

# NEVADA SHRUGGED

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE NEVADA LP  
MARCH EDITION

Hi, I'm Eric Klien, editor and publisher of **Nevada Shrugged**. It is my hope that many Libertarians reading this issue of **Nevada Shrugged** will wake up and decide that now is the time for action. They will decide to either 1) become official members of the Nevada LP 2) volunteer to help the Nevada LP or 3) donate a lot of money. In particular, I am looking for someone with desktop publishing experience to volunteer to publish this newsletter. As you can tell from some of the dated articles in this newsletter, I need help and I need it now!

## CLARK COUNTY COLUMN

By Eric Klien, Nevada LP Southern Rep.

This column is devoted to activities in Clark County.

The General Business Meetings are held the first Sunday of every month at 7:00 pm at Brad & Vicky's Tiny Deli at 419 East Carson. For directions, call the Deli at 366-9292. At 6:30 - 7:00 pm there is an intro to Libertarianism. At 8:30 pm is the speaker.

The third Sunday is the Executive Committee Meeting. It starts at 7:00 pm and is held at 2001 E. Flamingo Road Suite 100F. Both the General and Executive meetings are open to public. At Executive Meetings only Executives can vote, at the General Business Meetings all registered Libertarians may vote.

On March the 28th we will reconvene the Clark County Convention where we will discuss bylaws and plan for future events. The convention will be from 10:00 am. to 6:00 pm. at Brad & Vicky's Tiny Deli. There will be a lunch break from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. This convention will be free.

If there are any questions about these meetings, please call the Clark County chair, Richard Puckett at 792-6197 or 792-5861.

## GUN CONTROL = CRIME CONTROL?

### SLICK WILLY SEZ SO!

By Sandy Harmon, Nevada LP Vice-Chair

URGENT. If you saw our president's speech the other night, you know that the cat is out of the bag regarding his stance on gun control. "I promise you this, if you send the 'Brady' bill to my desk, I'll sign it..." So said our fearless leader on national TV. I'm not going to recite the litany of rebuttals against the insane notion that restricting our 2nd amendment

right solves crime. You understand it as well as I do. My concern is that our two Senators, "Sierra club" Harry and "Bullfrog" Bryan might well go along with President Rodham, er, Clinton on gun control. When you consider that senator Reid supported and voted for anti-gun bills until a very few years ago before performing his flip-flop, you can understand the need to put some serious pressure on him.

I'm asking that you sit down right now and write to both senators as well as your congressman and request that they not only vote against gun control but also lobby their fellow trough-feeders to do the same. One point to raise with them is that our neighboring peoples republic with it's heavy anti-gun regulations having low crime, with the exception of Clark County which has restrictions and controls on gun ownership (with its attendant crime levels).

When you write, keep the letter to the one issue, be polite but firm. Don't mention Libertarian or you'll be written off as a kook. The addresses are:

Hon. Harry Reid, U. S. Senate, Washington DC 20510.

Hon. Richard Bryan, U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510.

Hon. James Bilbray, U.S. Congress, 1785 East Sahara, Las Vegas, 89104.

It wouldn't hurt to spend \$25 and join the NRA, they (we, actually) are the largest and most effective group of gun owners in the country. Remember; "Honest government has nothing to fear from a well armed citizenry". Madison, I think.

Thanks, Sandy Harmon

## **THE AFTERMATH**

By Jim Lee, Central Nevada LP Rep.

The election is over, the votes counted and the winners will soon take their places in political history.

No one likes to lose, but we are really winners, when we consider the new Libertarians that have joined our ranks.

I wrote to the members in Nye, Esmeralda and mineral counties before this last campaign started, asking their help in laying the ground work, to organize our party into a strong central state committee.

Because many on my lists had moved, my letters were not delivered but those that were, failed to respond.

Again, I ask that our members in the above Counties contact me, I need your help.

Many good things have happened, since the new direction of our state party and I'm proud to represent it here in the central section or district.

There are some wonderful Libertarians out there, so come together in your community and get involved in the political process, volunteer what services you can perform. Go to the town meetings, commit yourselves because many hands, make heavy burdens light.

Jim Lee

## **THE FUTURE IS NOW**

By Chuck Geshlider, Nevada LP At-large Rep.

As a matter of fact, at the time you receive this newsletter, the future of the Libertarian Party of Nevada and possibly the futility of its past may have already been determined and explained.

If you have been following the news in late '92 or you have seen the recent mail from the Tamara Clark campaign (the saga of which will carry us at least up to her hearing in front of the State Senate on Jan. 18) explaining the election fraud in Clark County, you will understand the following.

