



The South Carolina Libertarian

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SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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South Carolina Libertarian Party

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LP NATIONAL CONVENTION '98

by Chuck Williams

The SCLP was well represented this year at the off year convention in Washington, DC. As chair of the delegation, I was joined by Charlie Comberrel, Bill Gaston and Joe Walters of Anderson County, Dr. Bill Woolsey of Charleston County and Arch Wakefield of York County. In addition, Jo Jorgensen of Greenville voted with our delegation as an ex officio member giving our delegation 7 votes. (Ex officio members, under the convention rules, included all former Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates.) Chris Hawley of Greenville County attended as an observer on a student pass and sat with our delegation during much of the convention. Arch, Bill Woolsey and I stayed in the convention hall for most of the business sessions so our delegation maintained a quorum for all votes before the assembly. Charlie, Joe and Bill Gaston attended many of the excellent seminars and lectures that were part of the convention program. Our most recent VP candidate and ex officio delegate, Jo Jorgensen, pre-

sented a new information product for Libertarians and was there to help us with an additional vote on crucial issues.

The convention was a blast, combining the high drama of a contested race for the chair with the atmosphere of a political fair, complete with entertainment and fireworks. The weather even cooperated with temperatures dropping into the 80s on Thursday, though by Saturday it was an oven again. Fireworks over the capitol and a plethora of sightseeing opportunities made this as much of a vacation as a political event.

Not only was there a considerable number of booths devoted to Libertarian literature, products and organizations, there were also the festive trappings of a convention, including free food, entertainment and beverages. (I'll have to admit that I almost got off to a late start on Saturday after enjoying the hospitality suite sponsored by the Delaware delegation on Friday night, but this is one of the signal advantages of staying in the

convention hotel.)

One of the entertainment highlights was a performance by the satirical group, The Capitol Steps. They performed a steady progression of political skits and parodies that had many in the audience falling out of their chairs with laughter. (My particular favorite was a parody of a Rolling Stones concert as Mick Jagger hits 60 singing "You can't always eat what you want...").

Another facet of a national convention is the chance to converse one-on-one with some of the luminaries of the Libertarian movement. To exchange views with people such as David Nolan and Jacob Hornberger is a rare opportunity. I arrived on Wednesday for the State Chairs' Conference and discovered that we have a long way to go to catch up with some of the more active state parties. Each chair reported on activities within their state and I found that our Essay Contest was considered to be a valuable accomplishment that other state parties are

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Opinions expressed in the *South Carolina Libertarian* do not necessarily represent official party positions.

**Support Libertarian
Candidates with a
Bumper Sticker!**

Around the State



The Midlands Libertarian Committee (Richland and Lexington Counties) meets at 7:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant at 1220 Charleston Highway in Columbia.



The Libertarian Society of the Lowcountry (LSL) meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the China Town Restaurant, located at 6176 Rivers Avenue in North Charleston. For more information, contact Daniel O'Neal at 849-6994.



The Executive Committee of the South Carolina Libertarian Party meets the first Saturday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant at 1220 Charleston Highway in Columbia.



The Anderson County LP is hosting a Pig Pickin' barbeque on Sept. 12 at 1:00 p.m. Donation is \$5. For a ticket and map, call Doug Taylor at 864-846-9820 or email at doug.taylor@webtv.net.



Volunteers are needed for the Libertarian Party booth at the State Fair the first two weeks of October. Those interested should attend the Sept. 10 meeting of the Midlands Libertarian Committee at 7:00 p.m. at the La Fiesta Restaurant in West Columbia or contact Mark Johnson at mdjohn1@aol.com. This is an easy way to become involved in the Libertarian Party and get a free ticket to the State Fair in the process!

SCLP Joins Unified Membership Plan *by Julian Griffith*

By a unanimous vote of the SCLP Executive Committee at the July 11 meeting, our state party chose to join the Unified Membership Plan in conjunction with the National Libertarian Party. In effect, this merges the membership of the SCLP with the NLP.

What does this mean to you?

First, it means that you need only join one of the parties to have all of the benefits of membership in both organizations. By joining under the UMP, you'll receive the National LP News, the *South Carolina Libertarian* newsletter and timely notifications of party activities throughout the state. The SCLP will receive the same monetary share of your membership regardless of whether your check goes to Columbia or to NLP headquarters in Washington.

Second, it means that when you hear from the SCLP, it will be about matters of interest within our own state. If we ask you for money

during a fund raising event, we'll tell you exactly why we need it.

Otherwise, we'll do our best to keep you informed about what's going on with Libertarian candidates and local parties throughout the state.

Why did the SCLP choose to merge memberships?

The NLP has been considerably more successful at recruiting new members than we have. Because the SCLP voted some years ago to provide the same membership benefits (newsletter, etc.) to those who join through NLP that accrue to those joining locally, we have been victims of the NLP's success. Although we got no money for the new NLP members, our costs increased with each new recruit. With the UMP, we'll get a reasonable share of the dues.

Second, we did the numbers. Had we been UMP members

since the beginning of the year, we would already have had an additional \$300-500 to spend.

And yes, I have a personal bias: the SCLP is an entirely voluntary organization. We depend on members who donate their time and energies to state party activities. Like most of us, I have a full-time job to hold down. My pre-UMP administrative responsibilities as Membership Chairman were making it impossible for me to devote time to other important work, such as recruitment or member services. Under UMP, with NLP handling the paperwork, I can do a more effective job.

(NOTE: Paid memberships are not required for participation in official party meetings or conventions. Only a valid membership application is required for these functions. Newsletters, party social events, announcements, etc. are benefits of paid membership.)

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interested in duplicating. I also received much valuable advice on developing a successful political organization.

