

LIBERTY PLEDGE

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December 2006 *newsletter*

Libertarian Party Celebrates Its 35th Birthday

Thirty-five years ago, on December 11, 1971, a group of disgruntled voters in Colorado gathered in order to find an alternative to the political parties of the time. The group bound together to form the Libertarian Party, a new party committed to promoting freedom at all levels.

In order to celebrate our birthday, the national staff released a video history of the Libertarian Party. It explores some of the rich tradition of the LP, including some exciting conventions, campaigns and commercials. This video was shown at the 2006 Libertarian National Convention in Portland and has now been released on the Internet. It is located at LP.org and it is also available on YouTube.com

The late 1960's and early 1970's was a time of increased government taxing and spending. They kept taking more and more, without any results. People were sick of the crooked politics and the ever growing government and it was a great time for the Libertarian Party to be founded.

The remainder of the 1970's showed a successful start-up for the LP. In 1972 University of Southern California philosophy professor, Dr. Joseph Hospers was nominated by the LP to run as our first presidential candidate along with Tonie Nathan as his vice-presidential candidate. In 1979 the party was granted permanent ballot access in California, when more than 80,000 people registered under the Libertarian Party.

The LP first received real political attention in

the 1980 election when our presidential candidate, Ed Clark, received ballot access in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam - an incredible task for a third party. The 1980's continued to show growth for the Libertarians as Louisiana congressional candidate James Agnew received 23% of the vote, Alaska gubernatorial candidate Dick Randolph received 15% of the vote, and Arizona gubernatorial candidate Sam Steiger received 5% of the vote.

The 1990's proved that Libertarians are a force with staying power. This could be seen in 1990 as California congressional candidate Joe Shea received 27% of the vote, and a 5% vote for New Hampshire gubernatorial candidate Miriam Luce qualified the LP of New Hampshire as an official party with ballot status. With nationwide ballot

access in both the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections, the Libertarian Party becomes the first third party in American history to earn ballot status in all 50 states for two presidential elections in a row.

The new decade has shown as much promise as the last. In 2000, in one of the closest elections in American history, the LP presidential ticket took in 382,892 votes. In addition 34 Libertarians were elected into office, Senatorial candidate Carla Howell won a record 11.9% of the vote, and the LP set a third party record by bringing in 1.6 million votes for candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives.

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In 2001, 96 Libertarian candidates were elected to office, setting a party record. Libertarians also made a lot of noise in the media with over 140 Libertarian opinion polls being published, a 200% increase over 2000's 46 publications.

In 2002 The LP ran more than 1,642 candidates – the largest slate of candidates ever for the Libertarian Party and the largest for any third party since World War II.

The life of a “third party” is not an easy one. In our 35 years of existence we have seen a number of political parties come and go. Many earlier political parties no longer exist. Despite the difficulty of being a third party in this artificially created two party system, the Libertarian Party has remained steadfast and strong.

A group in Colorado, 35 years ago, set out to

create a party that believes the answer to America's problems can be solved by reverting to the principals of liberty that made us as prosperous as we are. These principals include keeping the government out of the operations of the free market, stopping Congress from unconstitutionally legislating morality, and keeping a respectable foreign policy that encourages peace and free trade. Since that day in December, the Libertarian Party has grown to become the third largest political party in the United States, attracting millions of voters every election year.

New political parties are constantly being started while others dissolve, but the Libertarian Party has stayed strong through thick and thin. We have spent 35 successful years promoting liberty, justice, and a smaller government. We have become the guiding-light for Libertarians and a role model for other third parties.

Location for 2008 Libertarian National Convention Announced

The Libertarian National Committee has selected Denver, Colorado as the host city for the 2008 Libertarian National Convention.

As 2008 is a presidential election year, this convention is sure to be exciting. Adding to the excitement is the fact that the Democrats are also strongly considering Denver for their convention. Should the Democratic National Committee decide to hold their convention in the same city, the contrast in our candidates, platforms and philosophies will be made even more apparent to the voters.

The LP presidential nomination convention will be held between May 23 and May 26 at the Denver Adam's Mark Hotel.

Located near Denver's 16th Street Pedestrian Mall, the Adam's Mark Hotel is known for its style and luxury. They boast of being the largest hotel in Colorado, with 1,225 rooms, including 92 suites. With 133,000 square feet of meeting space, including a wide variety of room sizes and capabilities, the hotel offers

meeting space for other Libertarian organizations, caucuses and groups to meet. The hotel's multiple amenities include an outdoor all-season heated swimming pool, sauna, and state of the art fitness center.

In addition to the exciting presidential nomination process, the Libertarian National Convention will also be featuring interesting and unique speakers. While it is premature to be scheduling speakers, be sure to read LP News and visit LP.org to catch the latest news about the speaker line up.

Be sure to mark May 23 to May 26 on your calendar, and don't forget to schedule your vacation and make transportation arrangements as quickly as possible.

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Libertarian Party Welcomes Louise Calise

We'd like to welcome Louise Calise to our LP Headquarters as Direct Marketing Director. Louise officially joined LPHQ on November 13, providing a jolt of energy after the mid-term elections.

