

LIBERTY PLEDGE

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

February 2007

newsletter

Balancing the Future and the Past

Pledge Club Member Bill Earnest Reflects on the History of Liberty and Choice

Whenever Bill Earnest is asked how long he has been a member of the Libertarian Party, he can't help but chuckle as he replies. He was a card-carrying Libertarian long before the LP and third parties were ever gaining popularity.

Mr. Earnest proudly states that he voted for Barry Goldwater in 1964, didn't vote due to lack of "suitable candidates" in 1968, and wrote Toni Nathan in on his ballot in 1972. He supports Libertarian candidates both in his home state and on the national level—and has even been a candidate for public office himself. Mr. Earnest has run for both the Kansas state senate and U.S. Congress. He has also served as a state chair of Kansas; he and his staff gained ballot access through a major initiative during his tenure.

Mr. Earnest says that the Libertarian Party's commitment to individual rights and responsibilities is what initially led him to become active within the party—and keeps him active now. "The Libertarian Party supports both individual political action and participation, but does so without infringing upon the rights of others. We want to do more than just write laws and push a one-sided agenda that benefits some at significant cost to others."

He continues, "Americans have to deal with one party that is interested in what is going on in our bankrooms and boardrooms, and another that is interested in our bedrooms and recreation rooms. They make all the choices for you."

Mr. Earnest believes that the best way for people to secure liberty and individual choice for the future is for people to let the Republicans and Democrats know that the public won't stand for their games any longer.

"People need to register as Libertarians. Hit the politicians where it hurts them the most—their constituency. They also need to support organizations like CATO and the Manhattan Institute. That support sends a message—the message that the Libertarian

Party and cause are not going away."

Mr. Earnest feels the changes that are occurring at the local, state, and national level are moving the party in a positive direction. He is also looking forward to the national convention in Denver, to see who the party nominates for its presidential candidate.

He hopes that, as difficult of a position as it may

be, that the presidential candidate has something to say about the current "misadventure" in Iraq. Mr. Earnest noted that the candidate can't not say something—it's a central issue. The challenge is, however, pushing for selectivity in action while still supporting the troops that are fighting for our liberty.

"It was Neil Boortz and one of his comments that pushed me to pledge money to the party each and every month. Boortz asserts that the LP 'has nothing to offer but isolationism.'

On the contrary—the Libertarian Party has everything to offer. This includes liberty and choice. What more could we ask for?"

Editor's Note: We are looking to feature a member of the Liberty Pledge Club in this space each month. If you are active in supporting the cause of liberty and are willing to talk with us, email development@lp.org.

"Giving a monthly pledge as part of the Liberty Pledge Club allows me the opportunity to enable my children and grandchildren to reclaim liberty and a free market. I can think of no better gift to them."

-Bill Earnest

Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

John Corsale
Bill Earnest
Mike Egger
Peter Gianulis
Stan Grigsby
Michael Grimley
John Stevens

Thank you for your generous support!

History in the Making

Following the death of Congressman Charlie Norwood (R) of Georgia's 10th Congressional District, Governor Sonny Perdue will soon be required to announce the date of a Special Election to fill the seat.

Although Georgia maintains one of the toughest ballot access barriers in the country, Georgia law has no such requirements for special elections for congressional offices. Meeting the constitutional requirements for the job and paying a filing fee of around \$5,000 are required, however.

"Because of the antiquated ballot-access laws in Georgia, it's almost impossible for a Libertarian to run for Congress, so this nonpartisan election gives us an opportunity that we haven't had in a long, long time," Georgia Libertarian Party Executive Director David Chastain said in a recent local newspaper interview with the *Rockdale Citizen*.

Political newcomer Jim Sendelbach has announced his intention to run for this office as a Libertarian Party candidate. Sendelbach is a psychotherapist who lives in Conyers, GA as well as a Viet Nam era veteran of the U.S. Army. He is currently the chief operating officer and principal psychotherapist at Anchor Point, Inc., where he provides psychological services and administers a substance abuse program. His previous employment includes serving as the Director of Religious Education for Christ Our Hope Church, as a pastoral counselor with Interfaith Ministry Institute and as a clinical research coordinator with Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

After the resignation of former Congressman Newt Gingrich in 1998, Georgia Libertarians were unable to support a candidate to run in that special election. "Dr. Sendelbach will be the first minor party candidate on the ballot for US House in Georgia, with a party label, since 1942," said Richard Winger, editor of Ballot Access News.

