

Candidates Pursue Opportunities

Texas Libertarian candidates are going all out this election season to bring our message to voters. Many candidates report active campaigning including fundraising, websites, debates, media interviews, meet the candidate events, and blockwalking. Even our so-called "paper" candidates have been answering surveys, writing letters to the editor, and participating in outreach events.

LP Presidential candidate Michael Badnarik has been campaigning full-time. While still denied a debate with the major party candidates—he has arranged a second debate with Green Party candidate David Cobb. The debate will be held in Austin October 7 at the University of Texas. The first minor-party presidential debate was held at the end of August in New York and was televised on CSPAN.

In a very close race for Congress in the 19th District LP candidate Richard Peterson will be in the debates scheduled for Oct. 5 and Oct 12 in Lubbock and Abilene.

In the Houston area, US Congressional candidate District 18 Brent Sullivan earned mention in the Houston Chronicle about his efforts to get into a debate with incumbent Sheila Jackson Lee. The article titled "Getting Incumbents to debate can be a tough job," reported that Brent publicly challenged Lee to debate at a rally in August and she agreed, but that she has so far refused to set a date.

Mention in the Chronicle—which has mostly ignored the LP—is a coup for the local activists who have been emailing and calling both the Lee campaign and the media about the is-

sue. This month, Brent will be at the Houston Heights Festival, several meet-the-candidate events, blockwalking, and will be talking to the editorial board at the African American News.

K X A N Channel 36 in Austin has been profiling all the Congressional candidates in their viewing area and has included Libertarians. At press time Robert Fritsche in District 10 and James Werner in District 25 had appeared. The interviews, running about 15 minutes, were shown on television and remain available at the station's website viewable in Realvideo or transcript form.

KXAS Channel 5 in Dallas-Fort Worth will be interviewing Congressional candidates Kevin Anderson for District 4, John Davis for District 30, Clyde Garland for District 17, and Stephen Schrader for District 6 for inclusion on their 4 p.m. newscasts.

Stacey Bourland, candidate for US Congress District 9, and Tom Morrison, candidate for Congress District 22, recently spoke at the Rosenberg Business and Professional Women and VFW Post 3903 Ladies Auxiliary's candidate forum. Stacey will be speaking at the town hall meeting of the Arab-American Voter's Coalition this month.



Statewide Candidate Quanah Parker (middle) and supporters at the Taylor County Parade in Abilene.

Court of Criminal Appeals candidate Quanah Parker and State Representative District 71 candidate Fred Jones participated in the Taylor County Parade September 11 in downtown Abilene. Taylor County LP Chair Steve Kirby and wife Donna, led the three-car LP contingent promoting the local party and candidates.

Polk County Tax-Assessor Collector candidate Tina Carter is hosting (along with the Polk County Party) a Freedom Bowl on October 16. The tournament held at the bowling center in Livingston will include five games of bowling for \$40 with a chance to win \$100 and other prizes. Those under 18 can play in the student tournament for \$30 where everyone participating will receive a gift or toy. The event will raise money for Tina's campaign, the Badnarik campaign and the local LP.

Information on other candidates is available on the Internet. Visit www.lptexas.org for links to individual candidate's websites or contact info.



Lone Star Liberty

Volume 14, Issue 10
October 2004
Available monthly
online at
www.lptexas.org;

Publisher:
Libertarian Party of Texas
P.O. Box 27932
Houston, TX 77227
www.lptexas.org
1-800-422-1776

State Chair:
Patrick Dixon
5200 Sundown
Lago Vista, TX 78645
tcldpatjdixon@earthlink.net
512-771-3936

Executive Director:
Wes Benedict
1403-B Kenwood Ave.
Austin, TX 78704
Wesliberty@aol.com
512-442-4910

Lone Star Liberty Editor:
Laura Coker-Garcia
9835 Sagedowne Lane
Houston, TX 77089
Laura@LibertyWorks.org
281-997-8141

Database Manager:
James VanBeek
2739 San Felipe Drive
College Station, TX 77845
jim@vanbeek.us
979-696-9766

Submissions of party news, meeting minutes, photographs, biographies of candidate, suggested websites, letters to the editor, etc. is encouraged. Send any submissions to Laura@libertyworks.org.

