerell and Vice Chairman Leonard Harris at the Special Convention in Virginia Beach.  
(Photo by Kevin Rollins)

## Damerell elected Chairman at Special Convention

**Virginia Beach** – August 10, 2003 –At the Special Convention in Virginia Beach, Steve Damerell won the top office of state party Chairman, Leonard Harris was chosen as the Vice Chair, and Charlotte Patrick was returned to her office of party Secretary. The convention was held at 1:00 PM at the Lynnhaven Colony Congregational Church in Virginia Beach and was attended by over 75 members of the Libertarian Party of Virginia.

Also getting the nod by the convention-goers was a motion by Lennice Werth of Crewe, Virginia recognizing the substantial contributions of Shelley Tamres to the party. In her position as Ballot Access Chair over the past several years, Tamres' efforts have resulted in an easing of candidate petition requirements by the state legislature which will save the party countless thousands of dollars and volunteer hours over the coming years.

Damerell was elected Chairman by a 57 to 9 vote margin over 1st Congressional District Chairman Stew Engel, with four votes for "None of the Above" or NOTA which is an option in all LPVA elections. "The Libertarian Party of Virginia has the energy to start moving forward", said Damerell in his address to the convention prior to the vote. "What we need is a fresh vision – someone who is going to take that energy and channel it. That is what I want to do and that's why I'm asking for your vote," he added.

Damerell campaigned for the position on a platform of running as many candidates as possible in the state of Virginia. "We have lost sight of the enemy. The enemy is out there!" he said. "How are we going to fight them? We're going to fight them on their own turf – on the ballot!"

Harris was opposed by Philip Hodson for the Vice Chairmanship, but defeated him by a vote of 43 to 23, with 4 votes for NOTA. In his pre-vote address, Harris expressed two key goals he would pursue as Vice Chair – distributing Unified Membership Plan funds to the city and county affiliates, and reaching out to organizations outside of the Libertarian Party where cooperation can result in a greater advance for Liberty.

See Convention Report on Page 6

## Sean Haugh at the LPVA Convention

page 7

## Inside Jim Lark's Diary

page 10

Don Gorman is coming to Virginia! Check out details on his "Campaign School for Winners" on page 11.

Published by the Libertarian Party of Virginia.

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### Editorial Submissions

Press releases, editorials, and letters to the editor are welcomed. Please e-mail submissions to newsletter@lpva.com

## Libertarian Party of Virginia

### State Central Committee

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Steve Damerell, Chairman  
Leonard Harris, Vice Chair  
Charlotte Patrick, Secretary  
Kevin McKenna, Treasurer

#### Congressional District Representatives

Stew Engel, 1st  
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Chuck Eby, 10th  
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### Statement of Principles

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

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# Personal Bias

### LPVA Special Convention

The LPVA made a fine selection when they picked Steve Damerell as the new chairman at the special convention. Mr. Damerell has the energy and professionalism that we need to be taken seriously by the political class and the voters. He also has the people skills to work closely with, but not be domineering over, the various LPVA officers and the committee volunteers.

### Personal Salability

In early August, I gave a speech to the Patrick Henry Supper Club entitled, "All Politics is Personal." It focused on the individual aspects of candidates and how these aspects impacted their electability. I thought I would share with everybody the "Personal Salability Checklist." This is not a scientific test... think of it as a sort of Cosmopolitan -- "Is he cheating on you" kind of quiz. I hope it might provide some food for thought for potential candidates out there.

### Differing Viewpoints

I received several complaints about the inclusion of Eric Dondero's piece on Libertarians and celebrity candidates in the last issue. One person even suggested that the LPVA state chair should make a commitment to not allow further Dondero articles. I was also told that at least one of the articles I've included in this issue should have been left out. While I'm happy to receive criticism about articles, I will not exclude minority viewpoints (or majority viewpoints for that matter)

simply because some people don't like them.

I do encourage party members to write and express their differing viewpoints. But, I can't publish what

Lark to keep a diary of a week of his life. Many Libertarians claim they don't have time to run for office, or volunteer to work on outreach, or help with other party business, but Jim

## Personal Salability Checklist for Candidates

### 1. Physical Appearance

Do I look like a slob or a professional? \_\_\_\_ (2 points)

Am I physically in good shape? \_\_\_\_ (2 points)

### 2. Moral Ideals and Lifestyle

Are my personal religious beliefs similar/acceptable to a sizable percentage of the community? \_\_\_\_ (2 points)

Is my lifestyle similar/acceptable to a sizable percentage of the community? \_\_\_\_ (2 points)

### 3. Charitable Resume

List 4 charitable activities from the last few years: (1 point each)

### 4. Professional Resume

Am I a College Graduate? \_\_\_\_\_ (1 point)

Do I have a job that voters in my district would not be "unimpressed" by? \_\_\_\_ (1 point)

Have I served in an elected/non-elected governmental body? \_\_\_\_ (1 point)

Do I have executive/leadership experience? \_\_\_\_\_(1 point)

**If you have 10 or more points you are personally salable.**

hasn't been sent to me. Please do send me your original content or responses to previous articles in Virginia Liberty.

### Recognizing the Hard Work of Volunteers

As one of the goals of Virginia Liberty is to promote the work of hardworking activists, I asked Jim

Lark proves how much one person can squeeze into his schedule. His dedication and the dedication of the many party activists should be an inspiration to us all.

Cheers,  
Kevin Rollins

## Join the Libertarian Party

To become a dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party, fill in and return this form together with \$25. You will receive 12 issues of LP News.

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Government Mandated Notice

The Federal Election Commission requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The IRS requires us to print "contributions are not tax-deductible" on all fundraising appeals.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Protesting Ashcroft in Norfolk

By Leonard Harris

**Norfolk** - September 7, 2003 - In response to a visit by Attorney General John Ashcroft to Norfolk on Saturday to curb growing opposition to the USA-PATRIOT Act, Virginia Libertarians joined other groups in protesting the event. Ashcroft has been touring the U.S. lately, delivering speeches supporting the act to hand-picked audiences. However instead of generating public support, these visits are sparking massive protests.