Thursday's business sessions were for the most part procedural with what has become a biennial debate about rewording our "Statement of Principles." Because it requires 7/8 of the body to make any change in the "Statement," we will likely be stuck with the turgid Randite phrase "cult of the omnipotent state" for our entire existence. (The vote to change the wording failed because it only received about 80% of the vote.)

The afternoon session continued with bylaws and convention rules which resulted in a power shift that will likely favor the California delegation at the next convention in Los Angeles. The assembly also deleted provisions for ex officio delegates. (I argued against both provisions from the floor, but was outvoted.)

From Friday morning until midday Saturday we discussed bylaws and the platform. Because of numerous points of order, points of information, amendments and other parliamentary maneuvering, we covered less than half of the changes recommended by the platform committee in the time allotted. Although there was a sizeable minority in favor of continuing the platform debate, the assembly chose to adhere to the agenda and most of the platform remained unchanged.

Saturday afternoon's business was the election of the chair. The battle was between David Bergland and Gene Cisewski. Since Bergland represented interests similar to those behind the election of Dasbach in '96 when he beat Cisewski, this was a rerun of sorts, but represented a significant difference in philosophy between the contenders.

Late Saturday evening there were reports that Cisewski was planning a run for the Vice Chair, but he declined the nomination at the start of business on Sunday. The election for Secretary was also hotly con-

tested between Carol Moore and Steve Givot.

We also have a new region and regional representative. Our new region consists of FL, GA, AL, SC and NC. (TN and MS are now in other regions.) Our new representative is Chris Spruyt, the fiance of our previous representative, Candi Copas. (Because Candi's parents live on Hilton Head, they have promised to contact me when they're in the area.)

The final hours of the convention were devoted to vote counting on NLP executive committee candidates and a steady stream of resolutions. The only one that I recall that passed concerned a demand that the Congress impeach the President and Vice President for failing to uphold their oath of office, to wit, to defend the Constitution.

The 2000 convention will be in Los Angeles, and I hope we can field a full delegation, complete with as many alternates as we are allowed. If the next convention is run as well as this one was, it will be well worth

FROM THE VICE CHAIR *by Bea Jones*

I like to win. Who doesn't? I believe devoutly that the Libertarian Party is the only party with viable candidates. I know that you do, too. When you go into the voting booth in November, you will do like I have been doing - press the button for Libertarian candidates. A good Libertarian knows that her vote is never 'wasted' when she votes her conscience.

People are not voting at all, because they realize that the candidates are not honest, not helpful, and are simply promoting their own personal agendas. When sixty per cent of the population doesn't vote because they don't believe that it matters, there is a serious problem that the politicians are happy to ig-

nore - because it means that Repugnicrat party faithfuls will put their candidate in office.

Doc is trying to solve this with his 'Rock The Vote' on August 16th. Tim is trying to solve this with his columns and his radio appearances.

But what can we as Libertarians do to help our candidates?

What if... what if each Libertarian sent each candidate five dollars? Just five dollars apiece? Would that matter?

You bet it would. Five dollars from every Libertarian could add up to 1,000 more pamphlets that our candidates could sent out to those voters who are disillusioned, disenfranchised, and who feel abandoned by the current one-party system. Five dollars

could mean the difference between twenty yard signs and a hundred. Five dollars could mean another thousand bumpers proudly displaying the names of our candidates.

Every pamphlet that gets mailed, every contact the candidates make or every appearance at your local County fair, will let you know that you, you personally, have made a difference.

Do I think we can win? The more people to whom Doc and Tim and Dan and Stacy and Rodney and Bill and Kathy get the message, the greater the chance we have to win.

We have sixty per cent of the state looking for answers. The Libertarian Party is that answer. We can be a part of the solution.

Do you believe? Do you have five bucks?

The South Carolina Libertarian

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SCLP CANDIDATES ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

- SCLP candidates Richard T. "Doc" Quillian (U.S. Senate) and Timothy Moultrie (S.C. Governor), will be speaking at the Rock the Vote concert in Myrtle Beach on Aug. 16. Their goal is to raise campaign funds and register young voters.
- Doc will also be appearing Oct. 11 at the State House steps for the ABATE (A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments) rally. Over 18,000 bikers are expected to attend.
- Timothy has already made numerous appearances around the state, including:
 - The Carolina Entertainment Association in Myrtle Beach.
 - Pride 98 March in Myrtle Beach.
 - Libertarian Society of the Lowcountry in Charleston.
 - The Gay-Straight Alliance in Mauldin.
 - WTMA in Charleston, WVOC in Columbia, WLMA in Greenwood-

Anderson, WORD in Greenville-Spartanburg, WIS-TV in Midlands, and WJMX in Florence.

- SCLP candidate for Lt. Governor, Daniel L. O'Neal, received statewide AM news coverage of his press release and comments on Lt Gov Bob Peeler's 'Cops in Schools' proposal.
- Rodney Travis of Charleston is running for a seat on the Charleston County Council.
- Stacy Clark of Spartanburg is also running for a seat on his County Council.
- Bill Woolsey of Charleston is running for a non-partisan seat on the James Island Constituent School Board.
- Kathy Woolsey is running for a seat on the Charleston County Soil and Water Commission.

LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Most Libertarians are familiar with the Law of Unintended Consequences whereby the effects of well-meaning laws are often quite contrary to their intended purpose. An ironic twist of that law occurred when North Charleston officials tried to shut down a local nightclub by revoking the owner's alcohol license.

The adult nightclub, Scandals, had opened Sunday nights to teenagers, prompting complaints from some of the townsfolk about criminal activity and public nuisance. Instead of dealing with the crimes directly, city officials tried to revoke the club's alcohol license to put it out of business.

Before the club's license was revoked, however, Scandals owner John Robinson decided on his own to stop selling alcohol and start holding teen nights three times a week instead of just one. Doh!