



LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

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Wisconsin LP Ballot Drive a Success

Members of the Wisconsin LP have recently completed a petition drive to gain ballot status for the 1990 elections.

The petition drive, headed by Ken Zollner, will allow the Wisconsin LP to run David Ameringer for state treasurer in November.

The state party is confident that Amerin-

ger's candidacy can draw the necessary one percent of the vote required to win automatic ballot status for Libertarian Party candidates for the 1992 elections.

Ameringer, of West Bend, Wisconsin, has established a reputation for himself in the community. He has been active in the past on several tax initiatives and has been an active member of the National Rifle Association.

His campaign theme will urge voters to elect a Libertarian as an independent "watchdog" over Democrats and Republicans.

Communist Chinese Seem In Agreement With LP In Describing Census

It looks like the Communist Chinese government has been best able to sum up the purpose of a Census. Here's the Chinese government's official slogan for its own census just getting underway:

**"The conduct of population
census serves the need of socialist
modernization construction."**

The Libertarian Party was the only national organization to protest the census and to assist census resisters.

The LP Headquarters has assembled newspaper articles and letters regarding the census issue, which it will be publishing soon. Liberty Pledgers should contact the Headquarters for more information on how to get a copy.

And Other Items of Note . . .

- The LP's Ballot Access Committee is organizing teams of petitioners to work on ballot drives for 1992 ballot status in Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.
- The LP Headquarters is working on a system for printing Liberty Pledge Newsletter mailing labels to include confirmation that pledge payments are up-to-date or the amount of any overdue payments.
- Don Ernsberger has just completed another organizing swing for the college project. He visited student activists in Northern Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin; visiting the University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and Bowling Green University.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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'Growing' Libertarian Party holding convention

By GLEN CHASE
Sun-Journal Staff Writer

AUGUSTA — While Democrats and Republicans focus their feints and jabs on each other, backers of an alternative political party are holding conventions in three Maine cities this weekend in an effort to launch the Libertarian Party into prominence.

"It's definitely growing. We're adding hundreds of names to our mailing list," said Nick Youngers of Freeport, the party's Maine chairman.

The Libertarian Party convention opened Friday in Kennebunkport, moves to Bangor Saturday for a discussion of Maine issues, and will close Sunday in Auburn with the nomination of the party's 1990 slate of candidates.

In the 1988 presidential election, 2,700 Maine voters cast ballots for the party's presidential and vice presidential candidates.

Youngers was unsure how many people consider themselves "Libertarians" in

Maine.

Libertarians feel they don't fall on the traditional right-left scale used to describe political movements. The party's basic theme is to curtail the size and involvement of government in all activities of citizens.

At a banquet a year ago, about 60 people attended, Youngers said. Turnout at the 1990 convention is up in the air, he added.

"It's a three-day event in three different cities," said Youngers. "We've already had more than 60 people register but I don't know if we'll get that many at any one place."

The party hopes to do more to attract candidates at the local level.

Tim McClure of Lisbon Falls, a member of the Lisbon Advisory Committee, said he would be participating in his first Libertarian convention on Sunday.

"To be honest, I've probably been a Libertarian for about 10 years," said McClure, 33. He attributed his political alignment to a conservative teacher in high school whose poli-

tics "kind of rubbed off on me."

While McClure said he was surprised to learn he was to be on a panel at the convention, he welcomes the opportunity. As a systems analyst for a government contractor, McClure said he sees a lot of waste.

"There is still a need for government, but it's how we allow government to run our lives," said McClure.

Being a Libertarian hasn't affected his relationships with other town officials, according to McClure. But he said he's not afraid to be known as a Libertarian and hopes some of his party's philosophy rubs off on town affairs.

At the first day of the convention, Friday in Kennebunkport, Libertarians heard from Gene Burns, a Boston radio talk show host who belongs to the party.

On Saturday in Bangor, northern Maine party members will hear Andre Marrou, the 1988 Libertarian Party vice presidential candidate and former Alaska state legislator.

And in Auburn Sunday, the convention will focus on Libertarians in politics, with a panel discussion featuring local officials who are Libertarians, as well as an address by Rep. Richard Gould, D-Greenville.

Among the stands taken by the party in past elections were calls for legalized drug use, reduced federal income taxes, reduced U.S. involvement in foreign affairs, defense spending cuts, unfettered individual rights, and more reliance on the private marketplace by removing government regulations.

The party is also struggling to become a recognized political force, according to Youngers.