On September 6, 2003, Ashcroft visited Norfolk. In order to prevent an organized protest the visit was not confirmed until the day before. Fortunately protest organizers were able to obtain a permit in time for the protest.

People across the state (some as far as Northern Virginia) turned out to protest. Protesters gathered well before 8:00 AM. around the Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel and Convention Center. The ACLU spearheaded the protest, but a large and diverse number of groups were represented ranging from the Libertarian Party to PETA. At the height of the event approximately 150 protesters were present.

Police were everywhere and were quite professional and courteous. Protesters were also everywhere and quite civil. There were fortunately no serious incidents and no arrests were made.

Ashcroft was never seen outside the hotel. The only politician who came outside was Norfolk's Mayor, Paul D. Fraim. Someone wearing a Tyranny Response Team T-shirt managed to talk with the Mayor briefly, before Fraim returned to the safety of the hotel.

The protest broke up around 10:00 AM after police escorted a white van out of the hotel. Presumably Ashcroft left in the van.

Later in the day, a group of people gathered to officially sign a petition calling on local governments to adopt an anti-Patriot Act resolution. This event was organized by community activist Jagdish Singh. Over 20 people attended this event and they will be collecting signatures for the petition.

## Botetourt County Libertarians Assist Roanoke Valley LP at Gun Show

By Liz Bowles

**Roanoke**—August 24, 2003—The newly organizing Botetourt County Libertarians assisted the Roanoke Valley LP at the Roanoke Valley Gun Show held Saturday and Sunday, August 23-24. BoCo Libertarians J.D. Lenk and Liz Bowles worked the booth on Saturday, and Liz Bowles assisted Don Hogan, a new member of the Roanoke Valley LP, on Sunday. Andy Akers of the RVLVP handled set up as well as the final shift and shut down on Sunday. For the first time, the groups used the "Operation Politically Homeless" (OPH) materials from the Advocates for Self Government. Jim Lark was on hand bright and early Saturday morning to demonstrate OPH techniques.

The results were encouraging. 132 people took the WSP Quiz; 21 people left contact information. 55% (73) scored in the top half of the chart (combined score over 100); 27% (35) scored within the "Libertarian" sector; 6% (8) scored within the "Liberal" sector; 29% (38) scored within the "Centrist" sector; 11% (14) scored within the "Conservative" sector; and 11% (14) scored within the "Authoritarian" sector.

Special thanks to: Don Hogan, who donated the booth fee and worked all day on Sunday with his son, Chris; Andy Akers, who handled the arrangements and the brunt of the heavy labor as well as the final statistics; J.D. Lenk who worked the booth on Saturday; and Jim Lark who worked the booth on Saturday and shared his expertise.

The most immediate goal of the Botetourt County Libertarians is to identify a membership base. The group will be holding three outreach events in September and October at local festivals in Fincastle, Buchanan, and New Castle. For more information, visit the Botetourt County Libertarians website at <http://botetourt.lpva.com>.

Send your local news  
to:

[newsletter@lpva.com](mailto:newsletter@lpva.com)



Jim Lark introduces the "New Political Map"



Don Hogan and his son, Chris, administer the quiz.

## Henrico LP Helps Keep Community Clean

**Glen Allen** - August 14, 2003 - The Libertarian Party of Henrico County (LPHC) is helping to keep a local neighborhood road clean. The LPHC has adopted a two mile stretch of Skipwith road through the "Keep Henrico Beautiful" Program.

"This is a great practical application of Libertarian values," says Leonard Harris, LPHC Board Member, "Libertarians believe individuals not government are best able to make a difference in people's lives. Adopting

a street is one of many ways we can help."

In addition to demonstrating their civic participation, Libertarians conducting the cleanup will save the County taxpayers money. Instead of needing a crew of public works employees to pick up, bag, and then haul off the trash, the County is only facilitating the productive civic contributions of volunteer citizens.

"We all want to make Henrico and the whole Richmond area a better place to live by reducing the size and influence of government. We hope this demonstrates one way individuals can help the community," concludes Harris.

The first of four cleanup days will be August 16, 2003. Everyone is invited to participate.

# McBride Wins Major Endorsement

by Kevin Rollins

**Ocoquan** - September 19, 2003 - Libertarian Robert K. McBride, running for the Ocoquan seat on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, received the endorsement of the retiring incumbent Ocoquan Supervisor, Ruth Griggs, who is a Republican.

"... I'm voting for Robert McBride," announced Griggs in a letter to the Potomac News. "Robert is brave -- he believes what he believes and he won't hide that from you... I wish I had been as brave as Robert and that I had worked for him right from the beginning."

She also praised McBride's activism and leadership, "Robert has been actively involved in local government issues for a number of years. He has served the Ocoquan District on the budget committee, on the road bond committee, through the local civic association and other groups and as part of the committee to preserve the beauty of Lake Ridge Park. Robert is a compassionate person, yet tough when it's needed."

In endorsing, McBride, Griggs has effectively unendorsed Republican Corey Stewart who is also in the race. Griggs described Stewart and other local Republican candidates as, "frequently hard to support."

The endorsement, which received coverage in the Potomac News, Northern Virginia Journal, and the Washington Post, is a boost for the McBride campaign.

"This has elevated our stature in the race," said Paul Miller, McBride's campaign manager. "Prior to this, we felt as though we were quietly gaining momentum. After the news broke about Ruth, nothing was quiet anymore. Now, we have everyone's attention."

Griggs letter to the editor of the Potomac News appears below:

Editor,  
This is a hard letter to write, because I have to admit that I was a coward and I made a mistake. I don't mind the mistake part - it's the coward part I don't like. Beginning last fall, I was approached by several of the candidates involved in the race for the Ocoquan



District supervisor positions. My initial intention was to stay out of the race, as I'm not a big proponent of endorsements (the only one that counts comes from the people).

But I also decided to stay out of it because I knew that the candidate I thought was best, Robert McBride, was running as an independent. I knew that as a Republican, I would run afoul of the local party for not endorsing a Republican candidate.

