Libertarian Penn

Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

March 2005

Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Convention to Host 2004 Presidential Candidate, Michael Badnarik!

We will be honored to have Michael Badnarik as our guest and keynote speaker at this year's convention. Michael announced his candidacy for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination on February 17, 2003 (Presidents' Day) and traveled over 25,000 miles across the U.S. in the 15 months leading up to the Libertarian Partv National Convention in Atlanta. He entered the convention as the underdog against two strong challengers, yet won the endorsement of our party through his strong performance in the presidential debate. His ability to convey the libertarian message

is inspiring. In addition to being our keynote speaker, Michael will be offering a class on the constitution on Friday prior to the start of the convention. His understanding of the U.S. Constitution and his unique ability to convey its pow-



Michael Badnarik, 2004 Libertarian Candidate for President of the United States

erful message in terms everyone can understand won him the nomination as our presidential candidate.

Michael has a rather diverse background. While in college, he served as a volun-

teer for the American Red Cross and as an Advanced First Aid instructor, CPR instructor. Water Safety Instructor trainer, and chairman of the Bloomington Volunteers and Disaster Action Teams. His hobbies include photography (including darkroom developing), camping, sailing, canoeing, mountain-climbing, scubadiving (starting at age 12), skydiving, hang-gliding, snow-skiing, shooting (pistol, rifle and bow-and-arrow) and motorcycling. He also enjoys exploring all types of museums and libraries. After completing a presidential race,

Michael Badnarik's keynote speech should be of interest to both libertarians and non-libertarians, so be sure to attend our convention and bring a guest.

A Message from the Chair David Jahn, LPPa Chair (chair@lppa.org)

In this edition, you'll find information regarding our annual state convention which takes place April 29, 2005 through May 1, 2005 in Harrisburg. We are hoping all of you will join us for this annual gathering of free thinking Libertarians. We have numerous workshops scheduled that should help students, members, candidates and counties achieve greater success across our state. Michael Badnarik is our featured speaker. He does a great job of presenting libertarian philosophy, so be sure to bring a guest for our Saturday night dinner. We should also invite the college students in our counties who may benefit from the college campus organizing workshops. And, if you are thinking about running for elective office this year, you may find the candidate workshops invaluable.

Since this is a local election year, we are working to minimize our business sessions in order to make more time available for these workshops. The business before us this year includes consideration of bylaws changes, resolutions and elections of party officers. Check the convention agenda for more specific information regarding the planned timing of events. And, please take the time now to complete and submit the convention sign up form before the discount period expires. That will help reduce the stress confronting our organizers.

Turning to other matters, I'm pleased to inform you of the newly formed Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition. Through this coalition, the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania has joined efforts

(continued on page 3)

Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania 2005 Annual Convention Friday, April 29 - Sunday, May 1, 2005

Hilton Harrisburg & Towers, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The entire convention package is only \$110 if you sign-up before March 15! Register now!

Friday April 29th

9:00 am – 5:00 pm: Michael Badnarik's Introduction to the Constitution class

We are honored to have Mr. Michael Badnarik bring his eye opening and hard-hitting class on the U.S. Constitution to Pennsylvania. Michael burst onto the main stage of the Libertarian movement at the 2004 National Convention where his complete understanding of the U.S. Constitution and his unique ability to convey it's powerful message in terms everyone can understand won him the nomination for the LP's Presidential Candidate. (**Mr. Badnarik's class is not included in the Full Convention pricing**)

6:30 - 9:00 pm: Opening Reception

The official kick-off of the 2005 Libertarian Convention is an excellent chance to meet freedom-oriented activists from all across the state. This year we will be blessed with the presence of our most recent Presidential candidate who will certainly have many campaign tales to share. Come out and enjoy the camaraderie. DJ Ed O'Connor will provide musical entertainment along with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

9:30 pm - ??: Montgomery County Hospitality Suite

Saturday, April 30th

7:30 - 8:30 am: Breakfast with Bill Rollyson from Americans for Fair Taxation Learn about a fundamental shift in taxation policy that would strip the IRS of many of its intrusive powers while eliminating the political manipulation inherent in the tax code and its innumerable loopholes.

