



The South Carolina **LIBERTARIAN**

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QUARTERLY

FALL 1997

FROM THE CHAIR

by Rodney Travis

Greetings to you from the South Carolina Libertarian Party. We wish to thank those of you who have supported us through the year. Our membership total has increased and the "hits" on our website have remained steady. We have new members who are young college students that are beginning Libertarian Party clubs on their campuses. Judging of the high school essay contest submittals is now under way. We are on the move as the alternative to the other political parties who don't give a hoot about freedom and personal responsibility and believe that less government means lower increases in yearly government spending instead of actual spending reductions.

I believe that it is imperative that for the November 1998 election, we nominate a candidate for governor.Our current governor has presided over a legislature that has increased state spending by almost \$300 million from 96-97 while saying he's a "conservative." He has turned the Department of Revenue from a tax collection service into a bureaucracy that terrorizes the business people of our state with endless paperwork, that files suit to try to outlaw video poker machines, and levies fines of up to \$5,000 on, of all things, charitable bingo halls for incorrect microphone announcements. His opposition to a state lottery contrasts with the majority of residents who support a lottery.

I don't gamble, but I should be

GADSDEN ESSAY CONTEST



Christopher Gadsden, one of the South Carolina representatives to the First Continental Congress, presented this flag to the South Carolina Provincial Congress on 9 February 1776. The flag was immediately suspended in the council room.

Judging is now underway in the South Carolina Libertarian Party **GADSDEN ESSAY CONTEST**. The essay question is What does the phrase "*Don't Tread On Me*" (from the famous Gadsden Flag) mean to you?

The essay contest submission information was mailed to all public & private high schools in S.C. in September, with a submission deadline of October 31.

Prize winners will be announced on December 15, 1997 (the anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights).
First Prize -- \$500.00 Second Prize -- \$250.00 Third Prize -- \$100.00.

All essays are being reviewed by The Essay Review Committee:
Dr. W. William Woolsey, The Citadel;
Dr. Arnold Hite, Charleston Southern University; Dr. Walter Rolandi, University of South Carolina; Dr. William R. Sandberg, University of South Carolina

The chair of the SCLP Executive Committee Essay Committee, Rod Severson of Orangeburg, says, "We are excited about the many entries we're receiving, and are looking forward to awarding the prizes." Winning essays will be published by the SCLP on our web page.

You can help make the Essay Contest an annual event by donating to the SCLP and earmarking your donation :Essay Fund".

**SUPPORT
FREEDOM!**



**JOIN the
SC Libertarian Party**

free to do so if I choose and I should not go crying to a welfare agency if I lose. Don't you agree?

If you know a fine individual who would like to make a difference and would like to run as as Libertarian candidate for governor in 1998, please tell them to attend one of the executive committee meetings to introduce himself or herself. Our state needs your help. The current governor needs to "Abate in '98."

We are updating our mailing list.

Please respond to this newsletter if you would like to continue receiving correspondence from us. You may either respond by sending in the survey, renewing your membership, calling us, sending an email to us, or dropping a note in the mail.
Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE: the expiration date of your SCLP membership is on your mailing label.

If your membership expires BEFORE Dec.31,97, please renew NOW!!

Whatever Happened to "Every Man a Lawyer"? Freeing the Legal System

Pro Se means "on one's own behalf." Representing oneself in court used to be a time-honored American tradition and is still a constitutional right of everyone. Of course, anyone who has had a "run in" with the law lately, or tried to file a pro se action in civil court only to be told by a supercilious clerk that "you need a lawyer to do that" knows that this constitutional right, as well as so many others, is rapidly being eroded to the point of non existence. If this enslavement of our legal system continues, a libertarian society becomes a total impossibility.

The Liberty Activists suggest that it is up to Liberty Activists throughout America, in our own communities, to take whatever steps necessary to bring this problem to public attention and begin to "free our legal system". As with many issues, the average American has absolutely no idea of the problem (unless he has been involved recently in a legal action), and, even then, he probably believes that this is the way the system has always worked...and is supposed to work.

THIS IS NOT SO!

"Almost 400 years ago, the great American democratic experiment began. Almost from the first day--and despite the contrary views of a succession of English monarchs--it assumed that an educated citizenry had no need of lawyers to write its laws or solve its disputes.

Historian Eldon Revere James found that between 1687 and 1788, not a single legal treatise intended for lawyers was published in America. During that period, all the legal treatises were for laymen.

The strong tradition that each American

should be able to master the laws probably peaked in the years between Andrew Jackson's inauguration in 1825 and Abraham Lincoln's death in 1865. Most states enforced few if any restrictions on non-lawyers appearing in court on behalf of others--as Lincoln himself did before he talked a judge into granting him attorney status.

