



# The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

June 2002

Www.lpct.org

## Why I Had To Run For Governor

by Joseph Knott, Libertarian Party of Connecticut Candidate for Governor

As I watched the events unfold on the morning of 9-11, unlike most Americans I was not surprised at what I was seeing. The idea of using a commercial aircraft as a bomb and what to do about it has been a concern of Nuclear Security since Desert Storm in 1991. The National Guard was called up to "defend" the nation's airports in a move that did nothing to actually increase airport security but drastically affected the lives, families, incomes, businesses and employers of the Guardsmen involved. The federal government took over airport security and actually lowered the standards for airport screeners. The Intelligence and law enforcement agencies that failed to detect and prevent the events of 9-11 and it now appears actually hindered field agents investigations were granted sweeping new powers. Millions of dollars were promised to the States to upgrade fire and police departments to cope with the threat of terrorism.

Nine months later, at the State level, little has changed. Our airports are really no more secure today than they were on 9-11. The funds promised to upgrade our police and fire departments with a few exceptions are nonexistent. Our state legislature proposes a Bio-terrorism bill that is an insult to every man, woman and child in Connecticut. This bill which gives the Governor vast powers to confiscate private property, quarantine neighborhoods and force people to take vaccines against their will, shows the arrogance of many members of the state legislature and how out of touch they are with the people they represent. On 9-11 I did not see people running in fear to the government for protection and safety. Rather I saw thousands of Americans helping hopelessly overwhelmed government agencies.

From seatbelts to cell phones to how and when we walk our dogs, government intervention in our personal lives is at an

### Biography:

Joseph G. Knott Jr.

Age: 52

Life long resident of Connecticut  
Experience: Professional  
Photographer, Retail Management,  
Pratt & Whitney and Sikorsky  
Aircraft, Nuclear Security, Security  
Consultant and Firearms Training.

Licenses and ratings: NRA Certified  
Instructor in Rifle, Pistol, Firearm  
Home Safety and Personal Defense.  
State of Connecticut Licensed Bail  
Enforcement Agent and Bondsman.

Life member: National Rifle  
Association and National Defense  
Industry Association

Hobbies: Sailing and shooting

intolerable level. Republicans and Democrats alike support larger and more powerful government intervention. This cycle has to stop. As the events of 9-11 clearly show, the people can function without the government but the government can not function without the people.

## Court "Frees" LP Activist

Arrested activist, Richard Lion, has been "freed". Richard Lion was arrested during the Tax Day Protest in Hartford and was charged with trespass and obstructing traffic.

Richard came to the State Committee Meeting and explained that, with the help of our gubernatorial candidate, he had found a lawyer who appears to be good with this kind of issue. After some research, the attorney had a long list of reasons why Richard was not "guilty" of trespass or obstructing traffic.

The lawyer met with the prosecutor, and was told that a police officer was ready to testify that Richard was standing in the actual street. (Richard says he was never standing in the street, and it seems unlikely) His lawyer then asked how the charge of trespass could apply, if Richard was actually in the street. The prosecutor became angry and the meeting ended.

A little while later they met again,  
See Court "Frees" Activist, Page 2

## Libertarian Party Marches Through Meriden

It was a sunny but brisk spring morning, with bands playing and flags waving! This was the setting for the Libertarian Party when they marched their way through the center of town for the Meriden Memorial Day Parade.

The event was well attended by the

Libertarian Party. Our featured people included Libertarian Candidates: Joe Knott for Governor, Walter Gangarely for Congress, Arline Dunlop for State Representative of Meriden, Tony Stelik for State Representative and Len Rasch for State Comptroller. Also in attendance

were Dan Gislao, Linda Rasch and Dawn Barry. Our special young guests, Jaclyn and Kelsey Barry, did a fabulous job heading up the group with a bright blue banner proudly displaying "Libertarian Party".

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut was well received by the Town of Meriden and the crowds. One of the several signs, "Born Free Taxed to Death", drew many smiles and frequent applause. The LP activists also received cable television coverage from the Town of Meriden.



From left to right: Len Rasch, Joe Knott, Tony Stelik, Walter Gangarely, Jose, Dawn, Kelsey and Jaclyn Barry and Dan Gislao

## Chairman's Corner

By Leonard Rasch

At this month's State Central Committee meeting, Richard Lion presented his status as he faced trespass and obstruction of traffic charges for his participation in the Tax Day Protest. (see full article on page 1) He had retained a lawyer, and it appeared that his innocence could be proven with the attorney's help.

Legal representation is not cheap. It was gratifying to see each LP member present contribute to an impromptu collection that was organized. While I haven't asked Richard directly how much was contributed, he has mentioned that he was surprised and gratified at the level of contributions.

I mention this story because I think it illustrates the importance of working together as an LP team. Our numbers are small, but our impact can be much greater if we all do some part to advance the LP position in Connecticut.

