

January 1986

Palmetto Libertarian Forum



A FORUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTARIAN PARTY

PLEASE READ EVERY PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER!

ALL INFORMATION ON EVERY PAGE IS IMPORTANT.

This issue of the *PALMETTO LIBERTARIAN FORUM* is a bit different from past issues. The original purpose of this newsletter was to provide a forum for S.C.L.P. members to express their views on controversial subjects. The *SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTARIAN* has been the outreach publication and has, in the past, been designed to announce upcoming events and to appeal to new prospects. However, financial and other factors have lead to a temporary halt in its publication.

This issue of the *FORUM* does not cover any controversial topics. Debate during the coming months will center around the S.C.L.P. Platform. A copy of the 1984 Platform is enclosed. Steve Vandervelde will again chair the Platform Committee, whose other members will be chosen at the January 18 Executive Committee meeting in Columbia. The Platform Committee will hold a hearing in March, and all members are encouraged to attend. Contact Steve (779-3985) for details.

In addition, if funds are available, the March issue of the *FORUM* will focus on debate about the platform. S.C.L.P. members are encouraged to express their views. Please send your comments to the editor by February 10.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- January 18 - Executive Committee meeting and Activity Workshops at the Sesquicentennial State Park (see page 4). Please come!*
- February 15 - Precinct meetings at noon at each county court house (see page 3).*
- March 1 - Deadline for membership renewal if you want to be a delegate to the State Convention.*
- March 15 - County conventions at noon at each county court house (see page 3).*
- March ?? - Platform Committee hearing - date to be set later (see details on this page).*
- April 12 - State Convention at the Town House on Gervais St. in Columbia.*
- April 15 - TAX PROTEST DAY! See page 2 for details.*

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

If you want to be a delegate to the state convention in April, you must renew your membership by March 1, and your county must organize properly. S.C.L.P. Bylaws require that all delegates be S.C.L.P. members by March 1, so please send in your membership form and dues as soon as possible, and make plans to attend your precinct meeting on Feb. 15, and your county convention on March 15.

Federal law prohibits political parties from making the payment of dues an absolute requirement for participation in party organization, but we really need money to pay for newsletters and other necessary operating expenses. Please contribute as much as you possibly can.

S.C.L.P. OFFICERS

Chairman: Ron Heaton (663-7927)
 Vice-Chairman: Arnold Hite (795-7658)
 Secretary: John Harllee (669-8345)
 Treasurer and Education
 Chairman: David Morris (796-3161)
 Newsletter Editor (S.C.L.):
 John Heaton (648-9806)
 Media Co-ordinator: Ron Heaton (663-7927)
 Campaign '86 Committee Acting
 Chairman: Bill Griffin (755-9304)
 Platform Committee Chairman:
 Steve Vandervelde (779-3985)

At the time of publication of this newsletter, it is unclear which S.C.L.P. officers plan to run again for their positions. All officers except the chairman and vice-chairman are elected by the Executive Committee.

Help Us Celebrate Tax Protest Day

This year, as in past years, libertarians will hand out anti-tax flyers on April 15 at post offices throughout South Carolina (and in other states). This is one of our most important annual outreach efforts. April 15 is a good time to reach out to disgruntled taxpayers, who have great antipathy towards the government on that day. The Libertarian Party must convince these persons that there is an alternative to the tax-and-spend policies of the Republicans and Democrats.

We really need a lot of help with this. We need libertarians in every county to hand out thousands of flyers. This year each county must purchase their flyers well in advance. The S.C.L.P. will get the flyers printed in March and will make them available to each county at a discount rate. The Education Chairman will bring them to the State Convention on April 12 and distribute them to counties that have placed orders previously.

Each county chairperson, and any other person, who wants to order flyers for Tax Protest Day, must send his/her order, including payment, to the Education Chairman by March 15 (David Morris, P.O. Box 2297, West Columbia, S.C. 29171). The cost will be as follows:

500 -	\$10
1000 -	\$19
2000 -	\$35
3000 -	\$50
4000 -	\$65

Everyone is urged to send in their orders as soon as possible. The deadline, again, is March 15 (the day of the county conventions).



1986 Convention and Organization Procedure

Every two years, the South Carolina Libertarian Party has to reorganize according to strict guidelines laid down in the election laws. This is not a suggestion of how to do things; this is how things **MUST** be done to stay on the ballot.

First, we must hold precinct meetings. We have picked Saturday, noon, February 15, at the front door of the local county courthouse for all precinct meetings. The meeting need not last more than 2 or 3 minutes. Each precinct elects a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and county committeeman who must all be reported immediately to the county clerk of court. It also elects one delegate to the county convention, who is reported, along with the others, to the county L.P. chair. (If Bergland got 38 or more votes in your precinct in 1984, you are entitled to a second delegate.)

These officers must be members of the Libertarian Party and must be registered to vote in that precinct. To qualify as a member, by law - no matter what anyone else may tell you - you must subscribe to the principles of the party and not belong to any other party, as well as being a registered voter.

It helps to organize as many precincts as possible, and to appoint an alternate delegate to the county convention. If there are not 5 libertarians in a precinct, one person may hold more than one office.

The county convention is noon, Saturday, March 15, at the same place. If there is any real business besides electing county officers, you may adjourn the convention to another time and another **PUBLIC** place; but you must start then and there. The county convention consists of the delegates (or their alternates) elected a month before. They must elect a county chairman, vice-chairman, and state committeeman, and must report these to the county clerk of court immediately.