8:30 am - 12:30 pm: LPPA Business Meeting

12:30 - 1:30 pm: Luncheon with Matthew Brouillette from the Commonwealth Foundation Matt Brouillette and the Commonwealth Foundation are one of our true allies in the fight to reduce the size and scope of government in Pennsylvania. Come hear what the president of the Commonwealth Foundation feels is the most pressing issue facing our state in 2005.

2:00 - 5:00 pm: Workshops

- Campus Organizing James Lark from the University of Virginia has 20 years experience organizing successful Libertarian college chapters at state and national LP Conventions including the recent state chairs' conference in St. Louis.
- Running for Local Office LPPA Election Committee
- Marketing, Networking, and Building LP County Chapters

5:00 – 6:00 pm: VIP open bar reception for 1788 Club members.

6:00 - 9:30 pm: Cocktail Reception and Banquet

Michael Badnarik, the 2004 LP Presidential candidate is our keynote speaker and will be discussing the content of his newly released and highly acclaimed book "Good to be King"

9:30 pm - ??: Montgomery County Hospitality Suite

Sunday May 1st

9:30 - 12:00 noon: LPPA Business Meeting

12:00 – 2:00 pm: Luncheon with Libertarian Toastmasters

Exhibitors: A Limited Number of Exhibit Tables are available for Saturday and Sunday at \$50.00. Please email willieisin2u@yahoo.com to sign up. Tables will be open Saturday 8 am - 10 pm, Sunday 8 am - 10am.

Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania – 2005 Convention Registration Form April 29th – May 1st 2005 Hilton Harrisburg & Towers - Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Full Convention Package Incudes: Friday Reception, All Meals, Speakers, Workshops, Taxes and Gratuities

Name (s):	
Address:	
City:	St: Zip
Email:	
Phone:	

** Due to potential high demand and limited seating, Full Conference Package will have precedence over Saturday Dinner only. First come first serve for Dinner thereafter.

Please indicate choices and send checks payable to:

Cumberland County Libertarian Committee c/o Jeremy Noyes 135 A Lane Harrisburg, Pa 17111 On check memo state: LPPa '05 Convention

Special Room Rate of \$82.00 Available Until 4/7/05 HILTON HARRISBURG & TOWERS 1-800-HILTONS www.harrisburg.hilton.com

Badnarik "Introduction to the Constitution"	\$100		
• Not included in Full Convention Package (Friday 4/29 9am – 5pm)			
• Register online at www.constitutionpreservation	on.org		
LPPa 2005 Convention	Price	#	
Full Convention Package BEFORE 3/15/05	\$110		
Full Convention Package BEFORE 4/15/05	\$125		
Full Convention Package AFTER 4/15/05	\$135		
Friday Reception and DJ	\$25		
Saturday Breakfast Buffet with Speaker	\$25		
Saturday Luncheon with Speaker	\$25		
Saturday Dinner Banquet with Speaker	\$50		
Chicken Cordon Bleu			
Seared Tenderloin Tips on Grilled Portabella			
Saturday head table seating with Speaker	\$100		
Sunday Toastmasters Luncheon	\$25		
Vegetarian Meals Upon Request			
Total			

From the Chair (Continued from Page 1)

with a number of other third parties in our state in the hope of leveraging our legislators to implement more equitable ballot access laws. Governor Rendell has formed an Election Reform Task Force to address several matters, and I've been invited to appear before this task force on March 3rd. With any luck we will be presenting our concerns and recommendations in a public meeting on March 17, 2005.

I'm also pleased to report that we have several standing committees now forming that should help propel our party to greater levels of success. The standing committees now ramping up include the membership, fundraising and election committees. Each of these committees faces different challenges.

As a result of the membership committees' recent efforts, our state membership has doubled. I want to thank the membership committee and all of you who have recently signed on with our state party. As our membership grows, so does our ability to affect change in Pennsylvania.