Given America's long tradition of discouraging lawyers, it's surprising that in the 20th century the legal profession so successfully sold Americans on its favorite public relations slogan, "A man who represents himself has a fool for a client." And it's even more surprising that without great opposition, the American Bar Association convinced states to pass "unauthorized practice of law" statutes in the 1920s and 1930s, which effectively gave lawyers a monopoly over the sale of legal information.

It is less surprising--at least to everyone who isn't an attorney--that in the last two decades many Americans--battered women, small businesspeople, landlords, inventors and disenfranchised fathers, to mention just a few--have begun to assert their historical and constitutional right to participate in the legal decisions that affect their lives." (From Nolo Press article "Every Man a Lawyer")

The S.C. Libertarian

is the official newsletter of the
S.C.Libertarian Party

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Subscription \$10.00 or free with membership. Complimentary copies at discretion of SCLP Executive Committee. Articles from SCLP members welcome. Articles subject to approval of SCLP Exec Com & may be edited for space. Deadline for next issue: January 1, 1998.

Submit Articles to:
M.L.Seymour, Drawer Q, Bath, SC 29816

S.C.Libertarian Party OFFICERS 1996-98

Chair: Rodney Travis, 803-552-9991

Vice Chair: Chuck Williams, 803- 681-8350

Secretary: M.L. Seymour, 803-593-6876

Treasurer: David Morris, 803-796-3161

Executive Committee:

The Exec Com is comprised of representatives from each organized county, elected at county conventions every 2 years. The Exec Com meets monthly to conduct party business.

Aiken: Mary lou Seymour 803-593-6876

Anderson: Charlie Comberrell 864-226-1813

Beaufort: Chuck Williams, 803-681-8350

Calhoun: Tom Arant 803-874-2759

Charleston: Bill Woolsey: 803- 577-7138

Horry: Doc Quillian: 803-293-6895

Lexington: Geb Sommer: 803-359-5295

Orangeburg: Rod Severson: 803-531-0463

Richland: Mark Johnson, 803-345-5502

The Executive Committee has designated the following adhoc positions

Membership Chair: Julian Griffith 803-765-1846

Between election cycles, the Executive Committee can appoint "organizing chairs" in unorganized counties. The following persons have been appointed in 1997:

Colleton County: J.D. Bryan

Darlington County: Dan Neighbors

Edgefield County: George Miles

Florence County: Jim Hanks

Greenwood County: Scott Hines

York County: Wes Mallard

New counties may be organized each election year. (in March) If you are interested in organizing your county or running for office in 1998, please contact Rodney Travis.

WHY JOIN THE SCLP

If you join the SCLP (\$25 year), you also receive membership in the National LP. You will receive all SCLP AND National LP newsletters. Membership in the SCLP entitles you to be chosen as a delegate to both the National and SCLP conventions, to run for party office and for nomination as a LP candidate. Joining the LP through the SCLP is a "good deal"!

Delegates to the National LP convention are allocated by number of LP members in a state as of December 31 the year before the convention. If your SCLP membership expires BEFORE December 31, 1997, please renew NOW and help SC be assigned more delegate slots for 1998!

It's easy to join or renew! Use the clip and mail form on pg.3.

The Liberty Activist web site

<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/1797>

promotes a new Action each month..
The above was the action for October.

The enclosed survey is one step in the creation of formal missions, goals and our first strategic plan. Our short-term priorities will be largely determined by your responses. Party management, like party politics, must flow from the grassroots level ... and that's you. Please return this survey with your membership renewal in the envelope enclosed.

For most responses, please circle the appropriate letter. In some cases, you'll be asked to rate or rank various options. Please add personal comments, additional comments and suggestions on a separate sheet, if there is insufficient room here.

Name: _____ Address: _____

1. Circle the letter if you'd consider volunteering for the activity.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| a. Serve on a committee (platform, by-laws, etc.) | i. Work on a campaign. |
| b. Collect signatures for initiatives or candidates. | j. Write letters to the editor. |
| c. Help at a literature table at a local mall or event. | k. Call talk shows. |
| d. Lobby lawmakers or testify at public hearings. | l. Help organize a county. |
| e. Speak to high-school classes or other groups. | m. Organize college groups. |
| f. Write for the newsletter (editorials, articles, etc.). | n. Help do telephone surveys. |
| g. Participate in daytime rallies and protests. | o. Run for office. |
| h. Put a bumper sticker on your car. | p. Other _____ |

2. Please rank your level of interest in the following issues.

3 = high interest, 2 = moderate interest, 1 = little or no interest.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ___ a. limited government (original constitution) | ___ m. corporate welfare |
| ___ b. limited government (less than original) | ___ n. gun ownership |
| ___ c. limited government (none) | ___ o. civil liberties |
| ___ d. education vouchers/charter schools | ___ p. drug policy reform |
| ___ e. campaign finance reform | ___ q. environmental policy |
| ___ f. military policy | ___ r. free enterprise |
| ___ g. government spending | ___ s. health care policy |
| ___ h. jury nullification | ___ t. home schooling |
| ___ i. campaign finance reform | ___ u. property rights |
| ___ j. tax policy | ___ v. regulatory reform |
| ___ k. sexual freedom | ___ w. privatization |
| ___ l. other: _____ | ___ x welfare |