Thanks to David Alter, Wes Benedict, David DeLamar, Pat Dixon, Fred Jones, Kris Overstreet, Bob Ruliffson, and posters to the various lists for news items used in this month's Lone Star Liberty!

From the State Chair

Dear supporters of Liberty,

At the moment, only Libertarians, Democrats, and Republicans will appear on the Texas ballot this year. It looks as though Ralph Nader will not. While politically this may be good short term news for us, in reality it illustrates the long term challenge of fighting against egregious rules that favor major parties and harm the growth of our party. While we were able to accomplish this monumental challenge, we never want to be faced with this again.

In order to maintain our status as a political party in Texas and remain on the ballot, we had to incur a debt. Of the \$150,000 raised for this effort, \$25,000 was in the form of a no-interest loan from five individual contributors here in Texas. Each of these patriots loaned \$5,000 to keep Michael Badnarik on the ballot in his home state, offer Libertarian candidates for every congressional district in the state, and give voters a Libertarian choice for federal, statewide, and county offices.

I realize some of you were not

able to collect petition signatures for us. It was very difficult to collect over 82,000 signatures in the 75 day period we had. However, if you want to put your investment into a can't miss proposition, I ask you to contribute to the LP of Texas, repay those patriots that loaned us their money, and retire our debt.

We have made this as easy as possible. Several people have already signed up for our Monthly Pledge Program. This allows you to charge your credit card every month automatically. This way, you won't be bothered with phone solicitations and our organization becomes much more efficient.

To become a monthly pledger—or to make a onetime donation—just fill out the form in this newsletter and send it in the enclosed envelope. If you have questions or need assistance please contact our executive director Wes Benedict at 512-442-4910 or Wesliberty@aol.com.

Yours in Liberty,
Patrick J Dixon
Chair, Texas Libertarian Party

LP Treasurer Resigns

LPTexas Treasurer Chris Williams, who was elected in June at the Convention, has resigned. Chris reported that heavy commitments at work, a move, and stress induced illness were all causes.

"It's been enjoyable to participate in politics again and I am glad to have helped make a difference and put the LP on the ballot in Texas," he wrote, "but right now I can not keep up with the pace needed."

Anthony Garcia, District Rep. 11, volunteered to take on the Treasurer position. State Chair Patrick Dixon has appointed Anthony to serve until the SLECT meets on October 9 in Austin.

There is now an opening for a SLECT Representative from State Senate District 11. Prospective members should attend the next meeting.

Join The National Party!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

_____ \$25 basic member

I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

(Signature required for membership)

Enclose a check payable to Libertarian Party and mail to 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 100 Washington DC 20037. **Or join online at www.LP.org.**

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Libertarian Print

LP Texas Media Relations Chair Kris Overstreet released two press releases in September.

The first, issued September 1, was titled "Texas Libertarians call Nader ruling "miscarriage of justice."" and was on the topic of ballot access. The second release was issued September 16 and was titled "Libertarians say no new taxes for schools." At press time a draft release on toll roads was in the works, but had not yet been issued. The school tax issue release was reprinted by the Pflugerville Pflag as an Op-Ed on September 23.

Kris reports that an October issue of White Lightning Production's adult oriented comics will be printed with a back page letter from Kris endorsing all LP candidates and calling for readers to vote to protect their right to free speech.

David Alter of Bexar County has a book on the objectives of the LP titled "What is the Objective" now available from Candlestick Publishing at www.geocities.com/c2777.

An Op-Ed by Garry Reed was published in the Fort worth Star Telegram. In the article titled "Let's call the whole thing off" Garry wrote about the two-headed major party and told readers why he's "punching a proverbial chad for the Libertarian label."

