



Published for friends and supporters of the Libertarian Party

Liberty Pledge

► NEWSLETTER

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Three more LPers gain public office

Three Libertarians gained public office over the past month — from three different corners of the country.

On the west coast, Richard Burke was elected to a three-year term on the Terra Linda Local School Committee in Beaverton, Oregon. On the east coast, Dr. Geoffrey Ellington was appointed to two new public offices in Salem, New Jersey. Down south, Rob Bowen was elected to the Lee's Summit Board of Alderman in Missouri.

Burke, State Chair of the Oregon LP, decisively beat his one "aggressive" write-in opponent in the non-partisan election, 533 to 105 votes on March 22nd. Burke said he "fended off the write-in campaign" by going door-to-door with campaign fliers.

His Libertarian affiliation was an issue in the campaign, said Burke, and led to a tense three-hour meeting with parents. His opponent also highlighted Burke's party affiliation with a sharply worded flier.

In the end, though, Burke's promise to "maximize the role of parents" and "improve fiscal accountability" reassured voters, and carried what Burke described as "one of the more interesting races in recent memory."

Third and fourth public offices

In New Jersey, Geoffrey Ellington was recently appointed to his third and fourth public offices. In addition to Chair of the Environmental Commission and Member of the City Planning Board, Ellington was named to the Salem City Board of Health and appointed to the position of Salem City Municipal Physician. Ellington is also a trustee and co-founder of the Salem County LP.

"Dr. Ellington's quiet, competent service as a Libertarian Party public servant earns the Salem County LP a lot of credibility," said Doug Stoxen, a member of the NJ LP's Steering Committee.

In Missouri on April 5th, Bowen was swept into office on the Board of Alderman by a vote of 1,348 to 818.

"Although the election was non-partisan, Bowen's Libertarian affiliation was mentioned in local coverage," noted a press release issued after the victory.

Bowen is the Chairman of the Metro Kansas City Libertarians. He ran on a platform of greater citizen participation in local government and support for a statewide tax limitation amendment.

List of LPers in office hits record high number

The "official" list of Libertarians in office has reached an all-time high in April, with 115 names on it.

"Everyone I've talked to says this is the most confirmed Libertarians in office at one time — ever!" said Director of Communications Bill Winter. "This is a milestone for the party!"

Winter said 12 names were added in March, and three in April. Included were three who were just elected: Richard Burke in Oregon, John Drabinowicz in New Hampshire, and Rob Bowen in Missouri. [See related story.]

Three more individuals were added who had been appointed recently: Tom Foregger in a Financial Review Board in New Jersey; Ed Weissmann to a Solid waste Advisory Council in New Jersey; and James Dan on a Charter Commission in Nevada.

Already in office

Another six Libertarians already in office were added: Dean Hodge on a Special Events Commission in Missouri; Gary Stilwell on a Conservation Commission Board in Florida; David Holden in a School District Advisory Committee in Missouri; David Knights on a City Commission in Kentucky; Jim McAbee on a Library Board in Michigan; Lynne Straughen in a Zoning Board in New Jersey; and Margarethe Kemmer on a Zoning Hearing Board in Pennsylvania. Geoffrey Ellington of New Jersey serves on four public offices, including Salem City Planning Board.

"These were people who just notified us that they were serving in office, or who we finally managed to confirm," said Winter. In addition, four names were dropped from the list last month, all former office-holders in Big Water, Utah. Three had not sought re-election; one is no longer a member of the Libertarian Party.

Some miscellaneous statistics about the list:

> New Hampshire has the most Libertarians in office with 24, followed by Pennsylvania (16); California (13); Texas (8); Alabama (7); New Jersey (6); and Hawaii (4).

> There are Libertarians in office now in 27 states.

> Only 17 of the Libertarians in office are women; 98 are men.

> Seven of the Libertarians are serving in two or more public offices simultaneously.

> In all, 25 Libertarians have been added to the list since January 1, 1994.

Libertarians seek members

By **JIM McBRIDE**
Globe-News Special Projects Writer

Joe Knight wants you to join the party — the Libertarian Party, that is.

Knight, a field organizer for the national Libertarian Party, is in Amarillo this week trying to establish party support here.

He said the party has 250,000 supporters registered in the 20 states that have allowed party members to register. About 10,000 are dues-paying members across the nation, Knight said.