Foremost in our minds is membership growth. I have adopted a mantra – **There is no problem that the LPCT faces that cannot be solved with a significant growth in membership.** I think that I have demonstrated just how true this statement is, as we have discussed issues at the SCC and strategy meetings.

We have many opportunities for each member to join the team and help with the activities that build membership. Right now the most important focus is ballot access for our statewide candidates.

Running a statewide ticket and achieving minority party status in all six positions (we hold three right now) is one of the steps in a five-year growth plan. The statewide slate helps solidify this year's outreach, and will result in increased Party growth.

Please review the Petitioning mailing piece from LPCT – your party in Connecticut. We need to raise nearly 12,000 signatures by August 7th. We are small in number. We need for everyone to be on the team. We need your help, to advance the principles that you support.

## Court "Frees" Activist

*Continued from page 1*

and the prosecutor stated that she was going to "nolle" the charges, which clears the record of the entire offense. As a result, our activist is now "freed". Furthermore, Rich's attorney indicated that he is planning to attend our next Party activity.

Which does prove that some of us will do just about anything to bring another like-minded person into the LP!

## May State Central Committee Meeting Notes

Several developments of note occurred at the May 21st Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee meeting. Joseph Knott, a Libertarian Party member of many years and a former Political Director of the Connecticut Libertarian Party was awarded the Libertarian nomination for Governor by unanimous vote. Joe's experience, energy, and dedication will be a great source of leadership at the top of this year's Libertarian ticket. Dawn Barry, SCC member and former LPCT Ballot Access Coordinator, was elected LPCT Vice-Chairman by unanimous vote. Steve Weitzman, SCC member, was elected LPCT Secretary by unanimous vote. Allen Nicholas, former LPCT Vice-Chairman and long time Libertarian Party member, has returned to the SCC by unanimous vote. These additions will add much strength to the Libertarian team in this important election year.

Also of note at the SCC meeting was the finalizing of plans to operate an outreach and campaign booth at the North

Stonington Fair from July 11 to 14. North Stonington is in the area that Darlene Nicholas is active. Darlene is running for Secretary of State. She is expected to run an exciting and energetic campaign. We invite everyone to come to the fair and stop by the Libertarian Party of Connecticut booth. Please come to offer your support for Darlene and the LPCT.

The SCC meeting also included the unveiling of the inspiring new Libertarian Party of Connecticut brochures. These brochures will be available to view at the North Stonington Fair and other future LP outreach activities as well as at SCC meetings and LPCT strategy sessions. In addition, they will be available to petitioners, candidates and outreach participants for distribution. Furthermore, the recently available petition packets were disseminated at the SCC meeting. These packets provide the materials to get our candidates on the ballot. They are available to petitioners by contacting Jerry Rivard at (203) 387-4312 or by e-mail him at: [jrivard@optonline.net](mailto:jrivard@optonline.net)

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***Do you appreciate the freedom of the road? The National Motorists Association is the only organization that is fighting for you to retain that freedom. We are the organization that repealed the 55 National Maximum Speed Limit. The National Motorists Association:*** • *Is working towards reasonable speed limits.* • *Opposes roadblocks* • *Is against the police making warrantless searches of your vehicle* • *Wants to keep red light cameras and photo radar out of Connecticut* • *Opposes lowering the BAC to .08 for DUI. Your support will help us to accomplish these goals. To join the NMA, or for more information Call 1-800-882-2785 or visit [www.motorists.org](http://www.motorists.org)*

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## Calendar of Events

- June 9 Libertarian Party Family Day & Campaign Strategy meeting, 10:00 a.m., Churchill Park, Newington
- June 18 Libertarian Party State Central Committee meeting in Wethersfield
- July 3 National LP Convention in Indianapolis
- July 11-14 North Stonington Fair - Outreach Booth
- July 26-28 CT Agricultural Fair - Outreach Booth

## MEETING NOTICE

The State Central Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18th, at the Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway (Route 99) in Wethersfield. All members are welcome.

### Agenda:

- Minutes of the last meeting
- Treasurer's report
- Political Director's report
- Membership report
- Communications Director's report
- Chairman's report
- Old Business
  - Petitioning Status
  - Fundraising Letters Campaign
  - Legislative Research
  - Fairs Planning
  - Convention Report
  - Candidate Recruitment

### New Business

Campaign Marketing and Advertising  
Convention Booking, Detail Approval  
Adjournment

### Directions:

From North: I-91 South to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From South: I-91 North to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From East: I-84 West to Exit 57 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

From West: I-84 East to I-91 South, to Exit 28 (See Rt. 5 & 15 South).

Route 5 & 15 South: Take Exit 85 (Route 99/Silas Deane Hwy) South. At the 4th traffic light, turn right onto Church St. Turn into first driveway on left.