State laws have set specific requirements for the creation of political parties, according to Lorraine Fleury, director of the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office.

Fleury said that to become a recognized party in Maine, its presidential or gubernatorial candidate must receive at least 5 percent of the general election vote and allow those

votes to be used in the formation of the party.

The alternative is to gather voter signatures equaling at least 5 percent of the total votes cast for governor at the last election. Fleury said this would equal about 23,000 signatures, based on the 1986 general election.

"Some states are easier," she said. "People who know have told me Maine is one of the most difficult states to form a new party in."

Once formed, a new party must hold county caucuses and state conventions, as well as field major candidates. If it ever fails to muster at least 5 percent of the vote, it is automatically disqualified as a party, Fleury said.

Youngers said similar processes in other states "have been declared unconstitutional."

"We have not challenged it in Maine because of the cost," said Youngers. But Libertarians may lobby the Legislature to change existing laws, he added.

Fairfield, OH, Journal-News, June 12, 1990.

Legal drugs: Step toward responsible use?

By Rob Daumeier
Of the Journal-News

OXFORD — Miami University student Jim Fuller envisions the day when shopping at your local convenience store could mean more than purchasing just beer and potato chips.

Fuller, a member of Miami Libertarians, believes drugs — all drugs — should be legalized.

"I don't take drugs, and I personally don't condone their use," said Fuller, demonstrating Monday outside Marcum Conference Center, site of the Butler County drug summit. "But it should be up to you. It's time to punish the real criminals, not drug users."

Legalizing drugs, even if it started with only marijuana, would go a long way in balancing the budget and freeing up prisons for those convicted of violent crimes, Fuller said.

"It's time we stopped having to look toward government for the answers," he said.

Fuller wants to restore what he termed "in-

dividual responsibility."

"If you want to take drugs, you have to pay for it," he said. "Don't ask me to. We must hold people responsible for their actions, whether they are sober or high or drunk."

Barry Cole, Libertarian party representative for southwestern Ohio, agreed.

"We need politicians who aren't afraid to come out and say what we are saying," he said. "But right now it is political death to say you are for legalizing drugs."

Both Cole and Fuller realize legalizing all drugs is a pipe dream at this point, but they both believe legalizing marijuana would be a good start.

Fuller noted that prior to 1914, all drugs were legal. "Cocaine was used in many everyday products," he said.

If marijuana were to be legalized, standards would need to be set, similar to alcohol, for legal intoxication levels, he said.

"If marijuana works, then we could go on to other drugs," Fuller said.

Clean needle measure passes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Supporters of an advisory measure to fight AIDS by legalizing hypodermic needles promised to immediately begin drafting a letter to state legislators after voters approved the ballot item.

Proposition O, the so-called "Clean Needle" measure, was approved by a margin of 62,826 votes, or 53.8 percent, to 53,772, or 46.1 percent Tuesday with all precincts reporting.

The ballot measure asked state lawmakers to eliminate criminal and civil penalties on the manufacture, use, sale and distribution of needles.

"We think the vote stands for itself but we'll be drafting a letter," said Jim Peron, who wrote Measure O and coordinated the campaign, which was sponsored by the Libertarian Party.

Although the measure was intended by supporters to fight the spread of AIDS, the proposition lacked the backing of major AIDS activists. Critics said Proposition O lacked the support of a comprehensive public health program.

But Peron rejected the argument, saying: "A comprehensive program is an absurdity if it's illegal. Legalization is the first step."

Peron conceded that no state lawmaker has voiced support for legalization.

The Stop AIDS Project, the Black Coalition on AIDS and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation were among organizations that stayed neutral on Proposition O.

Porterville, CA, Recorder
June 6, 1990.

Chicago Sun Times
June 5, 1990.

Put taxes to vote

A May 22 news story that discussed opposition to the proposed "tax accountability amendment" by lawyers for the Chicago Bar Association, et. al., raises several important questions.

The Board of Elections has validated 489,949 signatures on petitions to put the tax accountability amendment on November ballots—252,518 signatures were required. These numbers reflect a strong public interest in this proposal.

However, the opposing groups cited in your article (Chicago Federation of Labor, the Illinois Public Action Council and others), apparently refuse to accept this fact. Or, perhaps they believe that Illinois voters and taxpayers are not qualified to understand and to decide taxation issues.

Do they assume that our level of competence goes no further than our ability to sign checks?

Whether or not the tax accountability amendment passes in November, putting it on the ballot assures that the whole process of revenue-raising in Illinois will be reviewed and openly debated. Is it such "glasnost" that these groups so vehemently oppose?