"There are Libertarians here, but they're scattered; they're not organized. It's kind of a Libertarian wilderness," he said.

Knight said he has established a student group at Amarillo College and is working on setting up another at West Texas A&M University, where he will be today.

He noted that a recent Libertarian survey ranked Amarillo College as a likely spot for the creation of a Libertarian base of support.

"Doing the survey, Amarillo College, where I didn't expect to do too well, had one of the top 10 Libertarian scores in the whole country," he said.

Knight said the easiest way to define the Libertarian philosophy is in terms of conservatives and liberals.

"Conservatives typically believe in one kind of freedom but not the other. In other words, they believe in

economic freedom, free markets and free enterprise, but on the other hand they tend to use government to regulate our lifestyles," he said. "Liberals are just the opposite. Liberals believe in personal freedom, civil liberties and freedom of lifestyle, but on the other hand they tend to use government to regulate the economy and our property and that kind of thing."

Libertarians, Knight said, blend key facets of conservative and liberal values into their political beliefs.

"Libertarians take the freedom part of each philosophy," he said. "We agree with conservatives about economic freedom, free markets and free enterprise, and we agree with liberals about personal freedoms, civil liberties and freedom of lifestyle," he

said. Knight, who expects to establish a base of Libertarian support here, said anger and fear about gun control are chief among the concerns of many people nationally.

"I shudder to tell you some of the angry people I have come across who are stockpiling ammunition, and they think this is it," he said. "They're looking for the knock at the front door. I hope they're just paranoid."

Knight says that among the general population, Republicans seem to switch to the Libertarian banner, but among the student population, Democrats seem to switch more often.

"Texas is fertile ground; it really is," he said.

Private choice vs. public good in school

Libertarian debates with educator

By **DAWN FAUCETTA**
Herald Staff Writer

SUSSEX BOROUGH — Private choice or public good in the educational system was the topic of a debate held by the Sussex County Libertarian Party Wednesday night at the Sussex Middle School.

About 20 residents attended the debate to hear representatives of both sides express their views. Sussex-Wantage Superintendent of Schools Art DiBenedetto represented the public education side, while Libertarian Party Chairman Michael Pierone represented the private choice side.

Pierone said his purpose wasn't to specifically criticize the Sussex-Wantage school system, but to express his general belief that parents should have a choice of what kind of education they want for their children. He said he supports a voucher system in which parents could get part of

their taxes back to put toward school tuition.

DiBenedetto said the voucher system is outdated and would cause inequity and competition between schools.

Pierone compared the voucher system to a public food system or food stamps where everyone has a choice and benefits.

"The voucher system would allow for parents to get 50 percent of what is now being spent for their kids to attend public school to have a choice," Pierone said.

"Much of what public schools are paying for is for a broader population and private schools don't spend their money in the same way," he said.

DiBenedetto said Sussex-Wantage's cost per pupil is about \$7,000, and half of that would not cover the cost for everyone to attend their school of choice. That would be unfair to poor people, he said.

DiBenedetto also said taxpayers

fund the private school transportation, health and remedial services, and special education. The private schools do not have these services unless the taxpayers pay for them, he said.

Pierone mentioned a need for a change in the school system, specifically in the inner-city areas such as Newark and Jersey City where he said 50 percent of students are dropping out before high school graduation.

"People are being abandoned by the public system, and the children are suffering. We're not getting our money's worth through the public system and it's time to try something else," Pierone said.

Several people questioned whether a new system would improve the schools and asked if students are going to change if taken out of the public school system but kept in their same environment.

"There is a value to having a multitude of school systems in all

areas. It would give people who don't have the option of moving an option to choose a different education system," Pierone said.

Pierone also said many parents feel schools have a responsibility to bring up their children.

Residents also questioned the rising costs of education while test scores seem to be going down.

DiBenedetto said court decisions have forced public schools to widen their scope, and hire more specialized teachers and counselors. Average test scores are decreasing as more students take the tests, he said.

"Our society has widened the range between rich and poor, and we're in a catch-up phase and we're not catching up — the gap is widening," DiBenedetto said.

"Public school is one of the few institutions that has tried to do something for everyone in society — and that's a heck of a job," he said.