I watched the local Republican committee attack Tom Burrell, one of the most decent people I know, and drive him out of the race for the Coles District supervisor seat. I figured I didn't need that hassle. WHAT A COWARD!

Never in my government career have I allowed my decisions to be influenced by the amount of grief I might get and I will not allow it to happen again.

I thoroughly respect people who vote for party candidates because they really believe in that platform. At the local level, however, I have found that



This headline appeared September 16th.

the candidates endorsed by the party are frequently hard to support. I think Robert McBride will make a great supervisor, better than any candidate out there.

I'm sorry to the people who've supported me because I was a Republican and who will be disappointed by my decision, but I'm voting for Robert McBride.

Robert has been actively involved in local government issues for a number of years. He has served on the budget committee, on the road bond committee, through the local civic association and other groups, and as part of the committee to preserve the beauty of Lake Ridge Park. Robert is a compassionate person, yet tough when it's needed.

Robert has more knowledge and experience with "smart growth" than any of the candidates except, perhaps, Gary Friedman (and anybody on the board of supervisors). He's a pleasure to work with and everybody who knows him likes him.

Robert is brave - he believes what he

believes and he won't hide that from you. That's why Robert is running as an Independent. Neither part "platform" fit him. I wish I had been as brave as Robert and that I had worked for him right from the start.

Given my disdain for endorsements, voters may be wondering why I'm writing this letter. I feel a certain responsibility to the people who contacted me one-on-one and asked for my opinion about the candidates. I feel I have a responsibility to set this right, to tell those people what I really think about this race. If I don't, and the Ocoquan District is disserved for the next four years, I'll have no one to blame but myself.

I'm sure this will give Jim Young editorial fodder to last a year or two. But I can live with that - I don't want to be part of any Republican entity that marches to the beat of Jim Young's drum.

Ruth Griggs  
Ocoquan District Supervisor



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## Motion of Censure-David Briggman

LPVA State Central Committee Resolution, August 9th, 2003

Sponsor: Steve Dasbach

Disposition: Passed on recorded vote as follows: Chair-Yea, Vice-Chair-Yea, Secretary-Yea, Treasurer-Yea, 1CD-Yea, 2CD-Yea, 3CD-Yea, 4CD-Yea, 5CD-Yea, 6D-Yea, 8CD-Yea, 9CD-Yea, 10CD-Yea, 11CD-Yea

Whereas David Briggman was in custody of the LPVA notebook computer and repeatedly refused demands to return it. It was subsequently discovered that the LPVA notebook computer was actually in the possession of someone in Rockford Illinois, and

Whereas David Briggman mischarged \$4,750 to the IPVA for a personal purchase. He alleged that this was a mistake. Despite repeated requests by the party, Briggman failed to voluntarily reverse the charges. The party was forced to contact the vendor of the goods in question to have the charges reversed.

Therefore, the State Central Committee of the LPVA censures David Briggman.

## 8 Simple Rules For Being Organized

By Jim Turbett

*Editor's Note: Being organized is critical to being effective in politics and in our personal lives. Jim Turbett is the most organized person I know, so I asked him to write down some ideas on being organized for those of us who were born as scatterbrained-slobs. Enjoy!*

1. Keep related things together in a defined sequence (such as date).

2. Keep related files together.

3. Always keep things in the same place except when they are out for use.

4. Form habits; do things the same way.

5. Recognize problems and think of ways to solve them. For instance I once found myself failing to follow up on promises. I'd tell people I'd send them things and then forget until they reminded me or until my seeing their face reminded me. So I keep a pen and small piece of paper handy on occasions when I expect this might happen (such as Farlandria and pot lucks).

6. Have outboxes for places you go often and must take things to. I have one for my next trip to my old office and one for Farlandria.

7. If you repeatedly do something wrong or repeatedly forget how to do something, make a procedural list or checklist. For example there is a proper sequence for hooking up cables when jump-starting a car, but I can never remember what it is, so I have a procedure written down and stored in the car.

8. I keep more lists than almost anyone in the world, or so I have been accused. Two important lists are address/phone number lists and email address lists.



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## What's On the Web?

by Chuck Eby

Reporters for Virginia newspapers and other local media now have a source of information about the Libertarian Party of Virginia's stand on state issues. A new page on our web site – "For the Media" – provides copies of recent media releases, information for contacting our Communications Director, and invites media representatives to join our statewide Announce email list.

Virginia Liberty Editor Kevin Rollins came up with the idea of providing the media with their own web page after attending a presentation about web design for non-profits and political organizations. "The speaker suggested that every political web site should have a "For the Media" link prominently displayed on the home page that would link to a page that had information specifically geared towards media use," said Rollins. "He likened this page as our chance to 'make a 15 second pitch' as many media folks will spend a lot of time trolling for experts and interviewees."

The page includes several recent media releases. The LPVA's Communication Committee has been generating two media releases each month since early July and distributing them to 119 newspapers and other media services around the state. The releases have appeared via several outlets including StatePulse's subscription service that appears on several web sites around the state including the Virginia Technology Alliance's site.

"Even if our releases don't make the front page every time, they have the cumulative effect of showing the media that we are an active voice in Virginia politics," said Shaun Whelden, current chairman of the communications committee. "They provide the media with an alternate point of view to many of the issues facing Virginians."

**for the media**

## Special Convention Report, continued from page 1



Tidewater LP helps convention-goers check-in.

Patrick ran unopposed (except for NOTA) for the office of Secretary. Unlike the offices of Chair and Vice Chair, the Secretary position was not vacant. Patrick was appointed by the State Central Committee to the post in January. Although she did not have to stand for reelection, she opted to, in order to allow the membership to confirm her in the position.

The convention boasted four guest speakers including Gary Nolan, host of two nationally syndicated radio shows and presidential nominee hopeful for the Libertarian Party next year. Nolan has been campaigning full time across America since January. He intends to use his background and experience in media and communications to present a positive Libertarian message to all Americans, build grassroots support for the Libertarian Party, and advance the cause of liberty.

