

Libertarian Party of Hawaii

May 2011
News

E Komo Mai

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Coming events:

2011 Hawaii Libertarian Party Convention

When: SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011, FROM 2:00PM TO 6:45PM

Where: [UNITARIAN CHURCH](#)
2500 PALI HIGHWAY
HONOLULU, HI

Cost: \$35 (INCLUDES 1 YEAR DUES WITH
THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF HAWAII)



Presidential candidates **Dr. Mary Ruwart** and **R. Lee Wrights** will be our featured speakers.

Mary Ruwart may be best known for her book, [Healing Our World](#), about political freedom of choice, currently in its third edition. *Healing* has been translated into Russian, Serbian, Croatian, Lithuanian, and Romanian. Mary is a former LP Presidential candidate is now on the LP National Committee.



R. Lee Wrights is founder and editor of [LibertyForAll.net](#), America's premier online libertarian newsletter. Lee has been active in the local, state, and national Libertarian Party organizations since 2000. He has been a member of the LP National Committee, and is a lifetime member of the Libertarian Party. Lee is a current LP Presidential candidate.

Also speaking:



Alan Matsuda is a certified financial planner and known to all as a long time member of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii.

Richard O. Rowland, is a graduate of Texas A&M University (BS) and Columbia University (MA), and came to Hawaii in 1971. Retiring as a Colonel in 1975, he was a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual for 26 years before co-founding the [Grassroot Institute of Hawaii](#). Twice a candidate for the U.S. Senate and once for the Honolulu City Council, he was Chair of the LPH, a former member of the SBH Board of Directors, and the 1997 SBH Small Business Person of the Year Award.



Coming events:

2011 Libertarian Party of Hawaii Convention program:

- 2:00** Arrive
- 2:15** Call to order by LPH Chairman
Introductions about one minute each.
- 3:00** Lee Wrights speech followed by Q & A
- 3:45** Break for sodas and snacks
- 4:00** Alan Matsuda, Dick Rowland, etc.
- 4:45** Mary Ruwart speech followed by Q & A
- 5:30** Discussion on where do we go from here
- 6:00** Election of officers
- 6:40** Closing remarks
- Clean up and out by 7PM**

If you have any suggestions for the convention please contact:

Tracy Ryan, Honolulu County Chair
(808) 534-1846
tracyar@hawaiiantel.net

After Convention Party

When: SATURDAY, MAY 21, FROM 8:00PM
Where: [JIM HENSHAW'S HOUSE](#)
649 KANAHA STREET
KAILUA, HI



There will be a reception for our out-of-town guests beginning after the end of the convention. A good time will be had by all.

If you have questions please contact:

Jim Henshaw, 263-8091
jhenshaw@hawaii.rr.com



How I Became a Libertarian

By [Mary Ruwart](#)

My journey to liberty began at the tender age of seven, when I fell madly in love with Walt Disney's rendition of General Francis Marion. This legendary Southern freedom fighter harassed the British during the Revolutionary War and became known as the elusive Swamp Fox. My infatuation was not simply with the hero of the TV show, played by actor Leslie Nielsen, however. Somehow the concept of freedom, poorly understood by my young mind, drew me like a magnet.

After I had exhausted everything that the library had on the Swamp Fox, I began reading accounts of the American Revolution, just to gain a better understanding of what my hero had been up against. My history classes dealing with the founding of our nation were disappointing, however. They dealt with prominent battles and dates and not with the true meaning of liberty.

Consequently, throughout high school, I still equated liberty with democracy. My first introduction to hard-core libertarian concepts was in my freshman year of college when a friend insisted that I read [Atlas Shrugged](#).

Although I enjoyed the book immensely, I was concerned with its apparent lack of compassion. Raised as a Catholic, I could not reconcile the concept of ending tax-supported welfare with Christ's admonition to love our neighbors.

In considering this dilemma, I suddenly became aware of a pivotal point: although refusing to help others might not be very loving, pointing guns at our neighbors to force them to help those in need was even less so. Honoring our neighbor's choice was more loving than the forcible alternative. If people needed helping, I should expend my energy to offer that help, rather than forcing others to provide it.

In the next couple of years, I quickly went from an objectivist to anarchist. In the late 1960s, Morris and Linda Tannehill lived in the E. Lansing, Michigan area, where I was going to school. Through the friend who encouraged me to read Ayn Rand's books, I met this fascinating couple and obtained a copy of their libertarian-anarchist book, [The Market for Liberty](#).

I was easily won over to anarchy.

For the next several years, although philosophically a libertarian, I was not even aware of the term. I finally discovered the Party in the early 1980s.

For me, libertarianism continues to be an evolution. As I detail in [Healing Our World](#), all paths, whether spiritual, practical, rational, or humanitarian, appear to lead to liberty, where these separate modalities become intertwined. Perhaps we truly are hard-wired for freedom so that nothing less will do.

