

LIBERTARIAN PENN

Newsletter Of The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania

Nov.-Dec. 1980

50,000 Pennsylvanians Vote Libertarian

When the official vote totals are made available in December, it will be clear that the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania will be able to claim more than 50,000 Pennsylvania voters cast a vote for one or more of our 20 candidates! Official results aren't available yet, but Ed Clark received approximately 32,000 votes for President in Pennsylvania and Dick Fuerle about the same for Attorney General. The next issue of this newsletter will have a comprehensive analysis of the vote totals statewide, but we do know some of the results in congressional and state house races.

Our four best results were: Loise White, 51st District—4.3%; Tim McDermott, 187th District—4.1%; Wade Lehman, 95th District—2.2%; and Geoff Steinberg, 1st Cong. District—2%. It should be noted that Geoff carried 22% of the vote (in a five way race) in his home election district where he campaigned heavily!

When one considers that the LPP had only 26 dues-paying members in the entire state just 20 months ago, the fact that we collected 80,000 signatures just to get on the ballot, ran 19 candidates, started new activist groups in almost every congressional district, distributed more than 200,000 pieces of literature, and tripled the size of our mailing list to well over 1,000, and raised more than \$20,000 in the state shows that the 1980 effort was a tremendous accomplishment.

And the results nationwide, while not the millions some people were optimistically expecting, clearly show growth for the LP. The LP is now solidly established as the nation's third largest party, and the gains of 1980 will inspire us towards bigger and better results in 1982 and 1984.

Ed Clark received approximately 910,000 votes nationwide, with his best percentage coming in Alaska where he received 12% of the vote. This was better than five times the size of the vote that Roger MacBride received in 1976. While Clark was, admittedly, on more ballots than MacBride, this was a much closer election (at least in the final polls) and there was no effective "Anderson difference" that year. Getting on the ballot in 50 states and D.C. (the first "third party" candidate to get on every possible ballot since 1916) was a major achievement itself, as was the slating of more than 500 candidates across the nation.

And three of those candidates were elected! Dick Randolph won re-election to the Alaska House and was joined by Ken Fanning. Mary Shell was elected Mayor of Bakersfield, California. Clark was the balance of power in four states, and three of our U.S. Senate Candidates also held the balance of power in their races. The number of states with permanent ballot status went up to 13 from 6.

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania was not one of the states to acquire ballot status. Reagan was the high vote getter and 2% of his total equalled some 46,000 votes. Clark and Fuerle fell only 14,000 votes short and this means we have to go through a ballot drive again in 1982. The major parties

have conspired once again to "do in" independent candidates because a new law reduces the petitioning time in 1982 to half what it was in 1980, but does not cut the number of signatures. Fortunately, our organization will be so much stronger in 1982 that the ballot drive hurdle should be attainable.

Our strategy of concentrating resources behind Dick Fuerle, as the only independent candidate for Attorney General, was a good one. Unfortunately, the resources were inadequate to fully advertise Dick's race and his views. Also hurting the Pennsylvania effort was the unavailability of Ed Clark for more campaign time in the state. Perhaps the largest factor, however, was the closeness of the race predicted between Reagan and Carter and the importance of Pennsylvania's 27 electoral votes. Each of our activists reports case after case of voters (even people who gave money to Clark or passed out his literature) deciding on election day that they had to vote for one of the "lesser of three evils". It is quite possible that a prediction of a landslide for Reagan in Pennsylvania would have produced 60,000 votes or more for Ed Clark.

Of course what the vote total fails to measure is the true number of people who liked what they heard and saw from the Libertarian Party, but failed to vote for us. And Ronald Reagan, with his rhetoric about "cutting taxes and getting the government off our backs", was the worse possible choice to campaign against. Four years from now, the Reagan promises will be seen broken by "politics as usual", and many free-market conservatives will turn towards Libertarianism even as the continued failure of world-wide interventionism (as first instituted by Franklin D. Roosevelt) drives those interested in peace towards our camp.