The fundraising committee will soon be announcing some programs that will benefit our party greatly, and the election committee under the leadership of Chuck Moulton is striving to identify candidates for local elections this year. They are also looking ahead and working to identify candidates for the offices that will be open next year. Of course, next year, we face the challenge of getting statewide candidates on the ballot which we must do if we want to retain minor party status under current law. These committees are all open to suggestions and can use your support. Please give me a call or send me an email if you are interested in contributing to their success. I'll look forward to seeing all of you at our state convention.

Take Michael Badnarik's full day Constitution class, Friday April 29th, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Harrisburg Hilton & Towers, Harrisburg, PA. \$100 per person.

Michael Badnarik presents An Introduction to the Constitution. This is the same class that has been "Lighting the fires of Liberty" and earning enthusiastic support across the country. Every student receives a copy of Good to be King, which can be purchased separately in "fine bookstores everywhere."

This class will "rattle your cage" and challenge what you think you know about the Constitution and the founding of our republic. To register for a class, visit www.ConstitutionPreservation.org or email Class@ConstitutionPreservation.org.

Costa Rican Libertarians Seek Presidency

James Babb (jamesbabb@mac.com)

On a recent trip to Costa Rica, I had the opportunity to meet Jorge Codina, an activist from Movimiento Libertario, the libertarian party in this Central American country. We went to Costa Rica to enjoy the warm climate, natural beauty and abundant wildlife, but I had heard about the success they were having and I wanted to find out how they were doing it. I wanted to know how liberty could take hold in a country knee deep in socialism. How did these libertarians secure 8% of the national legislature? I also wanted to learn what they had been able to achieve while in office.

Over a long lunch with Jorge, I had a great time learning about Movimiento Libertario and Costa Rican government. The first thing I learned was that these guys are real uncompromising libertarians, fully dedicated to the principles of individual freedom and personal responsibility. Not surprisingly, the challenges they face are similar to what libertarians face in the US. Deficit spending, corruption, declining education quality and bloated government give the Libertarios plenty to work on.

Costa Rica's electoral system is quite different from the American system. People vote for political parties, not individual candidates. The legislative seats are awarded proportionally. The largest district, San Jose, gets 20 Diputados (legislators). Because the Libertarios earned 5% of the vote in that district, they won their first seat in 1998. (American Libertarians may be familiar with Costa Rica's first Libertario Diputados, Otto Guevara from his address at the 2002 Libertarian Party Convention.) In 2004, they won 6 seats out of 57 (one Diputado later changed to independent, leaving the Libertarios 5 seats). According to Jorge, they expect to do even better in 2006 and even have a shot at the presidency.

Corruption scandals and infighting in the major parties have created additional

opportunities for the Libertarios. The incumbent party currently has no presidential candidate and has two past presidents in jail. I was impressed to learn that unlike in the states, they actually prosecute their corrupt politicians.

Although substantially out numbered by the larger parties, the Libertarios have achieved quite a bit in a short time. The party was able to raise nearly \$250K for the last election cycle. Considering a population, 1/3 the size of Pennsylvania, I found that quite impressive. They refused to except \$750K in government election funds available to them based on their vote totals.

The Libertarios have been able to successfully interject new concepts into the legislature which get reported on by the media even if they don't pass. They have successfully blocked and hopefully killed a colossal new tax plan that included the formation of an IRS equivalent. The elected Libertarios have gained notoriety by exposing government corruption at the local and national level, and establishing a tighter accounting system in the legislature that has saved taxpayers millions.

According to Jorge, many libertarian concepts resonate with Costa Ricans, where they have a strong tradition of free speech, individual freedom and disregard for the state. The Libertarios have gained the most support for their economic and personal freedom positions. Their position on open immigration is less popular, as anti-Nicaragua sentiment is somewhat prevalent. The current administration is seen as xenophobic.