Most everyone who is involved in the hierarchy of this Party are 99% convinced of the truth about rampant tampering with November's results. All the details and compilation of evidence will be made public, for the record by Tamara in Carson City. At that point you, too will be convinced she is not just whining, as even some Libertarians have claimed, as a sore loser.

If we do not put an immediate stop to fixed elections, what is the point of continuing a Political Party? This is not just a rhetorical question, but a pragmatic one, too. The true, main purpose of a Political Party is to put forth candidates that would best serve as representatives of the people; and in our Party's case, the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions of the United States and Nevada (as originally intended). The next, equally important purpose is to get those nominees elected.

Obviously, Libertarians feel the need for drastic change in our modern governmental structures. Attempting such a shift through the peaceful election process, (rather than contemplating a "second" 1776) is the sensible way to go. If the opposition, who holds the power to appoint and hire stooges who are willing to cheat the people out of an opportunity for such a change, choose fraud, they force us to face a dilemma.

In the past, I would say the Libertarians would need not worry about such shenanigans because the Party itself didn't take itself seriously (as far as getting people elected).

Today, things are very different. Tamara Clark ran a real, high profile campaign and most likely won. (In fact, she did, according to three independent polls.) James Frye and James Dan also ran races where they put up some serious money and/or time which got them classified as serious contenders by much of the established opinion-makers, and even endorsed by some. Now, the perpetuation of election fraud is more important than corruption and bipartisan collusion that kept us off ballots.

Mounting an all-out attack and investigation of election fraud was in order as soon as the slightest bit of evidence came forth. Chairwoman, Tamara Clark, did just that on our behalf. Between her, campaign Treasurer (and LPN Executive-com member) Eric Klien, and her professional support staff, strong evidence of one of the nation's all-time election manipulations has been unearthed.

Only she, and two Republican State Senate candidates had the guts to file an official challenge. Every other candidate who lost went away with their tails between their legs. This included candidates who were in Tamara's district, but refused the call-to-duty when Tamara began making them aware of her findings.

The Republican Party, in particular should hang their pachyderm head in shame! With all the resources available and a little determination, they could have broken the fix wide open long ago. (Bob Dickensen and his NAIB, Brian Galloway, etc. where the hell were you?!!!). The Republican Party members of the Assembly who showed the strength to vote against the business\employee tax all went down in flames. Pat Little, the lone Democrat who also voted our way was axed.

Little's defeat to Tamara Clark's opponent, Ray Shaffer in the Dem. primary was blamed on Clark. The business community and the Republicans screamed bloody murder when Clark tossed her hat in the ring, forcing the foolish Little into a primary challenge. (I say "foolish" because Little was ill-equipped to face the well-funded Shaffer... even in the general election with Republican votes! She should have remained satisfied retaining her Assembly seat.) In all likelihood Little lost the primary because of a fix. Recently found evidence is pointing that way. She didn't even investigate... Did she help Charles Woods with the questioning of his primary loss to Harry "the fix" Reid?...No! Another bend-over-and-take-it Conservative, Little could not hold a candle in Tamara's shadow! She walked away meekly in defeat as did all the rest.

For the record, I too had my doubts about Tamara choosing to upset Little's status. I never had a doubt that Tamara would be a better candidate than the relatively quiet Little, I just thought we would never have a chance to explain our position; no one in the business community who was beginning to give us a look and nod would come back if Tamara lost... even by one vote.

Fear not. Very shortly. Tamara Clark will sworn in as the first State Senator in America to carry with her the Libertarian affiliation. Tune in next month for confirmation.

# **New and Improved Libertarian Campaigning or What We Did In '92**

By Sandy Harmon, Vice Chair Nevada LP

Since we have over doubled our numbers in the past year, many of you may not know the campaign history of the state Party over the past 20 years and how much our direction has changed since last year or why. I'll try to explain some of it and how you can help.

In the past, the LPN was concerned with keeping itself in the news (and hopefully the average voter's mind) by placing as many candidates as it could on each ballot. The result was that we never had a Libertarian elected, we often lost ballot status and we generated little or no interest in the party.

At the 1992 Convention, a new slate of officers was elected by a body made up of members who had spent years seeing us go nowhere and a larger number of new members who (probably like you) wanted a change from the business as usual of the Republocrats and wanted us to go somewhere. The general consensus was that we needed to try something new.

As a result, the newly formed Candidate Resource Committee was charged with recruiting serious candidates and assisting them in running their campaigns as well as getting these candidates all the useful information possible so as to appear professional and knowledgeable in the public eye.

While we still had a few "paper" candidates (those who file but make no attempt to run an active or serious campaign), the ballot was not loaded with Libertarians. The result? We still didn't win an election (although the loss by Tamara Clark might well be due more to fraud than actually losing) but our serious candidates polled from 18% to over 40%! In the past we were lucky to have a candidate receive 6%. In addition, while we never received recognition, credibility or contributions from either main-stream groups or the power people in the past, this time a number of candidates received endorsements and contributions from major organizations such as the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, labor unions, a business alliance and the state's largest newspaper!!