Her positive attitude and aggressive work ethic made her the perfect candidate. Louise took the position of Direct Marketing Director, and has been doing a great job ever since. This position puts her directly in charge of satisfying members' needs and finding new members and donors to support our freedom-defending organization.

Louise has over eighteen successful years in marketing and fundraising for nonprofit organizations. She has fundraised for a variety of nonprofits, such as, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, National Glaucoma and Special Olympics. Her experience extends to list management at Atlantic List for organizations such as Children's Wish and Alzheimer's Association. With each of these organizations she worked in direct marketing, gaining vital experience and knowledge in fundraising that she brings to the Libertarian National Headquarters' development office. Prior to her career in non-profits, Louise worked as a legal secretary/paralegal.

Louise's experience made her a great choice for the position. Also, she has proven to be quite flexible and a very quick learner. Her job requires a great deal of acquired knowledge and skills, like updating and managing our database, learning information about members and candidates in states that we sometimes forget exist, and figuring out how to work our cantankerous new printer.

Louise has stepped up and has been learning the ropes very quickly. While becoming versed in our old ways, she is also using her experience and nonprofit know-how to show us some fresh, new perspectives around the office.

Louise's short-term goals are to organize the direct marketing program so schedules and financial goals are met while staying within budget, cleaning the data in our database, and pricing out jobs to negotiate and save money.

Her long-term goals are to grow our membership numbers, and raise funds for the party.

Louise began her relationship with the Libertarian Party by proofreading Pledge News and LP News. She became acquainted with Shane Cory, our Executive Director, and Stephen Gordon, our Communications Director. These relationships allowed Louise to build an interest in the Libertarian Party, and when she heard there was an opening in the office, she jumped at the opportunity: "Upon learning that there was a position open in development, I applied because I believe I can make a difference in raising funds for the LP."

Louise is more than just a go-getter at the Libertarian Party. She is also very active outside the office. She is a single mother who raised two children and an exchange student.

Louise grew up in New York City, and has the accent to prove it. She is quite the daredevil and she is always looking for a new adventure. She loves to crew for hot air ballooning, and she hopes to take up sky diving and golf in the near future. She loves to travel, read, and ski (although she admits to not being very good at skiing).

Louise is responsible for membership. If you ever need assistance with your membership, or trying to sign a fellow Libertarian up, please don't hesitate to ask for Louise at our D.C. Headquarters.

We are glad to welcome Louise to our Libertarian Team.

We'd like to thank our new and renewed pledgers for December:

James Foster

Kerry Hart

Erich Hannan

William Spahn

Have questions or concerns about your monthly pledge? Interested in increasing your monthly commitment? Need to update your address or credit card information for your monthly pledge? Contact us at pledge@lp.org or call us at (202) 333-0008 for assistance.

A Libertarian Recipe for ...

Over the years Libertarians have come with a wide variety of different “recipes” to fix both social and economic problems that our country faces. We have conjured up recipes to solve everything from the inefficient railways to the social security crisis.

The Libertarian Party is offering a couple of new recipes, but these recipes focus a little more on holiday spirit and a little less on the fight for liberty.

From deep in the cookbook of Nicole’s grandmother we have:

Holiday Chocolate Peanut Butter Balls:

Peanut Butter Center:

Ingredients:

- 2 Lbs. Confectioners Sugar
- 3 Cups Peanut Butter
- 3 Sticks Butter

Instructions:

1. Melt Butter.
2. Mix Peanut Butter, Sugar, and Melted Butter together in a large bowl.
3. Set Balls on non-stick surface (e.g. wax paper)

Chocolate Coating:

Ingredients:

- 12 oz. Chocolate Chips
- 4 oz. German Chocolate
- 1/2 block Paraffin Wax

Instructions:

1. First melt Paraffin Wax in a double boiler.
2. Then melt all chocolate (Chips and German Chocolate) with the melted Paraffin Wax.

3. Using toothpicks, dip each Peanut Butter Ball into the melted chocolate gently and place on wax paper to harden.

4. After setting slightly, refrigerate.

The favorite recipe of our new Direct Marketing Director, Louise Calise is a delicious New York Cheesecake:

Cheesecake Recipe:

Use spring pan.

Ingredients:

- Graham Cracker Crust for bottom and sides of pan
- 2 lbs. ricotta cheese
- 1 8oz. package of regular cream cheese
- 1 ¼ cups sugar
- 3 tabs. flour – not sifted
- 1 teas. grinded lemon rind
- 1 teas. pure vanilla
- 7 eggs – 7 yolks and 5 whites
- ¼ cup heavy cream – not whipped

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 550 for 5 minutes.
2. Beat 5 egg whites (stiff, not dry) and set aside.
3. Soften cream cheese; blend ricotta into cream cheese; mix in sugar; add vanilla; mix in flour; mix in 7 yolks; add heavy cream; add lemon rind; add egg whites.
4. Cook at 525 for 20 minutes then turn oven down to 250 for 1 hour. Take out of pan when cooled.