



ALABAMA LIBERTY

The Official Publication of the Alabama Libertarian Party

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BALLOT ACCESS DRIVE A SUCCESS!

Thanks to the efforts of many dedicated Libertarians, the voters of Alabama will have the opportunity to vote Libertarian instead of the lesser of two evils in November 1984! On July 6, 1984 the Secretary of State certified the ALP as meeting legal requirements for ballot access. Our Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, David Bergland and Jim Lewis, will appear on the ballot under the Libertarian Party label along with state and local ALP candidates!

Our ballot access drive succeeded despite the Demopublicans' attempt to stifle us with a burdensome and costly petitioning requirement. Alabama Libertarians owe a special debt of gratitude to those who contributed time, effort and money in response to the ALP's call for aid. Special thanks go to State and Jefferson County ALP officers who worked unstintingly to make the ballot drive a success. Steve Smith rates a special commendation for putting his home at the disposal of the paid petitioners for lodging and headquarters. Let's have a standing ovation for John Robertson and his hard-working band of paid petitioners. They arrived in the nick of time like John Wayne and the U.S. Cavalry to rescue the ALP from oblivion. While we're handing out thank yous, let's take our hats off to those sore-footed ALP volunteers who actually got out there and collected signatures, and thanks to the Bergland for President Campaign for sending the paid petitioners. Last but not least, thanks to those thousands of Alabamians who put their signatures on the line for us!

Now we can all breathe a sigh of relief and get on with the fun part of being a Libertarian...campaigning for all our Libertarian candidates!

- - ANNOUNCING - -

The Jefferson County Libertarian Supper Club (dutch treat) will meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the McDonald's restaurant at 1708 6th Av.S across from Children's Hospital. Come on out and bring your interested friends! August 15th is the next scheduled meeting.

STEVE SMITH RUNS FOR CONGRESS-6th DISTRICT

ALP Secretary Steve Smith has announced that he will conduct an all-out campaign for the 6th U.S. Congressional District seat. Campaign contributions should be sent to "Steve Smith for Congress" at 2310 Highland Av. #B2, Birmingham, AL 35205.

ALABAMA LIBERTARIAN PARTY CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The ALP state convention was held June 16, 1984 in Birmingham. Jim Lewis of Connecticut, our 1984 L.P. Vice Presidential candidate, gave the keynote speech. (For details see Tim Gatewood's report in this issue.) Yana Davis, 1983 ALP Chairman, presided at the business meeting. There were about 20 attendees and visitors including Don Winfield, Chairman of the Tennessee LP.

Yana Davis and Steve Smith reported on the current status of the ballot drive. (Successfully completed since the convention!) The convention approved a slate of nine Presidential electors pledged to Bergland and Lewis, and selected the following Libertarian candidates for public office to stand for election this November. Yana Davis for U.S. Senate, Steve Smith for U.S. Congress-6th district, Mark Thornton for U.S. Congress-3rd district, Chuck Ewing for U.S. Congress-7th district, Frank Tipler III for U.S. Congress-2nd district, Tim Gatewood for PSC President, Frank Monachelli for Jefferson County Tax Assessor. Other Jefferson County candidates are: Desta Monachelli for Constable-Dist. 53, Robert (Ross) Lowe for Constable-Dist. 57, Bobby Chapuis for County Treasurer.

The first campaign promise of the season... Frank Monachelli will assess all property at a few cents valuation (de facto repeal of the property tax) when he takes office!

The final order of business was election of the following ALP officers. Chairman: Yana Davis of Mountain Brook (re-elected); Vice Chairman: Bobby Chapuis of Homewood; Secretary: Steve Smith of Birmingham; Treasurer: Tim Gatewood of Birmingham; Membership Committee Chairman: Dr. George Yossif of Birmingham. The following District Representatives were elected: Mark Thornton-3rd Dist.; Tom Godell-5th Dist.; Chuck Ewing-7th Dist. The 6th District post will be filled by the Jefferson County LP. (1st, 2nd and 4th remain vacant.) After empowering the Executive Committee to fill other vacancies and name other candidates for public office, the convention adjourned.