Noting that many Libertarians carry a negative message of how the state of affairs consistently gets worse under the two major parties, Nolan believes that a negative message will not resonate with voters. "The message that will win votes is a positive message", he said. "We need to craft a message that is positive and upbeat and that is honest. We have solutions to the problems that Americans care about."

Advocating the free market as the solution to many of America's problems, Nolan singled out health care. "All we have to do is get the government out of health care, and the cost will plummet," he said. Citing a study by Tufts University, "it costs approximately \$900 million to get a new pharmaceutical to the marketplace, and the delay is nearly a

decade. Beta-blockers were available in Europe, saving lives, for almost a decade," he said. "That means thousands of Americans died because of the FDA. It's time Libertarians take charge and [get rid of] the FDA."

Speaking next was Jim Babka, president of the American Liberty Foundation and of Real Campaign Reform.org, Inc. Babka stated that two words summed up all the Libertarian Party needs to achieve a libertarian society. "Those two words are 'more Libertarians'", said Babka. "It may seem a daunting task because most Libertarians believe we need fifty percent plus one for our message to succeed," he said. But Babka believes that fifty percent is unnecessary. "Four hundred thousand members would give us the money, the resources, the candidates, the volunteers that we would need to compete on an even playing field," he said.



Audience listens to Jim Babka speak. The convention attracted about 80 people.

After the business session, John Taylor addressed the convention. Taylor is the chairman and president of the Virginia Institute for Public Policy and previously served as assistant to the president of the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C. Taylor gave his own historical perspective on the wisdom of our Founding Fathers in contrast to today's moral relativists and advocates of social justice. Stating that proponents of social justice cannot define it, or if they can, their definition does not coincide with other's definitions, he concluded, "the one thing we can get from this is that social justice is subjective, it's a way of rewarding friends and punishing enemies, and as we've seen in the past number of years, skating from one's own behavior."

Last to speak was Paul Gessing, Director of Government Affairs for the National Taxpayers Union. Gessing described several fronts on which the NTU is fighting big government, including opposition to Washington's proposed commuter tax, a government-funded baseball stadium in Virginia and the proposed costly regulation requiring the Pentagon to purchase only American-made products. The NTU



Counting the ballots...

is also supporting the devolution of AMTRAK to the states, doing away with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, and allowing the free market to build toll roads alongside busy interstate highways.

Gessing, a Libertarian Party member, also expressed his personal stance against the war in Iraq. Unlike Republicans and Democrats who, Gessing said, believe that war is the health of the state, Libertarians must oppose all non-defensive wars. "If Libertarians are not coming out against war, then we are not fulfilling our responsibility to liberty," said Gessing.

The convention ended at 5:30 PM and was followed by a meeting of the State Central Committee.

# A North Carolinian at the LPVA Convention

By Sean Haugh

The only way we can be defeated is if we quit. Occasionally, there are events that prove that there is no quit in the Libertarian Party. The Virginia LP's special convention was such a wonderful event.

Considering that we are the party of individual Liberty, sometimes I consider it a miracle that we have grown as much as we have. But Libertarians somehow display a most endearing persistence. As long as there are people in your state who want the party to Do Something - and there always are - you can overcome any obstacles, even the self-imposed ones.

I went to Virginia Beach expecting to find a state party hopelessly mired in trouble. After all, the whole purpose of the convention was to elect new officers, because the Chair had been fired and the Vice Chair had quit in protest. It was hard to imagine how this could possibly be a happy event.

To the outside observer, all real party activities appeared to have been replaced by infighting. If you heard anything from Virginia lately, it was all who said what about whom, not who did what for the people. They only have one candidate in the entire state, in a year when they elect their state legislature and many local offices. That statistic alone tells a very sad tale.

In May, the state central committee (SCC) voted to remove Marianne Volpe as Chair. The main complaints against Volpe centered over her leadership style. She was alleged to have exceeded her authority in dismissing party officers, and to be in the habit of making wild accusations of malfeasance or worse against past and present party officers.

More of Sean Haugh's articles can be read at:  
<http://www.libertyforall.net>

Vice Chair Shelley Tamres, a Volpe ally who would have succeeded her, instead resigned in disgust. She basically took her ball and went home and has hardly been heard from since.

Meanwhile, one of the officers who was removed, reinstated, and removed again, David Briggman, had used the state party's credit card for two questionable purchases totaling

over \$6000. One of those was for a laptop to be used in his role as Communications Director. It turns out Briggman had sold the machine to some guy in Illinois, and after much bickering returned to the state party a different, inferior unit.

It didn't help matters much that Volpe was the one leading the charge for action against this fraudulent



Interim State Chair Steve Dasbach talks with North Carolina's Sean Haugh

behavior, and that Briggman was her main opposition in the previous election for Chair. Many didn't care for the messenger and so discounted the message. Others dismissed the news as merely a byproduct of the infighting. It was only after some independent investigation by LNC representative Fred Childress that the majority seemed to take Briggman's criminal behavior seriously.

As an outside observer, I thought it was questionable to go after the Chair over what was essentially a personality conflict, before dealing with someone who had committed theft against the organization.

But then I wasn't there, and I was glad I mostly listened and with held judgment. There were many times I was sorely tempted to make a public comment on this sordid mess. Every time, until now that is, I refrained and later was very glad I did.

That's why I just had to go to the LPVA special convention. If I was going to do or say anything about it, I had to see it for myself first.

Given the path that led to this Virginia Beach church, I expected to

find a small handful of sullen, worn down activists who shot daggers out of their eyes at each other across a twenty-foot aisle. Instead, gathered in that hall were about 80 people who were far more upbeat than the occasion seemed to warrant.

In fact, it was such a positive event, even Volpe gave it a good review. She said afterwards, "it was a very

that brought the party to its collective senses.

One of the most popular moments was when Lennice Worth offered a short, simple resolution of appreciation: "Resolved, Shelley Tamres has served us diligently and to superb advantage. We wish to thank Shelley and express our love and support for her."

Would that all resolutions offered at Libertarian conventions be so concise!