Amarillo
Globe-Times
Amarillo, Texas
February 23,
1994

New Jersey
Herald
Newton,
New Jersey
March 17, 1994

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Fort Worth, Texas, March 13, 1994

Libertarians restructuring to attract viable candidates

BY **ROLANDS. MARTIN**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Local Libertarian Party officials, displeased with the performances of their candidates in past elections, said yesterday that they are restructuring their operations to attract viable candidates willing to compete against the traditional two-party system.

By emphasizing the party's "minimal government-no taxes" stance and decreasing "paper candidates" — those who file for office but who don't campaign — party officials say they might see some results.

"We have to get away from can-

ELECTION '94

didates that are names, who don't respond to questionnaires, who don't have well-prepared responses, and organizations that don't appear like they have a chance to win," said Jeri Barthel of Euless, who was elected chairwoman of the Libertarian Party in Tarrant County yesterday at the group's district convention.

"I think the only way that we can be taken seriously by the voters and

get taken seriously by the press... is we have to run campaigns that look like we're going to win. We have to run to win," Barthel said.

Fewer than 20 people showed up at Texas Wesleyan University for the convention. Similar events were held across the state to nominate candidates for the November general election.

Barthel and others have said that the party's top priority is reorganization.

That effort led Charles McCreary of Arlington, who was running for the District 93 state representative position, to drop out of the race to

concentrate on reorganization plans.

Joe Barnett, an Arlington resident who is state chairman of the party, said more than 2,000 people in Tarrant County and more than 20,000 statewide have voted for Libertarians.

He said that he recognizes the party's past differences, but he hopes that by focusing on issues such as crime, taxes and health care, the Libertarians will be able to attract voters who are seeking an alternative to the Democratic and Republican parties.

Libertarians offer health care alternative

Party favors \$2,000 medical account

By MARGIE PETERSON
Of The Morning Call

On this the Libertarian Party and the Clinton administration agree: the American health care system is bloated with bureaucracy.

But while President Clinton claims his managed care plan will improve the situation, the Libertarians say it will make it worse.

"First of all, the Clinton plan is going to create large new bureaucracies," said Ken Sturzenacker, chairman of the state Libertarian Party. "That's going to suck up an enormous amount of money."

In the company of a local dentist and an optometrist, Sturzenacker presented the Libertarian alternative to the Clinton proposal at a news conference yesterday in front of the Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic in Allentown.

Instead of the current system, employers could provide workers with, say, \$2,000 a year for a "medical savings account," which would be tax-exempt, the Libertarians propose. Employees could use that money to pay for health care as needed, which would give them more incentive to be vigilant about costs because they could keep what they don't spend.

Employers would continue to provide catastrophic health insurance for medical expenses over \$2,000. Libertarians claim such a plan would keep down costs and eliminate much of the paperwork and bu-



HARRY FISHER / The Morning Call

Ken Sturzenacker, flanked by Drs. Timothy (left) and Jonathan Solan

reaucracy now plaguing the system.

"There's no control of the costs by patients [or] by the doctor because a third party is paying for it," said Dr. Jonathan K. Solan, an Allentown optometrist. "Our problem with the Clinton plan is that it creates more of that situation, more insurance . . . some faceless person who's going to pay for it, rather than the pa-

tient themselves."

His brother, Dr. Timothy S. Solan, a Whitehall Township dentist, said he and other area dentists don't accept medical assistance patients because they can't afford it.

"The reimbursement levels are just too low to even break even," said Timothy Solan. "It's not that you don't want

to see these people; it's just that you can't afford to."

The Solans and Sturzenacker said that before the government got involved, the medical profession and others took care of those who could not afford to pay for medical treatment.

"Before Medicare and Medicaid became in effect, local community services took care of a lot of those people," said Jonathan Solan. "They always have and always will. If you free up a lot of the money that's currently spent on administrative costs, lower taxes so doctors don't feel like they have to force that bill, they'll spend more time with the patients."

The Clinton plan will mean increased rationing of health care and less choice for people, Sturzenacker said.

Not true, said Lorrie McHugh, a spokeswoman for the Clinton administration's health care plan.

"This actually broadens choice," McHugh said. "I don't know how there would be more rationing when we're giving people more choice and more access to health care."

Far from increasing paperwork, the Clinton proposal will streamline it, she said.

"The fact of the matter is that nothing could be more complex than what we have now," McHugh said. With the Clinton plan "you'll have a health security card, you'll fill out one claim form, rather than the multitude of forms you have now," she said.