3. The SCLP currently has the following means of communication, please rate them on how often you use them.

D=Daily W=Weekly M=Monthly B=Bimonthly Y=Yearly S=Seldom

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| ___ a. Quarterly Newsletter (include address) | d. Telephone |
| ___ b. Web Site (include address) | e. National LP News |
| ___ c. Chat Room (include address & time) | |

4. What can the SCLP do to make this communication more useful to you? For each of the following:

3 = high interest, 2 = moderate interest, 1 = little or no interest.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ___ a. Reports/summaries of official meetings. | ___ g. Point/Counterpoint discussion, political issues. |
| ___ b. News from county/local affiliates. | ___ h. Reviews from current libertarian press. |
| ___ c. Commentary/analysis of state and local issues. | ___ i. Progress reports on party projects. |
| ___ d. Commentary/analysis of national issues. | ___ j. Calendar of coming events. |
| ___ e. Letters to the Editor. | ___ k. Personal stories about SCLP activists. |
| ___ f. Point/Counterpoint discussion, party business. | ___ l. Tips on campaigning and activism. |

Comments: _____

a. None
b. Email and World Wide Web
c. Email
d. Email address: _____

5=High 4=Medium 3=Low 2=Put on Hold 1=Of little value

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| _____ a Resource Guide for news media. | _____ i Professional Staff. |
| _____ b Professional Public Relations/Media program. | _____ j Voter Registration. |
| _____ c Lobbying state legislature. | _____ k County Organization. |
| _____ d Organize/Train a Speaker's Bureau. | _____ l Membership. |
| _____ e Position papers on SC issues (like Zoning, local initiative). | _____ m Gadsden essay contest. |
| _____ f A Leadership Development program (for leaders and candidates). | |
| _____ g Outreach booths at County Fairs and other large events. | |
| _____ h Appointments to state/county boards and commissions. | |

Comments: _____

a. Excellent
b. Basically sound, with a few solvable problems
c. What leadership?
d. No opinion

Other: _____

a. Excellent
b. Basically sound, with a few solvable problems
c. What leadership?
d. No opinion

Other: _____

a. Recruiting paper candidates, to field a full slate of candidates, should be a high priority - even if we have no serious candidates in the area that year.

b. A full slate has little or no value, except to increase the credibility of serious candidates

c. Paper candidates have little or no value at all.

Yes, or No For what office?

3 = great help, 2 = helpful, 1 = little or no help.

- ☐ a. Training manuals ☐ d. Training workshops
☐ b. Database list of possible volunteers. ☐ e. Web page
☐ c. Federal office only: help with FEC reporting.

Comments:

12. Please describe any skills, experience or resources you might make available to the party or its projects. The question is intended to identify leadership or organizational skills - for either the party or campaigns - but please list anything that comes to mind.

13. If you'd like a direct response to a pressing question or concern, please attach it. Thank you for your time and support.

Elections 1997 and Preparing for 1998

Even though 1997 was not a regular election year, the SCLP fielded candidates in the SC House of Representatives District 81 special election in November (Sarah Flemming), the Beaufort County Council special election in April (Chuck Williams); the Charleston County Council special election in April (Rodney Travis). In Richland County, Mary Anderson will be a candidate for County Council in an upcoming special election.

All of our 1997 special election candidates ran excellent campaigns, and are to be commended for their willingness to "Put Freedom First" by taking their time and energy to give voters a choice of freedom and less government.

1998 is a regular election year. This means all SC and U.S. House districts will be up for election, as well as many city and county council races, and, of course,

statewide races for Governor and state constitutional offices, and U.S. Senate. We urge all who are reading this newsletter to consider offering yourself as a candidate, and, to contact others in your community who may be interested in "Putting Freedom First", and running as a candidate of the Party of Principle.

Ask yourselves: If not now, when? If not us, who? If not in SC, where?

SEE YOU ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

The S.C. Libertarian Party continues to maintain a strong presence on the Internet World Wide Web! Our web page, <http://www.awod.com/scip>, is almost 2 years old, and features up to date news, the bylaws, lists of officers & events. We also maintain a free chat room, with regularly scheduled chat Thursdays at 9:00 PM; send out an email "newsletter" on a regular basis and, maintain an email discussion list for our members.

To find out more about any of the SCLP Internet services, just drop by our web page or, email us at scip@iname.com!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- the SCLP NEEDS YOU to**
- ⇒ **help plan the 1998 convention (to be held in May)**
 - ⇒ **organize your county in 1998 (March)**
 - ⇒ **run for office in 1998**
 - ⇒ **distribute brochures and more!**
- Please fill out & return the survey inside the newsletter!**

S.C. Libertarian Party
P.O. Box 50643
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Putting Freedom First

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