

LIBERTY PLEDGE

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

March 2007

newsletter

Second Amendment Judicial Victory Libertarians Celebrate Circuit Court Ruling

Since 1976, the District of Columbia has maintained the most extreme gun control laws in the country. Friday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the city cannot prevent people from keeping handguns, loaded or unloaded, within their homes.

A key component of the decision is that gun ownership is an individual right, as opposed to a collective right associated with membership in an organized militia. As the ruling is in conflict with a 2002 Ninth Circuit opinion, the case has the potential of heading to the U.S. Supreme Court for final resolution. The Supreme Court last addressed Second Amendment issues in 1939.

"Today's decision flies in the face of gun laws that have helped decrease gun violence in the District of Columbia," Mayor Adrian Fenty said, according to a *Washington Post* report. "The city will likely appeal for a hearing of the full appeals court before any appeal to the Supreme Court."

Libertarians are well known for their advocacy of the Second Amendment rights contained within the Constitution, as well as the basic natural right of self defense.

"This case has profound constitutional significance," stated former Congressman Bob Barr, an attorney who serves on the boards of both the Libertarian National Committee and the National Rifle Association. "The Second Amendment clearly outlines the right for *individuals to keep and bear arms*. This ruling by Judge Silberman is certainly a breath of fresh air for all Americans concerned about their constitutional rights. This is a step in the right direction for DC, and I'd like to see other communities around the nation reversing their gun control laws, too."

Stephen Gordon, the Libertarian Party's political director, maintains a condominium within the District of Columbia. He recently witnessed the daylight robbery of a law student from his second floor balcony.

"We're not talking about some seedy neighborhood at three in the morning, but a sunny weekend afternoon on the waterfront." Gordon said. "Knowing that everyone is a potential victim has emboldened the criminal class. What's worse is that murder, rape and robbery occur on a daily basis in the District. The most significant impact of DC's gun ban has been the disarming of potential crime victims – making all of us more vulnerable to the whims of common street thugs."

"Governments at all levels often violate their citizens'

right of self defense with laws that restrict, limit or outright prohibit the ownership and use of firearms," begins the section of the Libertarian Party platform covering the right to keep and bear arms. "These 'gun control' laws are often justified by the mistaken premise that they will lead to a reduction in the level of violence in our society."

The Libertarian platform calls for the repeal of all laws which prevent the ability of law-abiding American citizens to defend themselves.

Thanking Our Candidates

They say money is the lifeblood of politics, but those who run for public office are the eyes, ears, mouths, hands and feet. The national office staff would like to thank each LP candidate for their very important service to the Libertarian Party by running for office.

The time and effort they put into their races was very important and had very tangible results. Because of the heroic efforts of our 2006 candidates, over 13,400,000 votes were cast for Libertarians. Because of Libertarian Party political campaigns, our party membership and donations increased. Even in the races we didn't win, Libertarians have been credited by the national media as being deciding factors in quite a few races. In general, our vote totals were significantly higher than in previous races.

Whether running for higher or lower level offices, one thing we have learned at the national office is that when more Libertarians run for office, more Libertarians win their races. Additionally, voter distrust of the two major parties continues to grow. In order to best take advantage of these factors, we intend to run considerably more candidates in 2008 than we did in 2006.

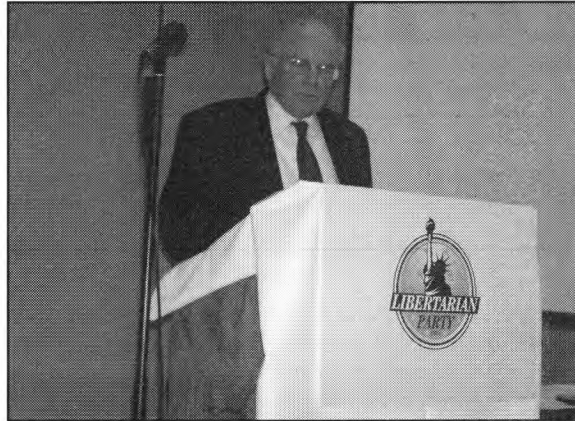
Once again, the leadership provided by our candidates is greatly needed to help spread the word of liberty. Hopefully, each Liberty Pledger will contact some of his/her Libertarian friends and acquaintances and ask them to run for office. Additionally, we'd like to ask you to consider running for office again in 2007 or 2008. The Libertarian Party absolutely needs leaders like you to advance our cause.

Please let us know of any assistance we can provide to any of your local campaigns. We may be reached at (202) 333-0008 EXT 230 or by e-mail at campaigns@lp.org.