BERGLAND

L I B E R T A R I A N

PRESIDENT

LIBERTARIANISM IN ONE LESSON

by David Bergland

America.

Freedom was the original idea.

Perhaps the most common question put to Libertarian Party (LP) candidates is: "What is libertarianism?" Or, "What does the LP stand for?"

First, let's avoid some common errors and confusion by stating what libertarianism is not. It is NOT some variant of liberalism or conservatism. It is NOT a combination of left and right positions. It does not fit on the traditional political spectrum. That spectrum does not admit the idea that all people have the right to control their own lives, in all respects, and the obligation to take responsibility for themselves and their own actions. Liberals and conservatives agree that the rest of us are evil or incompetent or both and must therefore be controlled by government. They differ only on which aspects of our lives should be controlled most.

By contrast, Libertarians hold that each person has the absolute right of self-ownership over his or her life, body, speech, action and honestly acquired property. Each has the obligation to respect those same rights in each other person. The proper way for people to deal with each other is by mutual respect for each other's right of self-ownership. Anything that is peaceful, voluntary and honest violates no rights and thus is not a proper subject for governmental intervention.

Law enforcement's only proper function is to assist us in defending our rights. The only proper laws are those which penalize such conduct as murder, rape, kidnapping, robbery, burglary, arson, trespass, pollution and fraud. On an international scale, the U.S. armed forces should be confined to providing security against foreign attack on American shores. They should not be used in foreign wars.

Libertarianism is the philosophy of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution. Most people, most of the time, deal with each other on the libertarian basis of mutual respect. Two groups don't: criminals and government. Libertarians challenge the notion that government can legitimately coerce the rest of us through taxation, regulation, conscription and criminal penalties imposed upon peaceful, voluntary conduct. We demand that laws be limited to their proper functions and that government personnel be held to the same standard of respect for our rights that the rest of us follow.

The Libertarian Party is for all people who do not want to be controlled and who do not want to control others. On all issues we will support increased personal liberty and reduced government control. We know that a free society is possible and that it is practical. We are committed to work for as long as it may take to achieve it.



ALP HELPS THE LADY

To publicize our petitioning for ballot access, the ALP donated 5 cents to the Statue of Liberty restoration fund for each signature collected between July 1st and July 4th. This boosted our petitioning effort and resulted in a total donation to The Lady of \$75.

JIM LEWIS' KEYNOTE SPEECH TO THE ALP CONVENTION

Reported by Tim Gatewood

Jim Lewis opened with the statement that he had been in 31 states as of today (6-16-84), getting over 200 media exposures in the course of this campaign. Total cost to the Bergland/Lewis ticket was \$350! Special thanks go to Jim's employer for helping with the travel cost and the local LP's for providing rooms, local transportation and food.

Jim's previous political experience was his 1982 campaign for U.S. Senate in Connecticut (after joining the LP during Ed Clark's 1980 campaign.) He recruited 16 fellow Libertarians to run in Connecticut in '82. They all received excellent TV coverage after the national LP helped them get on the ballot.

Jim recommended that we view the building of the Party as we would the starting of a new sales & marketing company. The product is Liberty. In 1980 the Clark campaign did the high-cost initial market entry advertising. Now we need to focus on people-intensive, low-cost means of Party-building. It is crucial that we present the benefits of Liberty, not over-stressing the philosophy. If we get people to see the benefits, they will vote for us without necessarily being converted to the philosophy. We have to think in terms of marketing strategy and get out the message of the benefits of Liberty.

In 1980 there were 70 million registered voters who did not vote. Only 23% of citizens eligible to vote are Democrats/Republicans. We can win if we use the available means to get the story out, such as press releases, letters-to-editors, calls to radio talk shows, campaigns for public office, use of initiative and referenda for specific issues and expanding LP newsletters into public media.

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