"It'll be historic," said Chastain. "Given the mood of what's been going on in Washington, D.C., and with the people being disgruntled with what the Republican administration has done, as far as fiscal irresponsibility and taking away personal rights and

liberties, a Libertarian candidate in this race could be very interesting."

With Republicans becoming increasingly discontent with their own party, this election provides a special opportunity for Libertarian candidates and the national office is already involved.

"I've already spent a good deal of time on the phone with David Chastain coordinating the national office with the Georgia LP office," said Libertarian Party Political Director Stephen Gordon. "I've worked with Chastain before and am very impressed with him. With Doug Craig working as political director down there, I'm sure that Sendelbach will have the support he needs on the ground. In D.C., we are already coordinating efforts to support this campaign at a national level, too."

"The vacancy is due to the death of a very good man," Sendelbach said. "Knowing what he stood for and feeling like, well, those are the same ideals I have, (I thought) maybe I can carry on the work that he has been doing well for so many years."

Sendelbach, a former Democrat, plans to devote his time to issues dealing with healthcare and dismantling the federal bureaucracy.

Unlike many area Republicans, Congressman Norwood was liked and respected by many Libertarians in his district. According to the Sendelbach's campaign, "Dr. Jim Sendelbach says his political beliefs are in line with Dr. Norwood's and he intends to carry forward the legacy."

James Sendelbach has a B.A. in philosophy from Holy Apostles College in Cromwell, CT, a M.A. in theology from The Catholic University in Washington, D.C., as well as his doctorate degree in counseling psychology from Argosy University in Sarasota, FL.

He and his wife, Dr. Susan Sendelbach, have been married for 23 years and have resided in Conyers for the past 15 years.

Libertarian Party to Participate in 2007 CPAC Event

The Libertarian National Committee is once again extending its outreach to new and potential members in the greater Washington metropolitan area by co-sponsoring the 2007 Conservative Political Action Conference. CPAC will be held between Thursday, March 1 and Saturday, March 3 at D.C.'s Omni Shoreham Hotel.

CPAC began in 1974 as part of the efforts of the American Conservative Union. Each year thousands of conservative activists, leaders, and groups from across the country join together for a three-day event to discuss current issues and policies and to set the agenda for the future of the conservative movement.

The conference has grown exponentially since its inception. The first conference was sponsored by three multi-issue, umbrella organizations (including the ACU); the 2007 conference includes over seventy five sponsors from a variety of organizations passionate about a number of issues. Major groups include the Americans for Limited Government, the Heritage Foundation, Accuracy in Media, the National Rifle Association (NRA), and the National Taxpayers Union.

CPAC's 2007 agenda includes three days of exhibitions from sponsors, books signings by the nation's leading conservative authors, live broadcasts of radio talk shows, hands-on training sessions on topics such as grassroots activism and media strategy, presentations from guest speakers, and forums on a wide selection of issues ranging from the Constitution and its current interpretation in the law, free market, personal liberty, the war in Iraq, and other topics.

Speakers slated to speak at the conference include Bob Barr, Nick Gillespie, Vice President Dick Cheney, Senator Mitch McConnell, Ann Coulter, Michelle Malkin, David Horowitz, Congressman Mike Pence, Newt Gingrich, and Phyllis Schlafly.

Members of the Libertarian Party National Headquarters staff will be present all three days of the CPAC event to speak with current and prospective members. Information concerning membership, the platform, hot issues, and Libertarian materials will be available.

If you would like more information about the CPAC go to www.cpac.org.

As always, continue to check www.lp.org for the most up-to-date information on the Libertarian Party's participation in the conference.

Not Just a Convention!

Did you know that our convention hotel, the Denver Adam's Mark, is extending our special convention rate? It is! The rate extends to three days before our convention begins to three days after the convention. This means you can bring your family and stay for a few days to enjoy much of what the Denver area has to offer for a low, low hotel rate.

So what is there to do? Between hiking, amusement parks, white water rafting, museums, sports, and theaters, there is a little something for everyone. Below are just a few ideas.