Ron Crickenberger, speaking in support of the motion, put it even more directly, "we need to start thanking our activists." One could say that the attention Tamres received at the special convention was a rather grandiose example of closing the barn door after the horse was long gone. Even so, every state party could stand to internalize this simple but profound truth.

Virginia is home to quite a number of current and former national staff members, and is putting them to work at the grassroots. Those, like Crickenberger, who have recently been let go, exemplify that passion also expressed by Volpe. No matter what, that state is blessed with a lot of very talented folks who are determined to find the way they can best contribute to the party.

Steve Dasbach, former national Chair and Executive Director, and now the campaign manager for Gary Nolan's presidential bid, is another fantastic example of this dedication. He answered the call to serve as interim Chair, and did so with distinction. Richmond activist Anne Soffee served as interim Vice Chair, and like Dasbach, helped the party's transition back to neutrality by pledging not to seek the office for the rest of the term.

One could say that Dasbach was asked to do nothing but hold things together for a couple months. Yet there is an art to that, especially when everything else around you is in chaos. His calming influence lent a focus to the state party that set the foundation for what could be accomplished this day. (One can say what they want about Dasbach's job in the DC office, and I know he has his critics. But that is not the topic of this article.)

In the race for Chair, recent national staffer Steve Damerell won with 80%

Continued on Page 8

# Sean Haugh at the LPVA Convention continued from page 7

of the vote over former LPVA Chair Stew Engel. Damerell had 57 votes, Engel won 9, four were for NOTA and one Libertarian, bless their heart, voted for someone else entirely.

The Vice Chair race featured two fellows who both brought with them strong resumes of local action. Leonard Harris won with 43 votes, or 67%. Philip Hodson won 23 votes, and four again went to NOTA.

Charlotte Patrick, who had been appointed since the last convention as Secretary, won a resounding 51-4 victory over NOTA to complete the term.

All campaigns were positive, and references to the recent unpleasantness were few. Damerell was helped greatly by the timing of his employment at the national office. It made him very qualified for the job, while keeping him above the fray when it was all, well, fraying. In fact, his customer service experience at national is probably the perfect training for the task which faces him today.

If you can keep most all of the state chairs happy, then hey, you have the gift.

The interest in the work of the party did not end with the convention. Immediately following was a long and substantive SCC meeting, which at times had many more observers than board members.

Damerell was elected on his ability to lead the state party back into action. It certainly wasn't for his experience at running a meeting. He was tentative, to say the least, but the remarkable thing about this was that everyone on the SCC pitched in to coach their new Chair on parliamentary procedure and LPVA policy. Here was another pronounced example of everyone wanting the party and its new leadership to succeed, regardless of where they stood before.

And the truth is, parliamentary procedure can be learned. The kind

of leadership LPVA wants and needs is less easily cultivated. It was hopeful sign to see such an intuitive grasp of these simple facts at that table.

It was good to see that the suspicions I vented above were premature. Now that the SCC had finished their business with their former Chair, they were still intent on resolving the outstanding chicanery by Briggman. A motion to censure him passed 14-0. He still is in possession of manuals for the laptop, as well as two tables

Yet another of the potentially controversial issues that was handled in the most positive manner was the campaign. The fact that there is one candidate in the entire state is by itself enough material for an afternoon of recriminations. Yet the desire to make the most of things won out here as well. If anybody had anything bad to say about this, it was invariably the concession that, hey, if we only have one candidate, we might as well go to the wall for him.

excited about receiving the state's permission to do anything. Still, this is something political parties do, legally funnel money to their candidates, and so I forgive those Virginians that felt particularly good about navigating this bit of bureaucracy.

In short, if they are only going to have one campaign in Virginia, it's a particularly fine one indeed. Considering that it has inspired this much growth in the state party, whatever McBride gets at the polls is just gravy, in my humble opinion.

I came away from Virginia Beach with confirmation of every wildly optimistic thing I have ever felt about this party. The friends of Liberty are determined. They will not stay silent, and they refuse to remain isolated from each other. Set up whatever obstacles you can imagine, and somehow they keep coming back. The desire to create more Liberty is winning out over petty or mundane personal concerns.

Nothing can keep a state Libertarian Party down for long, when there are people there keeping themselves busy building it up.

The destruction only happens when everybody starts focusing on each others' perceived shortcomings. Now, in Virginia, we have a stark example that the will to succeed within this party is too strong for any infighting to permanently derail it.

Sean Haugh is the Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina. Sean is married to longtime Libertarian Pam Adams, and they have a family of three dogs and five cats. Besides them, Sean loves God, Liberty, and Oklahoma Sooners football. Write to Sean at seanhaugh@mindspring.com.



Newly-elected LPVA Chairman Steve Damerell conducts his first State Central Committee meeting. (Photo by Kevin Rollins)

with tablecloths the party used for fair booths. There still is the matter of the difference in value between the two laptops, and the unrecovered information that was stored on the original one.

Whether to pursue legal action against Briggman is still an open question. However, what legal advice which was available at the table indicated that civil action might be more expensive than it is possibly worth. The SCC may well have voted to expel Briggman, except for the technicality that they had yet to draft an expulsion policy as mandated in their bylaws. A committee was formed to draft that policy in time for the next meeting.

On a happier note, the SCC looked ahead to ballot access for 2004, and arranged for \$10,000 to be available to fund it by January. Financially, the LPVA seems to be in reasonably good shape.

Robert McBride is the candidate, and by all accounts he has a legitimate chance to win a seat as an Occoquan County Supervisor. Fred Childress and Marc Montoni worked the crowd on McBride's behalf and raised over \$1400 from the delegates. The SCC kicked in another \$3400 of their own, to help fund a direct mail campaign.

This vote was quite significant, as it appeared to be the first time the SCC had considered a direct subsidy to a candidate. Despite the natural misgivings over enacting a bold new strategy, the motion carried by two thirds. There seemed to be a real sense of pride that the LPVA, by this action, took a major step towards acting like a real political party.