The county convention must also elect delegates to the state convention and report them, and the county officers, to the state secretary of the S.C.L.P. A list of delegates, with their money for the convention, should go to the state treasurer. Each person who wishes to be a delegate to the state convention must be a S.C.L.P. member by March 1, 1986. In early March, the state treasurer will send to each county a list of S.C.L.P. members in that county.

Unlike the precinct officers, the county officers have real duties. The chairman is responsible for calling meetings, and is also expected to act as spokesman for the L.P. with the local media. The vice-chairman substitutes for him and replaces him in a vacancy. The state committeeman is a member of the executive committee and is expected to attend statewide meetings.

In addition, the county convention may nominate candidates for county offices. These nominees must be reported at once to the county election commission and to the state party secretary. They must file the Statement of Economic Interest on the spot with the Ethics Commission, if they have not

done so previously. The convention should adjourn on the call of the chair in case it is desired to nominate more candidates later.

The number of delegates allowed to the state convention depends on the county's population; county chairmen should have a list. Other libertarians may be alternates.

The state convention meets in Columbia on Saturday, April 12, at the Town House on Gervais St. The delegates elect a convention chairman, vice-chairman, two secretaries, and a treasurer whose duties are confined to that day. The delegates then elect a state chairman and vice-chairman for 1986-88. The delegates nominate candidates for the legislature and for federal and statewide offices. These candidates must hand their Statement of Economic Interest to the state secretary on that day. The delegates also hear speakers and reports and transact any other business.

Immediately after the state convention, the executive committee meets. It must elect a state secretary and treasurer. It also transacts any other business, such as reappointing or replacing other party officers.

All of this is reported to the proper state officials to get our candidates on the ballot. It is essential that everything be done at the proper time, place, and manner. If your county does not get organized, you are welcome to attend the state convention as a non-voting observer.

Candidates must file campaign disclosure forms after the election; they do not have to file them in June after the primary because they are not being nominated by primary. Candidates for federal office also have to file a variety of reports with the federal election commission. Candidates are responsible for seeing that all these reports are filed.

There are emergency procedures in case of a meeting being snowed out; contact me at once. The clerk of court and county election commission are normally in the county court house. The secretary is John Harllee (Rt. 10, Box 52-A, Florence, S.C. 29501) and the treasurer is David Morris (P.O. Box 2297, West Columbia, S.C. 29171). The State Ethics Commission is at 1122 Lady St., #930, Columbia, S.C. 29201.

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The above article was written by John Harllee, who is S.C.L.P. Secretary and Editor of the Southern Libertarian Messenger.

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COUNTY CHAIRPERSONS

Aiken: John Heaton (648-9806)
 Anderson: Howard Johnson (296-5204)
 Beaufort: Jim Wright (785-4281)
 Berkeley: Bruce Knight (744-0748)
 Charleston: Joan DiGiovanni (795-6048)
 Cherokee: Linda Blevins (839-4586)
 Darlington: Hugh Thompson (393-3609)
 Florence: David Rosser (669-1102)
 Greenville: Bill McCuen (232-7476)
 Greenwood: Bob Madden (229-0006)
 Horry: Jim Wilson (449-5053)
 Lexington: David Morris (796-3161)
 Richland: Steve Vanderveide (779-3985)
 Spartanburg: Carl Hartmann (472-3169)
 York: Cliff Ross (327-3337)

Note: Other counties can organize, if it is done precisely according to the above instructions.

State Meeting and Activity Workshops to be held on January 18

ALL LIBERTARIANS SHOULD MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THIS MEETING!

DATE: Saturday, January 18

PLACE: Convention Center
Sesquicentennial State Park
3 miles north of I-20 on U.S. 1
Columbia

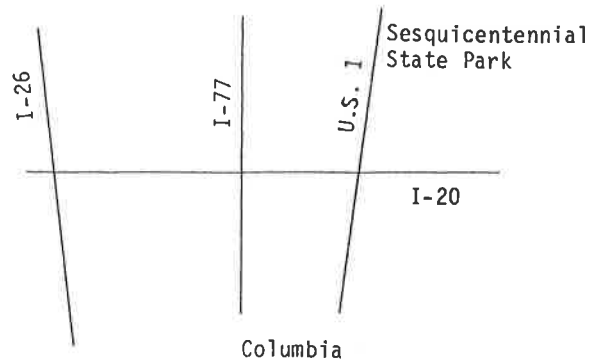
TIME: 9:30 Registration and
informal gathering.
10-12 Executive Committee meeting.
Everyone welcome to attend.
All county chairpersons
should attend.

12-1 Lunch. We will collect money
and send out for food.

1-5 Afternoon workshops on various topics (grass roots organizing, public
relations, media awareness, campaign tactics, etc.).

FEE: None. Contributions will be collected to cover room and meal expenses.

The workshops will be directed by Ron Heaton, John Heaton, Mary Lou Seymour, and Tom King. These four libertarians from Aiken County have had much success in organizing libertarian activities at the county level. Their efforts to fight zoning have resulted in extensive media coverage in the Aiken area, and they will teach the rest of us how they did it. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to increase the size, activity, and visibility of the Libertarian Party in your county. If you truly value Liberty, come to this meeting!



*The Palmetto Libertarian Forum
is published by the South Carolina
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all correspondence to the Editor.*

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