Photographs taken at the recent Libertarian State Leadership Alliance Conference in Orlando, Florida.



Outgoing LSLA chairman Patrick Dixon makes opening comments. Dixon also serves on the Libertarian National Committee and as Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Texas. Additionally, Dixon serves on the city council of Lago Vista, Texas.



"Whenever conservatives are unhappy, bad things happen for the Republican Party," said Richard Viguerie. Viguerie is noted for his role in founding the modern conservative movement and is the author of "Conservatives Betrayed: How the Republican Party Hijacked the Conservative Cause."



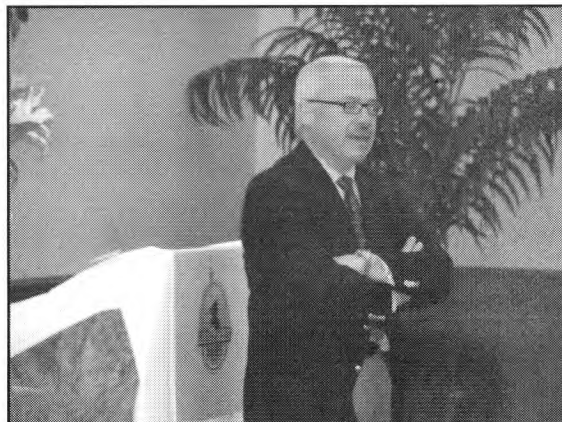
Outgoing Florida Libertarian chairman Doug Klipfel presents Jack Tanner with an award. Tanner is the Chairman of the Lee County (Florida) Soil and Water Conservation District.



(left to right) Wes Benedict of Texas, Susan Street-Beavers of Indiana, Angela Keaton of California and Richard Burke of Oregon sit on a panel of state Libertarian Party executive directors.



Libertarian National Committee Chairman Bill Redpath outlines how the Libertarian Party could overcome problems like ballot access and fundraising at a lunch panel discussing the future of the Libertarian Party.



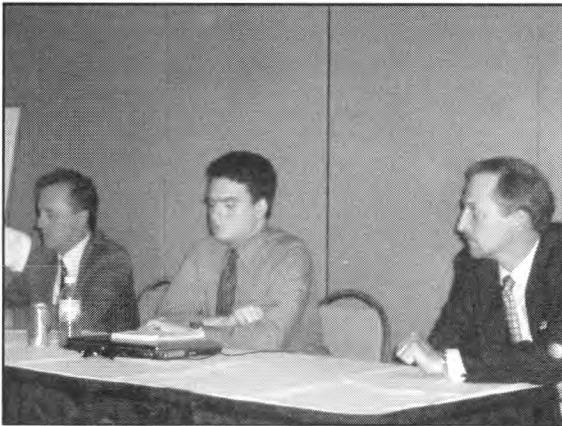
"The future of America is the future of the Libertarian Party," said former Congressman and current LNC Regional Representative Bob Barr. "And the future is bright."



Robert Stacy McCain (left) of the *Washington Times* and Dave Weigel of *Reason* taking notes during the lunchtime panel discussion.



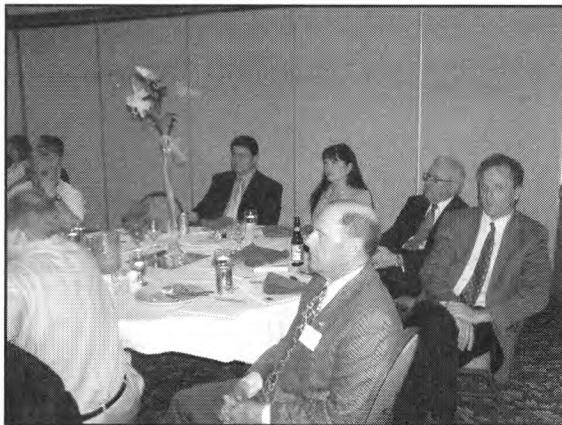
LNC Representative Emily Salvette addresses an informal gathering of the Libertarian Women's Caucus.



(left to right) *Washington Times* Assistant National Editor Robert Stacy McCain, *Reason* Associate Editor Dave Weigel and LP Political Director Stephen Gordon conduct a panel on media exposure for the Libertarian Party.



State party officers from across the country listen to a debate between LP presidential hopefuls. The *Washington Times* reported a higher level of participation than normal.



(clockwise from top) LNC Executive Director Shane Cory, Dr. Deborah Gordon of Alabama, LNC Representative and former Congressman Bob Barr, Robert Stacy McCain of the *Washington Times*, and LNC Representative Vice Admiral (Ret.) Michael Colley.