Monica Granger, CLUH president, had a letter to the editor published September 9 in the Daily Cougar at the University of Houston titled "reject the draft." Bob Thompson of Hays County had a letter published by the Austin American Statesman September 14 on ballot access. Robert Fritsche had one published by same newspaper on September 18. His letter was on deficit spending and mentions the LP. Vincent May was published by the Austin Chronicle on September 23 on toll roads. David Weller had a letter in the Abilene Reporter News August 18 supporting Fred Jones and Steve Kirby had one published there on September 16 also supporting Fred.

What's Wrong With Toll Roads?

The LP National Platform calls for the privatization of public roads and our State Party Platform applauds "user fees for government services." So why are longtime Libertarian activists in Austin speaking out against the largest toll road plan ever approved?

Vincent May and Steve Ravet have been watching the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) for some time and they have found a lot of problems in CAMPO's toll road plan.

First, CAMPO's plan isn't typical. Most toll road plans involve investors and bond issues to construct new roads where the tolls are used to pay off the cost of construction and maintenance and possibly profit the investors. In the CAMPO plan they aren't building much—instead they want to convert most of the commuter freeways in Austin into toll roads. These roads were tax funded in the first place so in effect the tolls will be a double tax.

Also, there is already a user fee in place. According to the State Comptroller's website we are now paying 8.4 cents per dollar in a gaso-

line tax for "gasoline that is used to propel vehicles on Texas public roads." This tax is the third largest source of tax revenue for Texas.

In the end what CAMPO has described is not a toll road plan, but a revenue plan. With 93% of the public comment against the plan it's not a popular plan either. Another problem with it—who it benefits. The toll roads "being proposed here seem to involve directing very large sums of money to a few major players," Wes Benedict says. Testimony from a September 13 public meeting show that many on the CAMPO board have questionable ties to various groups that would benefit from contracts in the deal.

Vincent May argues that the entire state is subject to these toll road plans as a result of HB 3588 and that it is time for the State Party to take a stand against them.

For those interested the issue will be on the agenda for the October 9 SLECT meeting. Also, toll opponents in Austin have a website at www.austintollparty.com that has more information.

Around the State: Activist Update

Bexar County (San Antonio)

Several volunteers picked up 200 Libertarian Viewpoint flyers each at the September county meeting. Chair James Holland is organizing a precinct blockwalking with the two US Congress and Texas Senate candidate Raymundo Aleman.

"This method is actually one of the most effective and cost efficient ways to get votes," James said.

Brazos County (College Station)

September 18, Brazos County Libertarians met to coordinate distribution of "Badnarik for President" signs. Also, the local party's webpage is under reconstruction. Please check

by periodically to see the most recent update. www.BrazosLP.org

Collin County

Chris Webb has created a new Collin County website: <http://collincountylp.org>.

Mike Nelson passed out newsletters at the gay pride rally.

Ben Westfried did outreach at the Plano Balloonfest. "I must have given out over a hundred brochures and spoken with each and every recipient. It was just great. I honed my speech to perfection and it really got people's interest."

Dallas County

Continued page 4

County Parties Report Recent Activities *continued from page 3*

Richard Massey and Thomas Fisher volunteered to make phone calls to get Libertarians to renew their expired memberships and invite people to the next Dallas County meeting.

Thomas Fisher and Jeff Wright promoted the Badnarik Campaign and passed out Libertarian Viewpoint newsletters at a gay pride rally in Colin County. The two were invited to do outreach at the Pagan Pride Day Festival in downtown Dallas. "We feel that this is a great opportunity to reach out to voters who might feel they have no choice," Thomas said.

Tim Lesback picked up 200 flyers and reports: "I spread them around my neighborhood last Sunday early. Went well. Less than two hours to leave on front porches."

Lauren Munoz created a yahoo e-mail discussion group so that Dallas area libertarians can self-organize events. Fifteen members have joined. Contact Lauren at moonlali@hotmail.com to join. Philip White, a UT Dallas student, is making a website for US Congressional candidate John Davis.