Inspired by the need to support McBride, the LPVA is finally putting through the paperwork to become an official Political Action Committee in the eyes of the Commonwealth. Now, granted, one should not get overly

Send comments on this article to:

[newsletter@lpva.com](mailto:newsletter@lpva.com)

# What Will We Do With This Opportunity?

## A Message From The Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Virginia

To the Libertarian Party of Virginia:  
If you were unable to attend the special convention in Virginia Beach, you missed an exciting turning point for the LPVA. Eighty members turned out, giving up a Saturday in the middle of August, and I believe that they did so because they all wanted the same thing: forward motion.

No one can deny that the last year has been a trying one for the LPVA, or even for the entire libertarian movement. Party membership has been in a steady slide, and here at the state level, we've seen our share of controversy, and the party has suffered as a result.

But none of that should be taken in any way to belittle continued progress and promise for the principles of freedom. Nationally, the LP has continued to make steady gains in local public officials, boasting almost 600 today. The fact that we're making this progress in the face of shrinking

resources points to one sure thing: Americans are ready to hear the message of freedom, and they're ready to vote for it. And in 2004, Americans will be voting for dozens of offices, from President down to city hall. Many will be voting against the frightening violations of their basic freedoms.

The question is: What will we do with this opportunity?

The answer that I gave to the convention was simple: We're going to take the message of liberty to the public, and we're going to do so right where the Republican monopoly will fear it most: on the ballot. You, the members of the LPVA, stepped up excitedly to embrace this vision, and as your new chair, my first priority is going to be to fulfill your wishes.

The time has long since passed when we can afford to circle the wagons and take aim at one another. We're all in this together -- your fellow

Libertarians are not the ones who raise your taxes, invade your privacy or trample upon your constitutional rights. Only our enemies can do that, and only they deserve to be targeted by honest, hard-working citizens.

And that's just why I'm so excited to be your chair as we move into the next election year. This year, we have one excellent candidate in the form of Robert McBride, who's running for Prince William County Supervisor. Robert's campaign is credible and principled -- everything we should be striving for -- but I can't see any reason why Libertarians in every part of Virginia should not have a candidate behind whom they can proudly stand. In 2004, that's exactly what I want -- Libertarians all around the state carrying freedom's torch to the voters.

I hope you'll embrace this vision as boldly as last week's convention delegates did. Ultimately, this is a

strategy that relies on you. I need you to tell me that you want a growing, credible Libertarian Party by coming out to your local meetings, keeping your membership current, volunteering, and running for office yourself. If we're going to see liberty in our lifetimes, then 2004 is when we're going to start turning the tide.

If you want to step up and help our shared vision become a reality, then I want to talk to you. No matter what your skills and interests, if you're interested in freedom, then we'll find a way to get you involved.

2004 is going to be a good year -- will you be a part of the team that makes it happen?

In liberty,

Steve Damerell

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I've been a member of the LPVA for some time, but have never felt the need to become involved in party doings before now. I'd been content to let my membership fees work whatever magic such a small sum could do, adding my voice as well was more direct action than I wished to take. But the situation regarding the removal of the Chairman has forced my hand. As many say, I only know what I read. So my knowledge of the substance of this issue comes from the latest newsletter. You're to be congratulated for including both sides of this issue, though a statement from the former Chair would have added substance. Of those who wrote, only Shelley Tamres is familiar to me. And it was her article that carried the day as well. If more than half of what she said is what actually happened, then Volpe was railroaded out of her position. Even

more troubling is what might happen in the future. I believe that the LPVA has fewer than 1,000 members, and that it's not growing much if at all. No doubt party leaders have asked themselves why.

Clearly they don't have the answer, or the trend would be reversed. Unfortunately, what happened with regard to the LPVA Chair will make matters worse. An organization cannot be run with disregard for its rules and precedents. Tamres notes that Volpe was accused of misusing a bank card when there were no rules regarding then extant. She was also criticized for removing a Committee Chair without regard to rules when, again, no such rules existed. How can an organization, particularly one staffed by volunteers, take actions like this and expect to prosper. How can I as someone unknown in the group feel comfortable coming forward and trying to take a leadership position when the rules governing conduct are whatever the governing

committee decides they are - and which can then vary as circumstances change? Why should I? We often hear that many of the rules in Congress are intended to preserve the rights of the minority. This should also be true for groups like the LPVA. Yet this is simply not the case when rules that don't exist are applied.

The LPVA SCC was wrong to remove the Chair for the actions that I read about in the recent newsletter. If you disagree with the Chair, oppose them in the next election. Or, if the actions are so egregious, then take action in accord with extant written rules. The SCC did neither, and the LPVA has sustained very real damage. It will be years in getting back to where it was last December, much less moving forward. And the cause of liberty suffers.

Gilbert Reed  
Alexandria, VA

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## DON GORMAN'S CAMPAIGN SCHOOL FOR WINNERS

NOVEMBER 14-16 at the Best Western Kings Quarters, 16102 Theme Park Way, Doswell, VA 23047  
See page 11 for more details

# A Week in the Life of the Former National Chairman

By James W. Lark

At the request of Virginia Liberty editor Kevin Rollins, I have prepared a brief diary of some of my Libertarian activities during the week of Sept. 8-14. Although there is no "typical week" in terms of my Libertarian work, all of the activities during this week are fairly commonplace for me.

**M o n d a y,**  
Sept. 8: I spend much of the morning working on some details concerning the speech by John Berthoud, president of the National Taxpayers Union. Students for Individual Liberty at the University of Virginia, to which I serve as advisor, will sponsor the event on Sept. 11.

**D u r i n g**  
the late afternoon I drive to Roanoke to attend a meeting of the Roanoke Valley Libertarian Party. Since I serve as Local Affiliate Parties chair, I endeavor to attend as many local affiliate meetings as I can. The RVLP usually meets on the first Monday of each month; however, since the first Monday this month fell on Labor Day, the meeting was scheduled for the second Monday. The major item of business on the agenda is the election of officers for the group. Charles Pasley is reelected chair; for the first time since the initial elections at the time the group was founded, a full slate of officers is elected (chair, vice chair, treasurer, recording secretary, membership secretary, communicating secretary). Liz and Jeff Bowles of the Libertarian Party of Botetourt County (LPBC) attend the meeting; they share information about the many upcoming activities of the LPBC.