Not only will all Americans be covered, but the Congressional Budget Office predicts that by 2000 the plan will start to reduce health care costs, McHugh said.

The Morning Call, Allentown, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1994

Smattering of protesters outside bring causes

By RICHARD ARMSTRONG
Norwich Bulletin

NORWICH — Not everyone came to support President Clinton.

Among the hundreds of people who endured a bone-chilling rain Thursday outside Norwich Free Academy were some two dozen protesters representing various causes.

Each was anxious to criticize the health care package the president came to promote.

"There's an alternative to (Clinton's) health care plan," said Courtenay Hough, a Libertarian Party member from Stamford, "and that is the free market."

Group members carried signs stating: "No more socialized medicine."

Libertarians are against a government-run

"I can't think of one example when government took over a program and made it better."

— Libertarian Joseph Meyers of Ledyard

health care system, Hough said.

"I can't think of one example when government took over a program and made it better," said another Libertarian, Joseph Meyers of Ledyard.

Both predicted some hybrid of the Clinton plan would pass into law and lead to higher medical costs and poorer health care service.

"All it (Clinton's health care plan) is going to do is have the federal government ration health care for the American people," Meyers said.

Several Libertarians burned symbolic

"Universal Health Care Cards" in protest.

Nearby, a small band of anti-abortion protesters carried signs stating: "Abortion is not about health care."

Norwich Bulletin

Norwich, Connecticut, February 25, 1994

The Westport News

Westport, Connecticut, February 18, 1994

Libertarian Party chief to speak Monday

Stephen Dasbach, national chairman of the Libertarian Party, will be in Elkhart to present the party's program to solve the health care problem in the United States. He will be accompanied by Barbara Bourland, the Libertarian Party's Indiana Chairperson.

The meeting will be Monday at High Dive Park Pavilion at 500 Beardsley St., located west of the Johnson Street Bridge on Beardsley. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. There will be no charge.

The Goshen News, Goshen, Indiana, March 18, 1994

The proposal is named "Project Healthy Choice" and features a free market approach in dealing with the health care crisis. Under Project Healthy Care, participants are free to choose their own medical doctors and facilities.

The program is being hosted by the Elkhart County Libertarian Party. More information can be obtained by contacting Sean Frick at 848-5539 or Jan Noble at 848-5327 or 533-6154.

Libertarians campaign against health plan

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut has announced that it is taking an active role in a nationwide lobbying campaign to stop President Clinton's health care plan, while promoting free market alternatives.

Called "Project Healthy Choice," the grass-roots Libertarian lobbying effort has two objectives said State Chairman Carl Vassar:

- To convince Connecticut congressman and senators to vote against the Clinton plan.
- To promote the Libertarian Party alternative plan, and to spread the word about market-based solutions to the health care

crisis.

Mr. Vassar said the Libertarian Party of Connecticut is distributing information to all its members and to the public about a new Libertarian Party "Alternative Free-Market Health Care Proposal," which relies on the market forces instead of increased government control.

The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in America, winning more than 3.7 million votes for state and federal office in 1992. There are approximately 100 Libertarians in elected and appointed offices across the country, according to Mr. Vassar.

Pine-brush rebellion

New Hampshire should take powerful stand against federal government's domination

By **STEVEN J. WINTER**
For The Monitor

I recently spoke in Denver before a large roomful of angry Western legislators, local officials and private citizens. My speech concerned the constitutional authority of the states to control the federal government. They must have been welcome words because everyone stood and applauded when I finished.

Not just in the West, but all across this nation, there is a rising tide of resentment against the pushy, heavy-handed manner of the federal government as it usurps more and more areas of public policy, forces state and local government spending to skyrocket with unfunded mandates and heaps a mountain of debt on the taxpayers of this and future generations.

But the states are fighting back! Beginning with New Hampshire, legislators in seven states have introduced a resolution of warning to Congress and the president. It notes that the states, which created the federal government in the first place, can alter it, or even dissolve it, anytime three-quarters of them agree to do so.

This measure is radical on its face and probably would never have to be carried out. But a milder means of communicating our message would go unnoticed in Washington. The message is:

"Quit spending our children's and our grandchildren's incomes on bloated bureaucracies, giveaway programs which only make things worse, outrageous vote-buying boondoggle projects, and billions in aid to the rulers of other nations.