Bill Bunch hosts the Dallas Area Libertarian Pot Luck Dinner at his home each fourth Thursday of the month from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Guests bring food to share, Bill provides plastic plates, utensils, napkins and a case of Ziegenbock—the official beer of the Dallas Areas Libertarian Pot Luck Dinner group. Contact Bill at 214-826-4905 or wbbunch@yahoo.com.

Denton County

Denton County Chair Mike Ellsberry volunteered to organize an Election Night Celebration for all North Texas (Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area) libertarians for Tuesday, November 2. Details to be announced when confirmed.

David Croft has setup a University of North Texas LP yahoo discussion group.

John Steen will be making

phone calls to invite other libertarians to the next Denton County meeting.

Fort Bend County

Activist Kevin Tunstall has called an organizing meeting for the county for Saturday, October 23 in Sugar Land. Kevin has outreach newsletters and LP brochures to distribute. The party will also be organizing support for a women descended from slaves whose family land is being taken for a road extension.

Galveston County

Tony Fraps, a 2000 candidate for Harris County Justice of the Peace, has announced his 2006 candidacy for Galveston County Justice of the Peace.

Harris County (Houston)

Yvonne Kelly, Jeff Daiell, and Drew Parks had an active month registering voters at Gun Shows in Conroe and Pasadena. Candidates and activists will be doing outreach OPH booths at the Houston Heights Festival Oct. 3 and the Westheimer Street Festival Oct. 16-17. The Party placed two 4 by 8 foot signs at the south I-45 exit ramp into downtown Houston.

Hays County (south of Austin)

Volunteers are distributing outreach newsletters.

Kaufman County

Victor Morales, former Democratic primary nominee for US Senate from Texas contacted the LPTX looking for a Libertarian Party representative to speak to his high school government class. Morales was famous for winning the Democratic primary using very low-budget tactics. Joey Dauben, from Ellis County will represent the LP at this opportunity.

Tarrant County

Dewey Owens expressed interest in serving as the new Tarrant County LP chair.

Taylor County (Abilene)

Local Party participated in county parade (see article page one).

Travis County (Austin)

Travis County volunteers are busy working at the Badnarik for

President headquarters making phone calls, shipping paraphernalia all over the country, etc. If you'd like to visit Austin to help out, they need your help. Call the headquarters at 1-800-807-7552 or (512) 637-6860 to volunteer.

Vincent May, Wes Benedict and Steve Ravet spoke at a September 13 public hearing on toll roads.

Jon Roland, creator of the website constitution.org, celebrated Constitution Day, September 17, by standing on a freeway overpass holding a sign that read "Honk if you Love the Constitution!" The police showed up, tried to tell Jon he had to leave, but were unable to out debate this constitutional expert on whether he had the right to be there or not.

Tom Green County

Robert Restivo and others had an outreach table at a gun show at the San Angelo Colesium September 25-26.

Williamson County (north of Austin)

County Chair Jack McKinney has resigned. Dave Howard is seeking appointment as new Chair. He can be contacted at dave@dhoward.us. Steve Adams created a flyer to insert into the Libertarian Viewpoint paper listing all of the Libertarian Party candidates including local, statewide, and our Presidential candidate.

For Counties not listed please visit our website at www.lptexas.org for a complete County Chair list. If no County Chair is listed on the website it means that your county is currently unorganized.

Individuals wanting to be activists in unorganized counties should contact our Executive Director Wes Benedict for advice or help in getting started. Wes can be reached at wesliberty@aol.com or 512-442-4910. County Chairs are needed—to find out more about the position and its responsibilities contact our State Chair Patrick Dixon at telppatjdixon@earthlink.net or call 512-771-3936.