Five presidential hopefuls showed for a spirited debate at the conference. (left to right) Alden Link, George Phillies, Mike Jingoian, Wayne Allyn Root and Daniel Imperato.

LNC Meeting Notes

Orlando, Florida — March 16, 2007

By Julie Fox

The LNC met on Friday, March 16, preceding the annual LSLA conference. A good number of conference attendees also came to the LNC meeting. Chair Bill Redpath commented that it was the best-attended LNC meeting that he could remember.

Chair Bill Redpath's report included information on ballot access efforts. Currently the LP is funding petitioners in North Carolina for \$12,500. The LP is looking at funding ballot access in other states as well.

Treasurer Aaron Starr's report included discussion on proper accounting for life memberships. In order to comply with GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles), this is now accounted for as deferred revenue, which is a liability on the books to the tune of \$1,337,515 as of 2/28/07. Although this makes the balance sheet appear off kilter, it is correct accounting. Also of note is \$150,000 to \$160,000 revenue forecasted for March and the fact that the LP is now current on its accounts payable for the first time in quite a while.

Treasurer Starr also noted that he will not run for re-election as state chair of California, in order to devote his attention to his new LNC Treasurer duties.

Secretary Bob Sullentrup reported that he has started planning for the 2008 convention, and that the Delegation Chair's manual is available in the Organization folder under lp.org.

Secretary Bob Sullentrup's report included discussion on getting third party presidential candidates who have a mathematical chance of winning into the 2008 debates by asking R and D presidential candidates showing up in New Hampshire if they agree that debates should be open to all parties. Their responses would be taped and posted on www.youtube.com. Assuming candidates respond positively at the time, this doesn't prevent them from changing their opinions later, but it does put them on public record. A non-partisan board of directors is now being sought. If you know anyone in another third party who would be interested, please forward that information to Bob Sullentrup at rwsully@charter.net. For more information please visit www.rockthedebrates.com. (Rock the Debates is not a LNC-sponsored event.)

In the Executive Director's report, Shane Cory included the following points:

1) Steve Gordon is migrating into his new responsibilities as the LP's Political Director. One of his current projects is reviving affiliates in the states of MS, ME, NE, KY, WV, DC, and ND. He is also working on candidate recruitment, with his goal of "2008 in 2008".

2) New staffer, Louise Calise, is doing a great job at han-

dling direct mail activities. She is also planning a cruise with LP presidential candidates for prospective donors, scheduled for January 2008.

3) The 2007-2008 Candidate Tracker program is operating. Sean Haugh has been working on the candidate tracker initiative.

In Bill Redpath's ballot access report, he noted that 26 states currently have ballot status. The petition drive in Maryland has been completed. The petition drive in North Carolina is currently 80% complete. No additional ballot access activity is planned for 2007.

Executive Director Shane Cory's contract with the LNC was unanimously renewed for two years.

Richard Burke, first alternate for Region 2 on the LNC, resigned as of midnight, due to a conflict of interest. Richard is an employee of the Michael Jingoian campaign for President.

Emily Salvette moved to change the policy manual in order to form a convention oversight committee consisting of three current LNC members. The LNC's convention oversight committee was established. LNC members Bob Sullentrup, Julie Fox, and Admiral Michael Colley were appointed by Bill Redpath. Bette Rose Ryan will be organizing the 2008 convention, to be held in Denver May 23 through May 26. The theme for the convention will be "Better Choice for America."

The next LNC meeting is scheduled for July 21-22 in Pittsburgh.

Julie Fox is the Region 1 Alternate to the Libertarian National Committee.

Welcome to the Liberty Pledge Club!

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| John M. Bowers | Marian L. Dalton | Mac I. Sawyer |
| Barry B. Bishop | Doug Rooney | Todd A. Bamett |
| Nicole W. Hoffman | Joseph H. Perry | Mike Alford |
| Raymond M. Bledsaw | David C. Boyce | John Hauck |
| Tim Vincent | Louis E. Roninger | Tina Kelly |
| Mitchell Grossman | Norman L. Onstad | David G. Cruse |
| Sarah Newland | Ken Bacon | Steven Paige |
| Robert Price | Gregory A. Brown | Harvey Self |
| Douglas Doucet | Rick McNeely | Larry Trout |
| Robert Reed | Robert Pendergrass | Phillip Mayhall |
| Joan Carlson | Michael Maness | Richard Evey |
| Eugene Rhee | Brad Smith | Joseph Gilliland |

Thank you for your generous support!