There were some disappointments, I lost my seat on the Tonopah town board by 20 votes despite the common acceptance that I would win. James Frye in Reno looked really good as did James Dan in Sparks. By far the biggest disappointment was that the Committee was unable to do more than it did in assisting the various candidates.

What the committee did accomplish was an accurate (verified by a number cruncher in a major party) record of incumbent legislators that we ran against as well as some lists of possible donors and other forms of assistance. The committee also worked with candidates on press releases (we could even fax them statewide) and printing layouts.

The committee was lacking in some resources that have since been acquired but still needs help in setting up phone banks for polling and getting out the vote. We need lists of volunteers throughout the state to help with campaign staffing; precinct work; mailing; labeling; helping a statewide candidate on a local level by introducing him or her around your area or even finding occasional lodging.

The one main item of need, of course, is money. A serious campaign costs lots of money. We have a PAC called LPN-Campaign Nevada. If you and/or your friends could send a little each week or each month, we could have a decent amount of cash built up by 1994. If you can help, please send your check or money order (made out to LPN-Campaign Nevada) to Wayne Rudolph c/o Stay Healthy, 850 South Rancho #7, Las Vegas NV 89106.

If you're curious as to the whole story about the '92 campaign, a report is available. If you would like to volunteer any sort of help in the next election (or help us get things rolling right now and through the next year or so) or would like to see the campaign '92 report (it costs nearly \$5 to print and mail out), please let me know at Box 3621, Tonopah NV 89049 or contact your local county Chair or LPN officer listed in this newsletter.

Just because you don't know anything about working in politics doesn't mean you can't help. We could sure use your help in any number of important ways. I hope we hear from you soon. Thanks!

## **Treasurer's Corner**

By LPN Treasurer Wayne Rudolph

My main topic this issue concerns Nevada allocations for the 1993 National LP Convention in Salt Lake City. Our total delegates are determined by a formula based on national membership and the most recent presidential vote. Specifically, for each 20 dues-paying national members of the LP as of February 28, 1993, our affiliate state party gets one delegate slot. In addition, members of the Libertarian National Committee are "ex-officer" delegates, so Tamara Clark fits that bill for us. As of November 20, 1992, Nevada had (5) state allocations to the SLC Convention. Of course, I would like to see our state's delegate allocation increase. Our cutoff date is February 28, 1993. What can we do? We need to work immediately on membership prospecting mailings, call those who have inquired about membership, and get registered state members to join as national members. Contact me at 877-1198 in the evening to sign on. National dues are \$25, of which our state LP gets to keep \$15. I send \$10 to national HQ's, plus your signed pledge (non-initiation of force) and you become a national registered LP member with a full year's

subscription to "LP News", our National Newsletter. Plus we get to increase our state delegation in 1993. Act soon, please!

In future issues I will present reports and plans on what the LPN is doing to raise money, and where we plan to spend money. I am going to present my idea of a hired fundraiser for us who operates on market principles, paid by a commission incentive. This fundraiser will raise funds targeted for specific projects, not for a general fund in which historically the concept of Democratic Socialism rules. That is, one where we pool all our resources and fight over their distribution. (Shades of Congress!).

Best wishes to all. Stay Healthy!

## **OPINION:**

### **Government Caused Current Economic Mess**

By James Dan, Nevada LP Northern Region Rep.

The current recession can be traced back to the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Among other things, it attempted to do what liberal governments like to do best: Soak the rich and make the tax system "fairer".

As usually happens with schemes such as this, the rich never seem to get soaked, or even mildly damp while the rest of us take an economic blood bath. The effects of the luxury tax on automobiles and boats are well known: The rich pick up their marbles and go play elsewhere while the working people lose their jobs and even their homes.

As bad as this is, not so obvious are the other side effects. The S&L debacle was not the result of nefarious characters like Charles Keating. What they did was wrong, but by themselves they could not have brought the system down. The real culprit was the US Congress, aided and abetted by Ronald Reagan.

In housing markets such as the one in California before the bust, it makes little sense to own rental housing without some kind of offsetting tax benefit. Rarely could a landlord achieve positive cash flow on rental units. But they did it because they were allowed to deduct their losses on their rental units from their other income. Furthermore, price appreciation in such a market allowed them to recoup any remaining losses or to take profits later on.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 closed this "loophole". The liberals in Congress were not about to allow these well-to-do folks to benefit. It allowed only the first \$25,000 of rental operation losses as deductions from regular income. And for the people industrious and productive enough to earn more than \$100,000 per year, the \$25,000 deduction limit was gradually phased out completely.