Your Support for the Libertarian Party Needed Now

The Texas State Party Executive Committee has the following goals:

1. To secure ballot access for 2006, and for all future campaign seasons, through a plan due before the end of 2004.
2. To recruit, train and support County Chairs and County Organizations with the goal of having trained active County Chairs in 50 counties by November 1, 2005, including the 10 most populous counties.
3. That we have at least one Organized County in each State Senatorial District.
4. To recruit and support active candidates in 20 different races for non-partisan municipal, school board, and utility district office by March 1, 2005.
5. To increase National Party membership in Texas by 25%.

Can you help us meet our goals?

Name : _____
Address: _____ City & Zip _____
Phone (evenings): _____ Phone (day): _____
Email: _____ County: _____
Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

- _____ I can distribute Libertarian Party outreach materials to increase votes.
_____ I can hold or attend an organizing or activist meeting in my county.
_____ I can design or host a website for a candidate or county party.
_____ I am considering running for a local office in 2005.
_____ I am interested in being an appointed County Chair.
_____ I want to join the National Libertarian Party. (see pg. 2 for directions.)
- _____ Enclosed is a one-time contribution to help reach our goals.
_____ Monthly Pledge (please bill my credit card on a monthly basis.)

Amount: ___ \$1,000 ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$30 ___ \$10 ___ Other

Please enclose a check or money order made payable to the Libertarian Party of Texas. (No corporate checks, please.) Or provide the following information to authorize billing to your credit card.

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____
___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ American Express ___ Discover
Account number: _____ Expiration: (mm/yy) _____

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. The Libertarian Party of Texas also submits finance reports to the Texas Ethics Commission.



Lone Star Liberty

The Libertarian Party of Texas
P.O. Box 27932
Houston, TX 77227

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Houston, TX
Permit No. 06478

Events of Interest to Texas Libertarians

Oct. 7 (Thur.) 11:30 a.m. Presidential Debate between Michael Badnarik and Green candidate David Cobb at the West Mall, UT campus, Austin. Contact Ben Woosley, Longhorn Libertarian President at 512-576-2206 for information.

Oct. 7 (Thur.) 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Escapees RV Club Political Forum. Contact Polk County LP Chair Kris Overstreet at 936-685-4992 for information.

Oct. 9 (Sat.) 1 p.m. SLECT Meeting, at Mekong River Restaurant, 215 E. 6th Street, Austin contact Pat Dixon for information at tlppatjdixon@earthlink.net.

Oct. 16 (Sat.) 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Polk County Freedom Bowl in Livingston. Fundraiser for candidates and local party. Contact Kris Overstreet at redneck@wlpcomics.com or 936-685-4992.

Oct. 16 (Sat.) Colin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant County Activist meetings. Time and location varies. Contact Wes at wesliberty@aol.com or 512-442-4910.

Oct. 16-17 (Sat.-Sun.) Harris County Outreach at the Westheimer Street Festival, Houston. Contact Jeff Daeill at Daiell@yahoo.com

Oct. 18 (Mon.) Early Voting begins.

Oct. 23 (Sat.) Fort Bend County Organizing Meeting. County Library, Sugar Land. Contact Kevin Tunstall for information at ktunstall@stic.net.

Oct. 25 (Mon.) Deadline for financial reports with the Texas Ethics Commission.

Oct. 29 (Fri.) Early Voting Ends for Nov. Election.

Nov. 2 (Tues.) Election Day. Contact your local party for information on getting out the vote, campaign events, parties, etc. County Chairs and SLECT representatives are listed on the www.lptexas.org website.

Nov. 18-21 (Fri.-Sun.) Victory Institute, New Orleans, LA. Campaign training for GLBT candidates, campaign workers, community activists. Workshops on fundraising, budgets, campaign plans, etc. See www.victoryinstitute.org/training.

Nov. 19-20 (Sat.-Sun.) Campaign 2004 Debriefing in Austin, from the New Politics Forum at UT. Top analysts will discuss results of the presidential election. \$50 registration. More information at www.newpoliticsforum.org or call Emily Balanoff at 512-471-7214.

Dec. 11 (Sat.) 1 p.m. SLECT Meeting in Austin. Contact Pat Dixon at tlppatjdixon@earthlink.net.