Nearly a half-million registered voters have expressed a will simply to vote on the tax accountability amendment. Consider this seriously: What purpose is served by attempting to stifle the right to vote?

This battle has been fought before in America. Does "No taxation without representation" ring any bells?

Jeanette Clinkunbroomer,
Corresponding secretary,
Libertarian Party of Illinois

Sacramento Bee, May 20, 1990.

Libertarians have a long tradition of lonely battles

THOUGH members of the Libertarian Party are fond of tracing their political inspiration to the day that the Declaration of Independence was signed, they didn't get around to organizing formally until 1971.

At that time, five young but seasoned Republican activists disenchanted with the domestic and foreign policies of the Nixon administration met in a Colorado Springs, Colo., apartment to start to forge a new political party "dedicated to the uncompromising defense of individual liberty."

Since then, they have boasted tirelessly of being the third-largest and fastest-growing political party in the country, though the party appears to have lost momentum lately, at least in California, where Libertarian registration has slipped from 85,015 in 1980 to 47,752 today.

Nonetheless, Ron Paul, a former four-term Republican congressman from Texas who was the Libertarian Party's presidential nominee in 1988, easily outpolled the other 16 minor-party candidates. He received 432,116 votes, compared with 47,047 for David Duke of the Populist Party, 30,905 for Eugene J. McCarthy of the Consumer Party, 25,542 for Lyndon H. LaRouche of the National Economic Party, and 10,370 for Herbert Lewin of the Peace & Freedom Party.

What's more, about 100 members of the Libertarian Party have been elected to public office, generally city councils, school boards and the like, said Tomie Nathan of Eugene, Ore., the party's director of media relations. The entire city

council of Big Water, Utah, belongs to the Libertarian Party, along with the community's mayor, noted Nathan, who in 1972 was the party's first vice-presidential candidate.

Rural Western states seem most receptive to Libertarian values. Since 1980, three Libertarians have been elected to the Alaska legislature, though none currently holds office, said Nathan.

Libertarian literature credits free-market economists such as Ludwig von Mises and Milton Friedman and the didactic novelist Ayn Rand ("The Fountainhead," "Atlas Shrugged"), whose writings celebrate individualism, laissez-faire capitalism and "rational self-interest," with playing pivotal roles in formulating party philosophy.

The Libertarian Party has some 9,000 dues-paying members and an estimated 225,000 registered voters nationally, said Nathan.

"We do want to grow and we do want to elect people to Congress, but our object isn't just to win office," remarked Nathan. Rather, political campaigns are mounted as much to awaken a complacent citizenship and to foment new notions of how to deal with old problems, she said.

Gradually, she added, the party's position on such matters as the decriminalization of marijuana and the transfer of government functions to private industry is gaining favor.

"We're spreading ideas that the Republicans and Democrats are picking up," said Nathan.

— Mike Dunne

Libertarians seek ballot slot

By Al Polczynski
The Wichita Eagle

Kansas Libertarians will begin a petition drive today seeking to collect signatures of about 26,000 Kansas voters.

If they gather at least 16,813 verified signatures of registered voters, they can have candidates on the November election ballot under the label "Libertarian Party" instead of "Independent," as in past years.

"We need at least 50 percent over the 16,813 signatures needed to protect against unregistered signers," said Karl Peterjohn, the party's media coordinator.

Libertarian and other third-party candidates have appeared as independent candidates on the Kansas ballot in recent years. Only 2,000 signatures are needed to run as an independent.

Peterjohn said about 300 signatures would have to be collected every day for the next 90 days to meet the state's deadline.

PEOPLE
AND POLITICS

Wichita, KS, Eagle-Beacon
May 11, 1990.

Savannah, GA, News, May 6, 1990.

Libertarian Candidate Runs To Offer Choice

By RICHARD FOGALEY

CAROLE Ann Rand doesn't mince words when she says, "I have no chance in this election."

So why is she running for governor?

"To reach those Georgians who feel lost, politically homeless. They need a choice on the ballot. Eastern Europeans now have more choices on the ballot than Georgians. We're here to give them a choice," Mrs. Rand, a member of the Libertarian Party, said.

A Libertarian candidacy will force other candidates to talk about some issues they might otherwise avoid, Mrs. Rand said. "People are tired of the image and fluff political campaigns," she said, and of "tax-and-spend politics, ever escalating size of government and the pinch on their pocketbooks from well-intentioned but ill-conceived government programs."