The Libertarian message was heard throughout Pennsylvania and America. Most of those we want to reach—the media, the opinion makers, the voters interested in political issues—have learned of the LP and our views. Many were impressed, as our candidates report from their numerous interviews, candidates nights, and personal contact with the voters.

There were two editorial endorsements of LP candidates in Pennsylvania. The *Pike County Dispatch* endorsed Ed Clark and the *Greenburg Tribune-Review* endorsed Loise White for her "common sense libertarian approach". The Articles Editor of *Philadelphia Magazine*, Ron Javers, wrote a flattering article about Ed Clark and the gleeful prospect of casting a vote against "Carter the ineffectual, Reagan the intimidating, and Anderson the inane". Many, many other positive articles were written about our candidates and the media, by and large, treated our candidates with respect and our ideas with seriousness. In fact, the campaign turned up (or created) more than a dozen libertarians in the media who are rooting for us to succeed in the future.

Another positive sign is that our candidates were largely
continued on page 3

New Organizational Structure For LPP

The Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania emerged from the 1980 election with the nucleus of clubs in about 30 of the Commonwealth's 67 counties. Members and supporters reside in just about all of the counties. This growth is the strength of the LPP, coupled with an increased desire to build local organizations and meet regularly, has caused the Executive Board to re-organize the LPP along county lines.

The Commonwealth has been divided into seven regions and a coordinator has been appointed for each region. The coordinator is responsible for building new and existing county organizations, helping them develop outreach and internal education programs, and acting as a liaison between LPP, the National Party and the "grass-roots" county organizations.

Barbara Karkutt, the LPP Secretary, is computerizing all of the LPP's mailing lists by county so that Regional Coordinators and County Chairs can contact all the libertarians in their area. Then, local clubs can be set up with regular meetings so that supporters all over the state can involve themselves in libertarian activities on an organized basis. The County clubs are expected to be a tremendous help in building the LPP through the municipal elections taking place in 1981.

Right now we are looking for volunteers to serve as County Chairmen or to agree to host a meeting so that all the libertarians in their county can get together and choose a chairman. A County Chairman oversees LPP organizational activities and programs in his county, directs the media effort, recruits new members, seeks speaking appearances for the speakers bureau, conducts outreach activities, finds candidates and develops campaigns, builds the LPP in his county, and develops campus and municipally-based LPP clubs.

Those who would consider being a County Chair, or just helping to organize a County LPP club, will please contact the Coordinator listed for their county, or contact the State Chairman, Dave Walter, directly at 215-672-3892.

The Board has set a goal of organizing County clubs in 50 counties by the end of 1981, including all 42 counties where the population (in 1970) was greater than 50,000. This is an ambitious goal, certainly, but well within the capabilities of the enthusiastic and hard-working activists the LPP is proud to have. ★

Regions, Coordinators And Counties

Southeastern Region:

Coordinator: Hans Schroeder, P.O. Box 392, Forest Grove, Pa. 18922; 215-794-3386

Counties: Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware, Chester.

Northeastern Region:

Coordinator: Courtenay Hough, 210 Cattell St., Easton, Pa. 18042; 215-253-3601.

Counties: Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Schuylkill, Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Sullivan, Bradford, Wyoming, Susquehanna.

Southeastcentral Region:

Coordinator: Janice Lehman, 736 McKenzie St., York, Pa. 17403; 717-843-3691.

Counties: Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, York, Adams, Cumberland, Perry, Juniata, Mifflin, Franklin.

Southwestcentral Region:

Coordinator: to be named.

Counties: Fulton, Bedford, Blair, Huntingdon, Indiana, Somerset

Northcentral Region:

Coordinator: to be named.

Counties: Snyder, Union, Lycoming, Tioga, Centre, Clinton, Potter, Clearfield, Jefferson, Elk, Cameron, McKean

Northwestern Region:

Coordinator: to be named.