"Our greatest challenge is getting the word out." said Jorge. When Libertarios address community groups, they are warmly received and respected as the ones who bring the facts and numbers with them. While the Libertarios do enjoy some media exposure, their competition outspends them considerably on advertising. La Nación, the country's leading newspaper, has moved from calling the Diputados of the Movimiento Libertario "anti-democratic obstructionists" to calling them "valiant defenders of the people's money".

Anecdotal evidence indicates that the Libertarios are getting the word out. As I travelled around Costa Rica, we noticed quite a few Movimiento Libertario signs on trees and poles, some in extremely remote places. When I wore my "No mas impuestos" (no more taxes) t-shirt with the Movimiento Libertario logo, I received multiple thumbs-up and positive comments from locals.

Costa Rica is jaw-dropping beautiful and its people are educated and quite friendly. Although they still suffer from the ravages of socialism, liberty appears to be on the rise with the help of the Libertarios. They abolished their army in 1949, and have since enjoyed peace and relative prosperity. According to Jorge, Costa Rica would be a better "Free State Project" than New Hampshire. Entrepreneurial freedom seekers from the US are warmly welcomed and the Costa Rican libertarians are gaining ground. The gorgeous environment, friendly inhabitants and low cost of living do make it tempting.

For more information about Movimiento Libertario visit www.libertario.org/en. I highly recommend their electronic newsletter, which is available in english.



Pennsylvania Libertarian Meetings: Mark your Calendar

State Board Meeting March 12th, April 9th

The State Board of the LPPa meets on the second Saturday of each month in alternating counties. The March meeting will be at Izio's Restaurant, Rt. 209 and Rt. 93, Nesquehoning (Carbon County). The April meeting will be at the Hilton Harrisburg and Towers (Dauphin County). Meeting starts at 11 AM. For more information contact Bill Keslar at Secretary@lppa.org and via phone at (717) 343-8422.

Allegheny County March 16th, April 20th

The Libertarian Party of Pittsburgh meets on the third Wednesday of every month, usually at Ritters Diner, 5221 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA at 7:00 pm. The April 20th meeting will be held at CMU's Danforth Room. For more information call 412-553-6464 or visit www.lppgh.org.

Berks County March 3rd, April 7th

Berks County LP meets on the first Thursday of every month at Dempsey's American Kitchen, Rt. 724 and Rt. 222 in Shillington. Dinner is at 6:30 pm. Meeting starts at 7:00 pm. For more information contact Dave Tartaglia at dtartaglia1@yahoo.com and via phone at (610) 929-8826.

Carbon County April 14th

Carbon County LP meets on the second Thursday of every month at Izio's Restaurant, Rt. 209 and Rt. 93, Nesquehoning. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM. For more information contact Bonita Nelmes at bnelmes@netzero.net.

Centre County March 14th, April 11th

Centre County LP meets on the second Monday of each month at the Golden Wok in downtown State College. Meeting starts at 6 PM. For more information contact Tom Martin at Martintfre@hotmail.com.

Chester County March 23rd, April 27th

Chester County Libertarian Party meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Courtyard Inn, 929 South High Street, West Chester, PA. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm. For more information contact CCLP chair, David Owens at bossowens@hotmail.com.

Cumberland County March 10th, April 14th

Cumberland County LP meets on the second Thursday of each month at Market Cross Pub in Carlisle. Dinner is at 6 PM. Meeting starts at 7 PM. For more information contact Ron Goodman at Cumberland@lppa.org and via phone at (717) 243-5708.

Dauphin County March 17th, April 19th

Dauphin County LP meets on the third Thursday of every month at Raspberries in the Hilton Harrisburg and Towers. Social hour begins at 6 PM. Meeting starts at 7 PM. For more information contact Barry Dively at weneedjohngalt@yahoo.com and via phone at (717) 243-2788.

Delaware County March 21st, April 18th

Delaware County LP meets on the third Monday of each month at Casey's in Drexel Hill. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. For more information contact Dave Jahn at DCLC@comcast.net and via phone at (610) 461-7755.