December 14, 2002

The Sanity of Self-Defense

by R. Lee Wrights

I have been called numerous things in the many years I have spent embroiled in various causes; but, until a couple of years ago I had never been called a gun wacko. Oddly enough I was labeled as such because of something I wrote that advocated individuals taking responsibility for their own defense. Because I encourage people to educate themselves in the area of self-defense, to avoid finding themselves at the mercy of criminals and over-zealous bureaucrats, I was labeled a gun nut. So, that is how it is these days? If you encourage people to defend themselves, you are some sort of mentally-challenged individual best suited for a private, padded room? My how times have changed.



When I was a youngster, growing up in the turbulent '60's, I learned quickly that self-defense was the most basic instinct instilled in mankind. I discovered, mostly out of necessity, that there is nothing stronger in human nature than the drive for self-preservation. I also learned that defense of self cannot be trusted to the hands of others that share the same natural disposition of self first. I learned that rarely was anyone in a position of authority around when I really needed them. In other words, those who were charged with my safety proved incapable of rendering the service. I was often forced to take matters into my own hands.

As I grew older and embarked upon my personal voyage on the boisterous Sea of Life, I further realized that the lessons I had learned in my youth applied equally in adult life. Once again I discovered that those charged with my personal safety, i.e., the police and politicians, were not likely to be in the vicinity when I actually needed protection. The older I got the more apparent it became that the real insanity in the area of self-defense was relinquishing the responsibility of self-preservation to groups or governments that could not possibly protect me. The only sane alternative remaining to individuals that desire to live unmolested is arming themselves in order to insure Life and Liberty and further perpetuate their ability to pursue happiness. Remember the old saying, "If you want a job done right, do it yourself."

Now, while I was busy learning life's lessons the hard way about everything from facing down bullies intent on relieving me of my milk money to dealing with thugs that were determined to do me harm, my father was teaching me something else. Dad was tutoring me in the means by which I could protect myself. He taught me the importance of the ability to meet force with force while avoiding force whenever humanly possible. He taught me to use my wits instead of weapons when it was appropriate, but made sure I knew how to use a weapon when left with no other alternative. Dad also taught me that an unmolested firearm, even fully loaded, is harmless. Ah, there's the rub.

It is this simple fact that trumpets the safety of firearms. Guns do not kill people! They are not animate with the ability to remove themselves from their hiding places and discharging without external manipulation. The truth is people kill people. Sometimes they use guns; sometimes they use blades; sometimes they use baseball bats; and sometimes they use their hands. The fact remains that more gun legislation, leading to stricter gun registration, does not and will not stop the killing. People were killing each other long before the first black-powder device was invented (remember, Cain killed Abel with a rock); and, they will continue to kill each other even if you were able to remove every firearm from the face of the planet. It is insane to disarm ourselves only to be left at the mercy of criminals who are no more troubled by the State's new laws than they were with the old ones.

So, given the generally accepted facts that police and government cannot protect us, coupled with the reality that more laws just give criminals more to ignore, why is it considered, by some, an unstable stance to champion the right of every individual to defend themselves, by any means at their disposal, should the need arise? Why would anyone try to turn the sanity of self-defense into apparent fanatical advocacy for the return of "old West shoot-outs?" Fear is a very effective tool, that's why.

The gun-grabbers have already succeeded, at least to some degree, in making a significant number of voters afraid of the guns themselves. The decades of campaigns declaring, "Guns kill," have been effective in fostering mistrust of anyone possessing a firearm other than State-sanctioned officials. Instead of teaching children a proper respect for weapons so they may become adequate stewards of their own safety, they are taught to fear the weapon and cautioned to simply surrender to aggression. Talk about insanity! If the founding fathers of this country had taken this approach, there would be no America to speak of today. The right of self-defense is the very foundation of Freedom, so much so, that one cannot exist without the other.

All this being said, it is no wonder that I found being called a gun wacko more than a little amusing. Even the implications of the term are hilarious when applied to me personally, and anyone that knows me would hardly characterize me as a gun nut. However, I do believe in experience. And what forty-three years of experience has taught me is that surrendering the responsibility for our own personal security, in exchange for a mere promise of safety, is anything but sane. In every instance of my life when I needed protection I have taken the initiative of self-defense because without it there would have been no defense at all. It has been from necessity, not desire, that I have had to defend my person and property.

Where were the police when my weekend sports shop was robbed? Where was my resident elected official when my neighbor's apartment was being ransacked? And wasn't that a government official holding a gun in my face just because I happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time? There would be no sanity without self-defense, and there would be no freedom. Surrender your security to no one. Take that responsibility upon yourself because you're the only one you can trust with your life.

I am not a nut and I am certainly not a wacko, I am just a realist. I do not buy the propaganda that strict gun registration or stiffer penalties imposed by a myriad of new laws will put a stop to violence in our society. I do not believe the lie that government can protect my family and I from that portion of society that chooses to live outside the limits of the law. As long as human beings inhabit the earth, some will always seek to do each other some amount of harm. The only sane reaction to this stark reality is to prepare a proper self-defense. As I have said before many times, "Enough is enough! Buy a gun, the life you save will probably be your own or that of someone you love."

Originally published in [Liberty For All](#) August, 2004.