Since it became unprofitable to own rental housing, landlords took to selling off their units. The resulting glut of housing units, coupled with lowered demand, since few new landlords were coming into the market, served to depress prices. And the longer the units remained on the market, the lower the prices their owners were willing to take for them.

Lowered real estate values then started to affect S&L lending portfolios. In many cases, the value of the home dropped below what was owed on it. And when owners were not able to maintain their mortgage payments, the resulting foreclosures forced the lenders to take losses themselves since the value of the homes were no longer high enough to cover the loan balances. This affected the S&Ls' capitalization, forcing some of them below regulations. The regulators then came in and seized the now undercapitalized S&L, adding yet another potential burden on the taxpayer.

This process snowballed until the entire industry failed. We have no more "Savings and Loan Associations". The ones that did survive are now calling themselves "Banks", with a fine print notation that they are "Federal Savings Banks".

The regulators are now so "conservative" that no lending institution is willing to go out on a limb and actually do much lending. This has affected not only the rental housing market, where activity has been dampened by 30% down payment requirements and higher interest rates, but also small businesses.

In spite of the constant lowering of interest rates, business lending activity is way below what it takes to sustain a healthy economy. Lenders are afraid to take risks. Instead of business lending, they take money which costs them 2 or 3% and buy US Treasury debt at 5, 6, or 7%. The economy languishes for lack of capital while the bankers take our savings to fund the Federal debt.

Compassionate liberals, on seeing the human wreckage that the economy is now creating, propose even more government social programs, which further exacerbate the situation by draining even more capital from the economy to sustain people who are now unproductive. [This is not to suggest that we throw these unfortunate people to the wolves. We help these people more by encouraging a vibrant economy.]

The lack of small business lending affects not just the small businesses, but bubbles up to the major corporations and affects entire industries as well. When small businesses are unable to expand, or even start up, they do not buy capital equipment. The makers of such equipment, generally large companies, see their sales drop and retrench.

An immediate effect is the loss of manufacturing jobs. The long term effect could be the destruction of the company or, in extreme cases, the entire industry. In hard times, accountants are quite often put in charge to see the company through. Far too many accountants like to cut "frills" such as research and development engineering to conserve on cash and to maximize results from their current "cash cow" products. This eliminates the engineering and technology jobs. If this goes on for too long, the company might survive, but only as a cripple, and perhaps not for very long.



Banks are not the only providers of capital. For the high tech, high risk sector of the economy, where new ideas are incubated, coalitions of wealthy investors provide venture capital. They generally expect to lose their entire investment in the majority of startups that they fund, but also expect tenfold or hundred fold returns on the ones that are successful. If the potential reward is small, or diminished by such wrong-headed impediments like the capital gains tax, then those investors will simply take their money elsewhere.

The only sector that seems to be flourishing is the government sector. Government employees seem to be immune to the bloodletting now so common in the private sector. They expect, and receive, a constantly increasing standard of living as a matter of right. This, of course, encourages more people to become public employees, to the delight of empire-building bureaucrats. While there is nothing morally wrong with being a government employee, just what useful goods and services do most of them produce?

The bigger the government sector, and the smaller the private sector, the less productive the economy as a whole becomes in terms of useful goods and services. The ever-increasing tax load required to support the government sector further drains capital out of the economy.

The Federal debt is a black hole that is now sucking in almost all available capital. Just imagine how much investment money would be available to feed the engines of industry if we can only destroy this black hole.

Let's take a meat-ax and cut away everything except national defense and the Federal Court system. Most Federal employees will lose their jobs but will have the opportunity to find productive work in a revitalized private sector.

Acknowledge the Federal government for what it is -- BANKRUPT. Just as with other bankruptcies, impose an interest payment moratorium on the Federal debt and stretch out the repayment schedule. This will absolutely wreck the Federal government's credit rating and it may never be able to borrow again, but that may be what we need. Sometimes we have to cut up the credit cards in order to regain financial health.

Grow up and set aside the politics of envy. So what if the other guy has more money. Maybe he earned it. Even if it had been given to him or if he got it through pure luck, what's it to you?

Whenever liberals implement programs to take down the rich, those programs seem to make the rest of us get poorer while the rich still manage to stay rich.

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For \$25 you can become a member of both the National Libertarian Party and the Nevada Libertarian Party. You will get both the national **LP NEWS** as well as **Nevada Shrugged**. Just cut out the following form:

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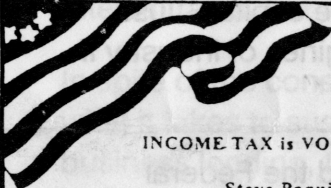
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