Luzerne County March 23rd, April 20h

The Luzerne County Libertarian Party meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month in Wilkes Barre, PA. For more information email Brian at bergie72@juno.com.

Montgomery County March 3rd, April 7th

The Montgomery County Libertarian Committee meets on the first Thursday of every month at the Philadelphia Inquirer Building in West Conshohocken. Meetings start at 7:30 pm. Beers often follow. For more contact MCLC chairman, Darren Wolfe at (215) 888-1467, design2021@hotmail.com, www.montcolp.org.

Philadelphia County March 16th, April 20th

Philadelphia County LP meets on the third Wednesday of each month upstairs at the Standard Tap, 901 N. 2nd St. in Philadelphia. Meeting starts at 8 PM. For more information contact Joe Leibrandt at josephleibrandt@gmail.com and via phone at (215) 275-3504, www.lpPhilly.org.

Schuylkill County March 2nd, April 6th

Schuylkill County LP meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Roman Delight, Rt. 61, Orwigsburg. Dinner is at 6:30 PM. Meeting starts at 7 PM. For more information contact Wanda Keefer at wandalp@hotmail.com.

York County March 28th, April 25th

York County LP meets on the fourth Monday of every month at the First Capital Dispensing Company on the corner of Philadelphia St. and N. Pershing Ave. For more information contact Karl Spangler at Chair@YorkLP.org or (717) 292-6618.

Disclaimer: All meeting details are subject to change.

For information about county meetings not listed here, contact Eastern Vice Chair, Darren Wolf (EVChair@lppa.org) or Western Vice Chair, Tim Crowley (WVChair@lppa.org).

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The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania Membership Form

Membership Options

- □ Full member (includes state and national membership): \$25.00
- □ Associate member: FREE (with valid e-mail address).
- □ New membership

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe – and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles – we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

NOTE: Full membership includes the LPNews and Libertarian Penn newsletters and voting privileges at our state convention.

"I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force or fraud as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Х

Signature (required)

We need your support, please donate!

Please consider an additional donation to help us grow:	
Make a one time contribution: 🗌 \$1,000 🗌 \$500 🗌] \$250 🔲 \$100 🗌 \$50 🗌 Other:
Make a recurring contribution: 🗌 \$100 🗌 \$50 🗌 \$3	0 🗆 \$20 🗆 \$10
Frequency: 🗌 Monthly 🗌 Quarterly 🗌 Annuall	y
Automatically charge my credit card for: \Box 1 years	ar 🗌 2 years 🔲 4 years 🗌 Until I say stop.
Payment type: 🗆 Cash 🛛 Check 🖾 Money order 🗔 /	Mastercard 🗌 Visa
Credit card number:	Expiration date:
Signature:	
\$ TOTAL ENCLOSED (Make checks payable to "Li	bertarian Party")
Member Contact Information:	
Name:	County:
Address:	
	Evening phone:
	Day phone:

Mail this completed form with payment to: The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania 3863 Union Deposit Road, #223 Harrisburg, PA 17109 Every Citizen Pays \$8,213 Today for Pennsylvania Government Cost of state and local government increased under Rendell by more than \$800 per person!

Matthew J. Brouillette, 717-671-1901

Harrisburg, PA - As Gov. Rendell delivered his third budget address, the Commonwealth Foundation released a report showing Pennsylvanians are paying more than \$800 per capita today to support state and local government spending than they did prior to the start of the Rendell Administration-an increase in government spending of nearly 11 percent in just two years.

"Big Government is Pennsylvania's major growth industry," said Matthew J. Brouillette, president of the Commonwealth Foundation. "Under Gov. Rendell's leadership, we now have more people working for government than we have workers in manufacturing. How long can our commonwealth survive-let alone thrive-when we continue to create more 'takers' than 'makers'?"

The Commonwealth Foundation report, Total Cost of Pennsylvania Government: 2005 and Beyond, calculated that Pennsylvania state and local government spending rose from \$4,407 per person in FY 1991-92 to an estimated \$8,213 per person in FY 2004-05.