A native of Atlanta who spent part of her childhood in Savannah, Mrs. Rand is an insurance company sales manager. The former head of the Libertarian Party of Georgia, she was nominated last weekend as the party's nominee for governor.

Libertarianism is a philosophy based on traditional American values, she said, such as personal responsibility and personal choice. "Out of that philosophy comes an approach to government that says the best government we can possibly have is small, that does what it is supposed to do to protect our rights, and otherwise gets out of the way."

Somewhere between liberals and conservatives? "Actually, we're above both," Mrs. Rand said.

On gun control, Mrs. Rand believes that a person has a responsibility to defend himself or herself at the time of an attack and supports the responsible use of a gun. She does not carry one herself, preferring to rely on a canister of chemical spray for protection.

Abortion is a subject even Libertarians

Richard Fogaley is a political writer for the Savannah News-Press



RAND: Libertarian candidate can't agree on, she admits. "I'm satisfied with the laws as they stand in Georgia. I'm pro-choice," Mrs. Rand said. Even so, she wants government to stay out of the issue, either from funding abortions or "forcing women to be pregnant."

For those who feel abortion is murder, Mrs. Rand said, "it is criminal to have their tax dollars fund something they think is immoral."

Mrs. Rand has no objection to a state lottery, but would also want private gambling allowed. "Why should we allow the state to have a monopoly in any industry?" she asked.

She opposes farm subsidies, particularly those cooperative extension services that serve as business consultants for farmers. If other businessmen have to pay for their consultants, farmers should too, Mrs. Rand said.

Mrs. Rand suggests incentives to industries to conserve and recycle resources, including having the price of the

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Rand

Continued From Page 1B

product include the cost of cleaning up whatever pollution results from the manufacture of that product.

"Government schools are a massive failure," Mrs. Rand said. "I want to see all Georgia children having access to education that fits their needs, and all needs are not the same."

She proposes a system of financial vouchers for education.

The average cost of educating a student is \$5,000, she said. If parents don't want to send their child to a

public school, give them a \$3,000 voucher to send that child to a private school of their choice, and delete that \$5,000 from the public school's budget.

This plan puts control over a child's education in the hands of the parents, the teachers and the child, rather than that of the administration, Mrs. Rand said.

"Where there's control, there's concern and involvement," she said. Under this strategy, "good public schools will survive; others won't," Mrs. Rand said.

In business, Mrs. Rand wants to sell state-owned service businesses that compete with private enterprise, such as the state Department of Natural Resources hotel and re-

sort, or Lake Lanier Islands.

Such competition is "blatantly unfair," she said, and in order to eliminate state corporate and personal incomes, massive privatization of state enterprises is essential.

Mrs. Rand includes highway maintenance in this area. "I don't see selling our roads, but we can stop having state employees with massive pensions doing the maintenance. Contract it out."

Ten states in the nation do not have a state personal or corporate income tax, she said. "I want to see Georgia be the 11th state. We can do it by getting government off our backs and out of our pockets," Mrs. Rand said.

Libertarians to challenge the unopposed

By **JERRY RHODES**
News Staff Writer

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At least three candidates with no major-party opponent in the general election will have opposition in November from the Libertarian Party of Oregon, which has nominated 11 candidates for partisan public office.

The party met over the weekend in Portland to fill slots on the state ballot. The party's place on the ballot was assured in the 1988 general election, when Fred Oerther of Clackamas drew 11 percent of the vote against incumbent Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer. Minor parties must petition to be on the ballot unless a candidate from that party has drawn more than 5 percent of the vote in a statewide election. (The law was changed in 1989 to allow ballot



Tonie Nathan

access with only 1 percent of votes in the previous election.)

Oerther, a Vietnam veteran, retired physician and organic farmer who is active in campaigns to legalize marijuana use,

will be on the ballot again as candidate for governor. Oerther's nomination came despite a Thursday arrest on drug charges that the candidate claimed was politically motivated.

The other candidates include three who will be on the ballot in Lane County:

- Bob Fauvre of Eugene was nominated for House District 39. Fauvre will face off against incumbent Rep. Jim Edmondson, D-Eugene. No Republican ran in the primary.

- Mary Ann Ruggiero of Salem was nominated for commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries. Ruggiero, a shop steward for the Oregon Federation of Nurses, will oppose Mary Wendy Roberts, the Democratic incumbent who drew no Republican opposition.