Red Rocks Park, the largest natural amphitheater in the United States, is about 30 minutes away and is easy to find.

Ever thought about riding a narrow gauge train through the mountains? While our most famous narrow gauge train is the Silverton / Durango, there is another ride, though shorter, which is much closer. Instead of driving almost six hours to Silverton, drive less than an hour West on I-70 to Georgetown and ride the loop. It is about a twenty-minute ride, taking you through some of the prettiest forest in Colorado.

Central City offers gambling with an old time mining town feel while Black Hawk, the town next door, has all the glitz of Las Vegas. Near Central City are some unique opportunities. Mining companies offer to teach people how to pan for gold, there are mine tours throughout the area and Idaho Springs has hot mineral baths just right for the weary hiker.

The Colorado Springs area, an hour south of Denver, offers some fantastic sites including Cave of the Winds, Garden of the Gods, and Seven Falls. Plan to stay an entire day in this bustling city.

Don't forget the wonderful hiking trails through the foothills and front range mountains.

Fighting the Good Fight

In North Carolina third parties are faced with restrictive ballot laws that prevent candidates from getting onto the ballot. Last year, the Libertarian Party of North Carolina formed a coalition with the Green Party, Constitution Party, ACLU, League of Women Voters, and others to contest the laws that restrict third parties access into the state's political spectrum. As a result, the coalition filed a lawsuit against the Board of Elections aimed at lowering the current ballot access restrictions placed on the LPNC and other political parties in North Carolina. The hearing is set to begin in April of 2007.

Other efforts from the North Carolina Libertarian Party soon followed. The Libertarian Party began a lobbying campaign to reduce the percentage of votes required to stay on the ballot. Their efforts succeed in reducing the percentage from 10 percent to 2 percent of the vote. Sean Haugh, who is a member of the LP of North Carolina Judicial Committee, said, "This victory is a sign that the lawsuit has been effective so far." However, there is still more that needs to be done.

A great effort is being waged to change the signature requirement for ballot access. Many states require anywhere from 5,000-10,000 signatures in order to have a third party or independent candidate on the ballot. As of now, North Carolina requires 69,734 signatures. The Board of Elections in North Carolina argues for the high signature requirement to prevent ballot cluttering. Richard Winger an expert on third parties stated, "The original law on the books only required 10,000 signatures to have a candidate on the ballot in North Carolina. The most they ever had on a ballot before they changed the law was six, which proves that ballot cluttering was never an issue. The real reason for the change in signature requirements was because one of the six parties that made the ballot was the Socialist Workers Party. Because of that, in 1981, the law was actually reduced from 10,000 to 5,000; however, if you did sign a ballot petition your voter's registration was automatically changed to the party for which the petition was signed for. This tactic proved to be useful because people were concerned with being associated with the Socialist Workers Party during the Cold War. In 1982 the Socialist Workers Party filed a lawsuit against the state and won. After the lawsuit, in 1983 the law changed once more which required signatures for 2 percent of the last vote cast for governor." The LP is sponsoring multiple petition

drives in North Carolina in order to achieve the amount of signatures required for ballot access.

If you would like more information on this issue or would like to help in the effort go to www.lpnc.org or www.ncopenelections.org

LP Blog Highlights Liberty in Action

The blog on the LP website, managed by Stephen Gordon and Shane Cory, follows major political events in the U.S. and around the world and highlights the cause of liberty in action (or not!). For those readers who do not regularly follow or comment on the blog at www.lp.org/yourturn, the following blurbs relate to some of the issues covered in the last month:

January 31, 2007: Exporting Democracy, One Swimming Pool at a Time

This will come as a big shocker to you: The U.S. Government has wasted tens of millions of dollars which were to be used for Iraqi reconstruction efforts...

January 30, 2007: Volunteerism on the Rise

According to the Christian Science Monitor, volunteerism in America is at a historic high: More Americans than ever before are volunteering. In 2005, 29 percent of adults were serving - a 30-year high, according to a December report by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The LP is one place where volunteers are always welcome...

January 26, 2007: 2004 Libertarian Recount Conclusion

There have been several recent media reports about the somewhat exciting conclusion of recount operations in Ohio...

The blog is updated daily Monday through Friday. Come over and join the conversation!