"In just the first two years of the Rendell Administration, the cost of state and local government has increased by \$803 for every man, woman and child in Pennsylvania," noted Brouillette. Total Pennsylvania government spending rose from \$7,410 in FY 2002-03 to \$8,213 in FY 2004-05-a 10.8 percent increase.

The total cost of state and local government in Pennsylvania is projected to exceed \$102 billion in FY 2004-05, and will likely reach more than \$115 billion by the 2008-09 fiscal year (by conservative projections). This increase in total Pennsylvania government spending is more than double (112.8 percent) the concurrent combined 40.6 percent rate of population growth and inflation.

Commonwealth Foundation Senior Policy Analyst Grant Gulibon, and report author, noted that if state and local government spending had been limited to the previous year's combined rate of inflation and population growth between FY income increases) and population growth.

Brouillette noted, "If such spending limits had been in place before Gov. Rendell's tenure, every Pennsylvanian would be paying \$544 less today for Pennsylvania's big and growing government.

"For the sake of Pennsylvania's working moms and dads, state lawmakers must get control of government spending."

1991-92 and FY 2004-05, the amount each Pennsylvanian paid for state and local government today would be \$2,103 less (\$6,110 for every man, woman and child rather than the actual government price tag of \$8,213 per capita).

"This is money families could use to pay for prescription drugs, tutoring for their kids, or fixing the car," said Gulibon. "It's money that should have been left in the hands of citizens."

Brouillette said the explosive growth of government spending over just the past two years is severely hindering job creators and hurting families. "For the sake of Pennsylvania's working moms and dads, state lawmakers must get control of government spending."

"If policy makers are truly concerned about making Pennsylvania a better place to live, work and raise a family, they must begin working on a 'spending and tax accountability' amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution," he said. Such a measure will control future spending by requiring voter approval of increases in state and local spending exceeding the combined rates of inflation (or any other measure of wage or The Commonwealth Foundation is an independent, non-profit public policy research and educational institute based in Harrisburg, PA.

NOTE: The Policy Brief, Total Cost of Pennsylvania Government: 2005 and Beyond, is available on-line at CommonwealthFoundation.org or by calling 717-671-1901.



info@lppa.org 1-800-R-Rights www.LPPa.org

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Philadelphia Libertarians Oppose Smoking Ban

Philadelphia, PA - The Libertarian Party of Philadelphia (www.lpPhilly.org) announced the beginning of its campaign to defeat the bill to ban smoking in most workplaces introduced in City Council recently.

"This anti-smoking bill is nothing more than a vicious attack against anyone who owns property in Philadelphia," said Joseph Leibrandt, Chair of the lpPhilly. "Why does City Council think it should dictate to a bar or restaurant owner where customers can smoke? The choice of allowing smoking or not should be left to business owners, employees, and patrons. If ordinary people really want smoke free bars, bar owners will voluntarily open smoke free bars. In fact, in the past few years several new smoke free bars have opened in Philadelphia." If a customer is caught by the police smoking in a bar every week, the bar owner will have to pay \$15,000 in fines every year. Said Leibrandt: "This has nothing to do with health -- along with red light cameras, this is just another way to get money from the hard pressed Philadelphia taxpayer!"

Leibrandt continued: "The City of Philadelphia takes on average \$150 via the wage tax every month from each Philadelphian. Given a free choice between (a) a city government that takes this much and interferes in whether you can smoke in a bar, or (b) a smaller city government which doesn't take any money from you in wage tax, which would you rather have?" "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Libertarian Penn

- Benjamin Franklin, Historical Review of Pennsylvania [1759]

"The essential feature of government is the enforcement of its decrees by beating, killing, and imprisoning. Those who are asking for more government interference are asking ultimately for more compulsion and less freedom."

> - Ludwig von Mises, Human Action [1949]

LPPa Annual Convention: April 29 - May 1, 2005, Harrisburg Your Itinerary and Registration Form are enclosed!