Counties: Armstrong, Butler, Beaver, Lawrence, Clarion, Venango, Mercer, Forest, Warren, Crawford, Erie

Southwestern Region:

Coordinator: Robert Fink, 306 Fifth Ave., Carnegie, Pa. 15106; 412-276-7509.

Counties: Westmoreland, Fayette, Greene, Washington, Allegheny, Cambria. ★

Libertarian Resources

A better understanding of the principles of libertarianism is a goal each LPP member should strive for: whether you are a person who has been in the "movement" for years, or a person who was just attracted through the Clark for President ads. The better we understand, the better we can teach others through our candidacies, platforms, and outreach efforts. It is easy for the general public to misunderstand our ideas; let's make certain that each Libertarian fully understands them!

Here is a list of resources that you might wish to use in increasing your own understanding of our philosophy, and libertarian positions on current issues.

MAGAZINES:

Reason Magazine

Box 40105
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
\$15 per year

Libertarian Review

1620 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
\$15 per year

The Freeman

Irvington on Hudson, NY
10533
64 pgs. each month — Free

NEWSLETTERS:

Individual Liberty

P.O. Box 1147
Warminster, PA 18974
\$5 per year

Frontlines

1129 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
\$15 per year

ISSUE PAPERS:

Society for Individual Liberty

P.O. Box 1147
Warminster, PA 18974

45 different issues bound
in one packet—\$3 postpaid

BOOKS:

Laissez Faire Books
206 Mercer Street
New York, NY 10012

This bookstore has the
biggest selection at
reasonable prices. Write
for a catalog.

These are 10 books that should be read:

The Machinery of Freedom by David Friedman

Libertarianism by Dr. John Hospers

The Libertarian Alternative ed. by Dr. Tibor Machan

Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

For A New Liberty by Dr. Murray Rothbard

No Treason by Lysander Spooner

Man, Economy and State by Dr. Murray Rothbard

The Capitalist Reader ed. by Dr. Lawrence Stepelevich

Restoring the American Dream by Robert Ringer

Conceived In Liberty, Vol IV—The American Revolution by Dr. Murray Rothbard ★

continued from page 1

shown to be qualified for the jobs they sought. We ran no railroad engineers for State Treasurer and each of our candidates was prepared, if elected, to competently serve in the office. Wade Lehman was told by one minister that his congregation felt that his credentials were much better than that of his two opponents, but that they "had to vote for someone who could win". Pat Ryan was another candidate who stood head and shoulders above his Democrat opponent. The lesson is clear—keep running candidates who are more qualified than opponents (not only in understanding of Libertarian ideas but in the normal credentials a voter tends to look for) and who present challenging and progressive ideas. They like us now; soon they'll be voting for us.

Many who voted against us still liked some of our ideas. Even opponents stated that "we had some good new ideas". Things such as tuition credits for private schools, and making Japan and Germany bear more of their defense load are just two of the Libertarian issues you might see co-opted by the major parties first. After all, even if we never win, our object is to see a free society created. It doesn't much matter if it is created by Republicans, Democrats or Libertarians.

In a letter to LPP Chairman, Dave Walter, the National Director of the Libertarian Party, Bill Burt, stated that "I realize just how far you've come organizationally and in other ways. In a word, I'm delighted with your success!" The LPP effort won prominent coverage in the October *Libertarian News* and has emerged from the campaign as another of this year's success stories. Except for ballot status, the goals were achieved; and, with all of the activism generated, permanent ballot status can be ours at last in 1982. ★

Help Reduce Campaign Debt



A small debt, something under \$1,000, remains from the 1980 campaign. Let's not let this debt remain around to nag us for months—let's retire it before the first of January so that we can move on to fund other projects.