"Quit forcing new regulations and requirements on us which we neither want nor need. We prefer to govern ourselves!

"And quit sucking the blood out of our productive sector with your taxes and fees and impediments, and then making us jump through hoops to get back a little of what you've taken!"

It's a message that's been sent again and again, but it's fallen on deaf ears. It's time to get their attention.

In Denver I heard presentations on plans for thwarting the feds — mostly addressing problems unique to the West. But we in New Hampshire could pursue our plan of constructive resistance.

One course of action would be to employ the seldom-tapped powers of the state attorney general's office to require decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. The governor should direct his attorney general to order decisions concerning several issues that challenge the core elements of the federal bureaucracy. For instance, doesn't the 10th Amendment make federal mandates in education and other state and local matters unenforceable?

The Concord Monitor

Concord, New Hampshire, March 15, 1994

My Turn

After a number of requests like this, the governor and Legislature might consider bills designed to annoy the feds. One would be to create a commission to study how state government would need to be structured, and what needs would have to be met, if New Hampshire were to become independent of the federal government. (We would hope the commission would contain a majority who agree with Thomas Jefferson that "that government is best which governs least.")

This exercise would probably be greeted with scoffing humor down in Washington, but it wouldn't last long. Our next step might be to declare all federal holdings in the state subject to local property taxes and to tax lien by local governments if the taxes are not paid. Of course, the feds would never comply, setting up grounds for a little enforcement demonstration at some particularly acrimonious juncture in state-federal relations. Seizing a federally owned office building for back taxes ought to get their attention.

If these steps strike you as brash and irresponsible, let me argue that the importance of making sure the federal government finally hears, loud and clear, the message it has ignored until now makes exceptional measures like these the only responsible action. Washington officials need to be awakened and have their attention focused on the enormous dissatisfaction of the states.

New Hampshire is already a trendsetter in one important way. Our presidential primary makes all presidential aspirants, including President Clinton, attentive to the political mood here. If there is active anti-federal resistance in the Granite State leading up to the 1996 primary, the media will blow it into national proportions. Legislators elsewhere will attach special significance to what we do. Our actions could trigger such a groundswell of opposition to the bureaucracy-run-amok in Washington.

If the citizens in our proud state want to continue to hold their heads up, they will lend moral support to the Legislature and governor as New Hampshire takes a principled stand against the feds' headlong drive to take us over. If we wait — if we confine our personal involvement to grouching about taxes on April 15 and displaying the flag on federal holidays — we must resign ourselves to federal subjugation.

(Steven J. Winter is an airlines captain and treasurer of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire. He lives in New London.)

Libertarian Debt Resolution Killed

CONCORD — House Libertarian Leader Donald Gorman says he is "ashamed" that a committee unanimously rejected his "ultimatum resolution" warning the federal government to get the federal debt under control or the states may act to dissolve it.

"The committee had the opportunity to step out front on a national issue, fighting the excesses of the Washington, D.C., bureaucracy, which is something we've all been absolutely furious about," said Rep. Gorman, L-Deerfield.

He noted that a panel in the Arizona Legislature, unanimously approved a similar measure. Gorman said the New Hampshire House committee "acted like it wants to hold hands with the feds."

"I have to question which state deserves to be called the 'Live Free or Die' state," he declared.

The Union-Leader

Manchester, New Hampshire

March 3, 1994

Stern Runs For N.Y. Governor

By Paul D. Colford
Newsday

NEW YORK—Howard Stern, the top-rated personality in New York morning radio, said Tuesday that he is a candidate for New York governor.

He said he wasn't kidding. And to a remarkable degree, political observers and those close to him were taking him seriously.

Stern, whose irreverent broadcasts have prompted the Federal Communications Commission to levy more than \$1 million in fines for indecency, announced on his WXRK-FM program in New York that he wants to be the Libertarian Party's candidate.

"I don't know what the hell a libertarian is," the shock jock said. He stressed, however, that he wanted the backing of the party—which believes less government is better—because the party would then obtain the signatures to put him on the ballot.

Stern proclaimed he would fulfill three campaign pledges, then resign in favor of a yet-unnamed lieutenant governor. He promised to reinstate the death penalty, improve the collection of highway tolls to quicken traffic flow and ensure that road-construction crews work only at night.

Chicago Sun-Times

Chicago, Illinois, March 23, 1994