Charles and Angell Pasley, Scott Shreckhise, and Andy Akers deserve great credit for their efforts to keep the RVLP in operation. During the latter part of 2002, RVLP meetings were usually attended by only those four. During the past year, the average attendance has grown to 11-

12. Also, the RVLP meetings played a major role in helping Terry Nelson of Martinsville and Liz and Jeff Bowles of Botetourt County to become active. In addition, Andy Akers has provided substantial assistance to the LPBC in



their affairs. Following the meeting, several of the attendees convene a rump session at a local restaurant. After the rump session, I drive back to my home near Charlottesville; I arrive at 1:00 a.m.

**T u e s d a y,** Sept. 9: Early that morning I drive to Richmond to attend a coalition meeting of activists from around the state to discuss ongoing projects to reduce taxes, protect property rights, and reform government education in a Libertarian direction. The meetings, which occur monthly, are by invitation only. Most of the attendees consider themselves conservatives as opposed to Libertarians; to the extent that they are involved in partisan politics, they do so as Republicans. However, I believe the meetings have great value, in that they bring together people who are willing to join coalitions to move the "liberty agenda" forward.

During the afternoon, I attend to some faculty duties. During the 2003-2004 academic year, I am serving as Assistant to the Athletics Director for Special Projects at the University of Virginia, in addition to serving as a professor in the Dept. of Systems and Information Engineering at U.Va. I am assisting the Athletics Director

in the preparation of a strategic plan for the Athletics department. Given that I am a Va. Tech alumnus and a strong supporter of Tech's athletic programs, there is great irony in this situation. On Tuesday evening I begin preparation of proposed goals and a proposed budget for the Local Affiliate Parties Committee for 2004.

**W e d n e s d a y,** Sept. 10: During the morning I drive to Lexington to assist an effort to build a Libertarian campus group at Washington and Lee University. I staff a table organized by Peter Quackenbush, a junior from Houston, Texas who is majoring in Math and Economics. He is very eager to build a group at W&L, and I believe he will do a fine job. Two of his friends visit the table; they are leaders in the Democrat and Republican groups at W&L. They appear to be amazed and favorably impressed that a former national LP chairman would take the time to staff an info table at a campus activities fair.

During the afternoon I drive from Lexington to Charlottesville.

After taking care of some faculty work, I spend most of the evening tending to e-mail that concerns Libertarian affairs.

**T h u r s d a y,** Sept. 11: Most of the morning is spent preparing for my trip to St. Louis on Friday and attending to telephone calls and e-mails concerning Libertarian matters. During the late afternoon, I treat John Berthoud to dinner in my capacity as advisor to Students for Individual Liberty. That evening Dr. Berthoud delivers an address to roughly 20 people at U.Va.; his address is entitled "What Happened to the Federal Budget Surplus?" Nearly all of the attendees are students, most of whom have not attended a S.I.L. event previously. After the address, I spend roughly three hours attending to e-mail regarding Libertarian affairs.

**F r i d a y,** Sept. 12: I board a plane at 6:00 a.m. to fly to St. Louis. After lunch with long-time LP activists Tom Knapp and Tamara Millay, I give a speech at Washington University in St. Louis. My address, entitled "Warning: Governmentally Mandated Safety Measures May Be Hazardous to Your Health," is well received by the audience. (At least, it appeared to

me to be well received; no one booed, threw things at me, or complained to the sponsors.)

On Friday evening I appear on a radio talk show on KFRU in Columbia, Missouri (home of the flagship campus of the University of Missouri). The hosts are very gracious, and I was pleased with the interview. Later that evening, I am the guest of honor at a combined business meeting/social gathering of St. Louis area Libertarians. The organizers are very pleased by the turnout; evidently, the attendance is almost as great as that for the Missouri LP convention that took place in June.

**S a t u r d a y,** Sept. 13: Bob Sullentrup, chair of the Missouri LP (MOLP), drives me to Columbia to participate in a MOLP tailgate party prior to the football game between the University of Missouri and Eastern Illinois University. Following the tailgate party, several attendees accompany me and Bob to watch the game. (Missouri wins 37-0.)

Following the game, several MOLP members gather at a popular local pizza restaurant to dine and discuss building the Libertarian Party. Again, the gathering goes well; attendees seem upbeat about the progress of the party. Following the meeting, Bob and I drive back to the St. Louis area.

**S u n d a y,** Sept. 14: Tom Knapp and Tamara Millay drive me to downtown St. Louis to participate in a MOLP tailgate party prior to the St. Louis Rams – San Francisco Forty-Niners game. Once again, the tailgate party is considered a success; attendees seem to be in good spirits, and seem united in their efforts to build the MOLP.

Following the tailgate party, Lloyd Sloan, Bob, and I attend the Rams game. The Rams win a very entertaining game in overtime. Following the game, Bob drives me to the St. Louis airport. I arrive home around midnight.

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Jim Lark is the chairman of the Local Affiliate Parties Committee and campus coordinator for the L.P.Va. He also serves as secretary of the Jefferson Area Libertarians (based in Charlottesville) and advisor to The Liberty Coalition at the University of Virginia. From July 2000 until July 2002 he served as national chairman of the Libertarian Party.

# Campaign School for Winners

November 14 - 16 in Doswell, Virginia

Attention Libertarians - The LPVA is presenting New Hampshire legislator Don Gorman in a **Campaign School for Winners!** It's a 3-Day hands on nuts and bolts of campaigns and politics and as a 'leader for liberty' you should be there.

One of the goals of the LPVA is to recruit, support, and elect candidates who support liberty and Don Gorman who was recently elected to office (again) has agreed to roll out the red carpet and hold a School to help us get our people elected.

Anyone and everyone associated with an active or potential campaign should attend. **Candidates, campaign workers, press secretaries, campaign managers, volunteers, activists, pollsters, debate coaches, fund-raisers, even cookie-bakers** - you name it, Don will provide you with the tools you need to *win* or contribute to a winning campaign.

## HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

The school will be held November 14 - 16 at the Best Western Kings Quarters, 16102 Theme Park Way, Doswell, VA 23047.

We have made arrangements for a special room rate of \$35 (plus tax) per night. Call Christine at 804 876 3321 to get this special rate.

This is real training for real campaigns - Not theory, not conjecture, but **techniques that work and get results in real world politics.**

According to Don, it's especially important that non-candidates (managers, leaders, and volunteers) also have this information. **A well-trained staff can make all the difference in a campaign.**

Even if you're not running this year, but may run next year, the year after, or if you'll be running in another state, come to the **Campaign School for Winners** and you'll be way ahead of the game.

Topics to be covered range from timed speeches (and how to fill the time and get back on track), fundraising strategies, how-to-do-it success stories of past and current campaigns, organizing a campaign and delegating work, speaking to an

audience and more.

Candidates will create plans and timetables and generally get more organized and start thinking of their races, the issues and fundraising in a whole new way. **As Don says, "the light bulb will go on."**

At his last Campaign School, they wrote two Libertarian radio commercials and saw how to use the frustration of voters to Libertarian advantage.

Here's some comments by attendees of last year's Campaign School:

Michelle Dumas of NH: "While I will likely never be a candidate, I prefer to work on the campaign and support our candidates, the School was invaluable. The strategies, ideas, and communication techniques that I came away with will help me immensely, both in crafting campaign-related written communications and in one-on-one interactions with voters. Besides this, I left the training with an even deeper respect for the commitment and work that our candidates put into their campaigns, and a renewed energy for doing all I can do to promote them to the voters. Thank you Don!"

(Michelle was part of the 2002 John Babiarz for Governor team that *more than doubled* his vote total from 2000.)

Carol McMahon of MA: "Don's campaign school was worth the two hour drive to attend. The speaking techniques will help you focus your

## Don Gorman's Campaign School for Winners

November 14 - 16 at Western Kings Quarters in Doswell Virginia

Begins Friday at 7:30 pm  
Saturday: 9am - 9pm  
Sunday: 9am - 4pm

message and the instant feedback shows you what you are doing right and what needs to be improved. I highly recommend it for any candidate, potential candidate or campaign volunteer."

(Carol won 18% of the vote in her state senate race.)

The school will start at 7 PM Friday night with an informal reception and run through 4 PM Sunday.

## COSTS

The cost is \$35 per person (\$30 for students and seniors, \$60 for a couple attending together). Don has won more elections than any other Libertarian. He's an old pro at NH politics and an advocate of small, winnable races. Getting this same material anywhere else could cost you *at least* 10 times as much. We've brought out our best to help you bring out your best. It's time for libertarians to step up and run professional campaigns that win races, come to the Campaign School and make that a reality in Virginia, take your election effort to the next level.

Since Don's time is valuable, we will need to guarantee a minimum attendance of 25 people. Please send in your registration with your payment ASAP. If we don't have 25 people signed up and paid a week ahead this school will be cancelled. If we have 50 paid (the maximum is 80) we will arrange for 2 free beers or wines for each paid attendee at the reception on Friday night - so sign-up your friends.

Please send payment to the LPVA.

More info about the Campaign School for Winners is available at [www.gorman2000.com](http://www.gorman2000.com)

Please contact Bill Lawry ([cmci@fcc.net](mailto:cmci@fcc.net)) 703 730 8530 or Tom Cantrell ([ptc@cantrell.ws](mailto:ptc@cantrell.ws)) of the

Campaign Training Sub Committee with your questions.

See you there!

Bill Lawry

## I want to attend the Don Gorman Seminar

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check made payable to LPVA for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$35 per person, \$30 for students/seniors, \$60 for couples).

Please mail to: Bill Lawry, 14011 Montclair Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22193-4433

# Don Gorman's **Campaign School for Winners**

is coming to Virginia on November 14 - 16

*"The campaign school was terrific. The live experience in extemporaneous speaking, combined with the philosophy of fighting and winning political warfare, made for an unforgettable and invaluable weekend."*

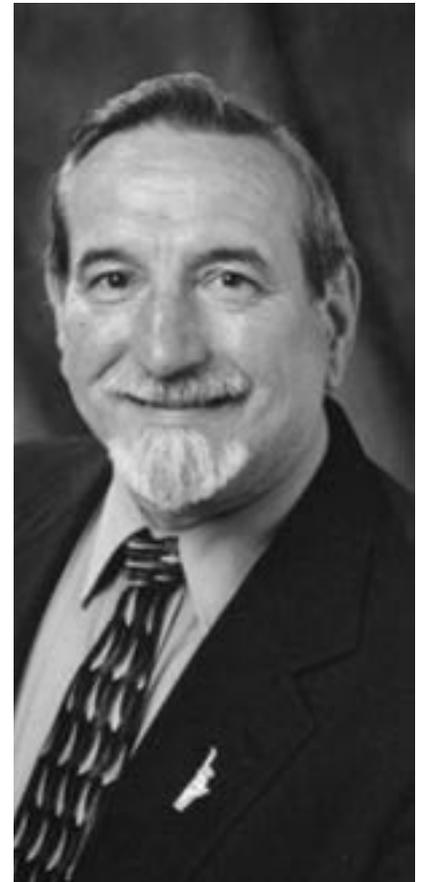
-- Mark and Diane Wilson, Wylie, TX

*"Spending a weekend with Don was an inspiring, uplifting experience. Don's searing political insight and unstoppable commitment to have fun made for an unforgettable experience. The LP of Georgia will never be the same again!"*

-- Mark Mosley, Executive Director, LP of Georgia

*"Don Gorman, that irascible pepper pot, created for Missouri Libertarians their most productive day since we earned 'Established Political Party' status in 1992."*

--Bob Sullentrup, Missouri State Chair



More information on page 11

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**Virginia LIBERTY** -- A Publication of the Libertarian Party of Virginia

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