Please send your check, earmarked for the 1980 campaign debt, to Frank Bubb, 97 Dartmouth Ave., Swarthmore, Pa. 19081. Make it payable to "LPP Federal Candidates Committee". Don't forget, you may take a federal income tax credit of 50% of your contributions up to \$100 for an individual return and \$200 for a joint return. This means that if you haven't given \$100 or \$200 to candidates this year, you can give up to that amount by 12/31 and still get 50% of it back as a tax credit. Why give more money to Washington to waste on their pet programs? Double what you would normally give to this appeal and get the LPP campaign debt retired. ★



Dave Walter

From The Chairman

In 1876 the Greenback Party polled less than 1% of the vote in the Presidential race. Two years later, they elected 14 congressmen. This historical fact illustrates that ideas in the political arena can "catch fire". The success of the socialist platform, without major Socialist Party victories, is another example. I believe that libertarian ideas may be on the same threshold of success—four years of Reagan saber-rattling, economic mismanagement and tax increases, plus foreign adventurism and invasion of personal liberties will guarantee us a hearing again in four years.

The voters may be ready to turn back to statism and collectivism on the scale practiced by the Democrats, but they may want to try the Libertarian option of respect for each individual and his rights. Our task is clear. We must keep Libertarian principles before the people so that they will have the choice between freedom and slavery. We must do more to refine and explain our ideas so that they are attractive while remaining "hard core". We must challenge, cajole, and demonstrate to the voters that Republicans and Democrats do not support individual rights in practice, no matter how much they support those rights when speaking from the soapbox.

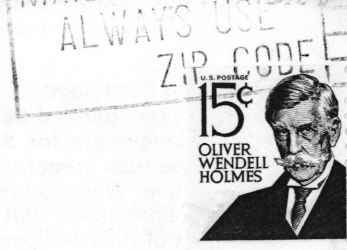
The task we've undertaken is no easy one. Voters tend to stay with what they know best, even if they dislike it. This will change as Libertarians win office in various parts of the country and demonstrate, like Dick Randolph did in Alaska, that we not only mean what we say, but that what we practice is good for Americans.

Pennsylvania and the whole East Coast is more tradition-bound than the other areas of the country. Our voters still stick with the Floods and Lederers no matter how disgusting their behavior. But we Libertarians did make a mark in 1980, and we will continue to make a mark in the future. Let's resolve that we are here to stay in Pennsylvania, and that we will organize to run more candidates in 1981 than in 1980, and yet again more in 1982. Let's resolve to study the principles of Libertarianism so that each of us understands them better and becomes a better teacher the next time we are called upon to discuss our views.

I'm certain that we have the dedicated people in Pennsylvania to win eventual victory. Space does not permit me to name each of the activists, volunteers, candidates and contributors who did so much in 1980. Let me say THANK YOU for all your time and effort, and assure you that I am proud to be associated with every one of you. ★



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Register/Vote
LIBERTARIAN



Join The Libertarian Party Now

Your dues money pays for this newsletter and LPP out-reach activities. Your national LP dues keep the National office running and provides a staff that helps state organizations everywhere. It also ensures that you receive a subscription to *Libertarian News*, the newsletter of the National Party. Providing this newsletter is not inexpensive; therefore, if you believe it to be worthwhile, and if you want to see the LPP continue to move forward, you'll want to JOIN at this time. Use the application below to join both the LPP and National LP. We'll all be glad that you did.

1981 Convention

The 1981 Convention of the LPP will be held March 7th and 8th in the Pittsburgh area. A nationally prominent libertarian will be invited to Keynote the event and other speakers, probably on state and local issues, will also appear.

Business to be transacted includes election of new officers, endorsement of the 1981 candidates, and election of delegates to the 10th Anniversary National Convention in Denver. Mark the weekend on your calendar now and watch for more details.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, Box 942, Easton, PA 18042

YES! I want to join the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania/National Libertarian Party in the membership category I've checked below. Enclosed is my check for the indicated amount, made payable to "Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania". I understand that this entitles me to a one year subscription to *Libertarian Penn.*

Name _____ Phone _____ National & LPP Membership \$20.

Address _____ LPP Memberships Only:

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation or school _____

Student \$6
 Regular \$12
 Sustaining \$25
 Patron \$50
 Lifetime \$100
 Lifetime Sustaining \$250

} Add \$8 for National Membership

Member's Pledge: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Signature _____ Date _____