- Tonie Nathan of Eugene will be on the ballot seeking the 4th Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Nathan's opponent is Rep. Peter DeFazio, the

Springfield Democrat who is seeking his third term.

Nathan is no stranger to Libertarian politics in Lane County or nationally. In 1972, Nathan was the party's first candidate for vice president and has the distinction of being the first woman to draw a vote in the electoral college. She has also run for U.S. senator, Lane County commissioner and once before for Congress.

Nathan said the Libertarian agenda has been moving into the mainstream. Four-time GOP congressman Ron Paul of Texas jumped ship in 1988 to head the Libertarian ticket as candidate for U.S. president, she said. Libertarian issues such as "privatization" of government activities and withdrawal of troops from Europe and Japan also have gotten support from Democrats and Republicans.

Springfield, OR, News, May 23, 1990.

Heaven help taxpayers

To the editor: 302 (1)

Heaven help the poor Oregon taxpayers!

Both candidates of the two major parties have lived the last 10 years or so in the world of the bureaucracy with its assured salaries, perks, cost-of-living increases, pension plan, paid insurance and strong unions. What can they really know of the real world of the entrepreneur or laborer in the private sector?

Reading government reports in the security of one's posh office every day is hardly a "broad working experience."

Both Twiddle He and Twiddle She

are proposing a sales tax that would harm the young and poor the most and be another bookkeeping nightmare to business in spite of the fact that the voters and taxpayers have rejected this approach a number of times.

The male candidate of the Republicans is a member of the judiciary branch of government wanting to jump to the executive with no mention of resigning from the "bar" if he wins. I find this a gross conflict of interest. Now nice for these lawyer types to hippie hop to the legislative or executive branch, enact ambiguous laws then go home and make a nice living interpreting them.

I'm just jealous, of course, trying to

survive in that world where one and one is still two, people earn their own living, and it doesn't matter where you went to school as long as you learned something. I would surmise Constitutional Law might be helpful for a lawyer, but I'm old-fashioned about the government I try to keep and am hard pressed to pay for.

Methinks this is the year I join the NOW ladies and send my entire political budget to the Libertarians. No matter how one may disagree with the Libertarians they have never supported any tax and show some respect for the voters.

L. Berggren
Aloha

Baker, OR, Democrat-Herald
May 24, 1990.

Party offers 'less government'

Denise Zendel

Record Staff Writer

The Libertarian Party supports the rights of the individual over the rights of the government, according to the party's state coordinator.

Joseph E. Knight of Flora Vista, N.M., said the party's main issue is "who should control your life and your property ... you or somebody else. Every other issue can be reduced to that.

"The Republicans and Democrats are offering a choice of more government or more government," Knight said Wednesday during an interview with the Daily Record. "We are offering a choice of less government."



Knight

Knight said.

Party members seek a world of liberty in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others, according to the Libertarian Party's preamble.

People who are interested in learning more about the Libertarian Party may attend free seminars at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. today at the Sally Port Inn, 2000 N. Main St.

Knight said each seminar, which lasts about 1½ hours, will explain in detail Libertarian principles and show participants how the party applies principles to the issues.

The meetings also will share information on third party strategy and why it helps to support a third party.

Knight recommended participants arrive shortly before the seminars begin, so they will

not miss any of the discussion.

He said the Libertarians agree with political conservatives who say the country needs more economic freedom, as well as with liberals who support more personal freedoms.

The Libertarian Party believes government "should protect us from the bad guys, defend our shores from foreign aggression and otherwise get the hell out of our lives," he said.

Knight said the party attracts a wide, diverse crowd, including atheists, fundamentalists, Catholic lay people, business owners, housewives, bikers, farmers and "people that are in general fed up with government."

He estimated there are about 1,500 registered Libertarians in the state, adding that the party is the third largest and fastest growing

party in the nation.

Knight said he did not have a count of Chaves County Libertarians, adding that he hoped to have a better idea after today's seminars.

No Libertarian has been elected to a statewide office yet, although two Libertarians from San Juan County and McKinley counties are seeking election to the House of Representatives. A Libertarian from Luna County is seeking the nod for sheriff.

The Libertarian Party has elected three people to the Alaska statehouse, Knight said, as well as to many local offices across the country.

Its biggest success to date is in Big Water, Utah, where the mayor and entire city council are Libertarians, Knight said.

While in Roswell, Knight will assist local Libertarians in establishing the foundation of a Chaves County Libertarian Party.

Roswell, N.M., Daily Record, May 24, 1990.