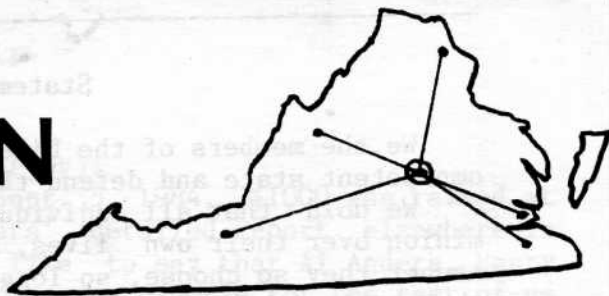


VIRGINIA LIBERTARIAN

september 1984



ACTIVISM and YOU

Dear Libertarians,

I am writing this editorial as acting editor of YOUR party newsletter. I need to stress the indication of ownership, there, because that is what makes an organization. This is your newsletter, this is your party, and the campaigns being waged by the libertarian candidates are your campaigns.

If all that sounds rather Marxist in setup, I kind of agree. Unfortunately, we must concede that Mr. Marx has proven time and again what strength in numbers means!

If we are to defeat the repressive designs of current politicians, however, we must usurp one of his theories - that of strength in numbers - and all of us must pull an oar in the effort.

Obviously, we are a small minority right now. The monumental task of setting up fund raisers, petitioning, writing the newsletters, gathering recruits, educating the public, and running as candidates must not be left only to an already overworked core group. YOU have to get out there and do it.

Let's take petitioning, for example. We have 400 people on our mailing list for this newsletter. Let's be conservative and say that only 200 of you are "available" Libertarians. (Some of our members are out-of-state, some are corporations, some aren't even Libertarians.) If each one of you collects 100 signatures (only three to eight hours of legwork, depending upon your petitioning location and your ability), the whole ballot drive of 20,000 signatures could have been done in a couple of weeks or so.

What actually happened this year was that maybe ten or twenty hardcore activists wound up trying to collect twenty thousand signatures! Work out the numbers for yourself.

If the rest of you did nothing other than petitioning and casting your vote for your Libertarian candidates, that, by itself, will eliminate 90% of the burnout loads that YOUR CORE PEOPLE BEAR EVERY ELECTION YEAR!

You had better start pulling that oar. We are like a new, untried small boat that is about to be capsized on its maiden voyage by two huge Demo-publican battleships.

Every one of you knows what needs doing. I'm going to list some of the things that need to be done, anyway, so that you can use this as your checklist.

- 1) Support your Party's efforts to ease the difficult ballot access restrictions.
 - a) Send a donation to the Foundation for Free Campaigns and Elections.
 - b) Write your state and local representatives. Write to county and city bureaucrats who, in some cases, control ballot regulations.
- 2) Support your party financially.
 - a) Donate to your local.
 - b) Donate to your national.

(**These first items are easy - why don't you grab pen, paper, and checkbook and spend a couple of hours writing?**)

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they so choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to do the same.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the state has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual; namely, 1) the right to life—accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; 2) the right to liberty of speech and action—accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and 3) the right to property—accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all governmental interference in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives or property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders, and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

VIRGINIA LIBERTARIAN is the official newspaper of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. Opinions and articles printed herein do not necessarily represent official Party positions unless so indicated. Please send all ads (note: please include payment with all ads. Fee schedule below.), articles, and newsletter mailing fees (\$10 per year) to: LPVA Headquarters, 824 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220. ***Please make all checks payable to: Libertarian Party of Virginia*** DEADLINE for all submissions (ads, articles, news, etc.) is the 15th of every month.

AD RATES

Classifieds and personal ads .25/word; 1/8 page-\$4; 1/4 page-\$7; 1/2 page-\$13; full page-\$25. 10% discount for camera-ready or multi-issue ads. We will be glad to arrange for any of your typesetting needs.

LP DISTRICT NOTES

First District (Chair-Stew Engel):

No activity reported

Second District (Chair-Buddy L. Mountjoy):

David Bergland visited Norfolk on Sept. 5, 1984. \$1000 was raised at the reception-dinner. Read Al Anders' detailed report elsewhere in this issue. [Editor's note: I would like to say that Al Anders, Henry Thrasher and others in the District are an example for the rest of us to follow. They have made great efforts at obvious time and money costs to further our cause here. Thanks, guys!]

Third District (Chair-Ed Alexander):

Jay Tubb resigned his position as newsletter editor. As of the "Summer 1984" issue of the state newsletter, Marc Montoni has been editing the newsletter. He requests your articles, be it news, opinions or whatever as long as it's libertarian!!

David Bergland will be visiting Richmond soon. See LPVA calendar on the inside back cover for this and other events in the state.

Fourth District (Chair-Mike Ridgeway):

No activity reported.

Fifth District (Chair-Will Clark)

No activity reported.

Sixth District (Chair-Frewen Wilson):

No activity reported.

Seventh District (Chair-John Kiley):

The Libertarian Student Association at the University of VA. is meeting weekly and drawing from 15 to 50 people for political discussions. Good work, guys and gals! For details, contact LSA President Dan Garrett, P.O. Box 521, Newcome Hall, Charlottesville, VA 22901. 804-971-2962.

Eighth District (Chair-Richard Gardiner):

No activity reported.

Ninth District (Chair-Michael Large):

Michael and Jeff Large collected some petition signatures in Pound. They are both now at college, so there is currently no activity to report.

Tenth District (Chair-Phil Kas):

Scott Bowden, District Chair resigned effective Sept. 17th, 1984. Phil

Kas succeeded him. A District meeting is due this calendar year, so all you fine libertarians in that district be sure to contact Phil for details, and above all, plan to attend!

Lynchburg (Coordinator-Tom Carwile):

No current activity. Local group wound down after several key people left. However, a new activist has moved in from Maryland and wants to get an LP group going. Those interested should contact Eddie Howard at 703-384-3881 or Tom Carwile. (See Contact list.)

Arlington (Chair-Margie Rothenhoefer):

No activity reported.

If there is no news from your district, it doesn't mean there isn't any. Dig some up and send it in to your editor!

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

The LPVA State Central Committee held a business meeting on Sunday, Sept. 16th, 1984. Committee members attending: State Chair Jim Ellwood, V. Chair Henry Thrasher, Sec'y. Scott Bowden, Treas. Paul Hite, 2nd District (proxy) Al Anders, 3rd D. Chair Ed Alexander, 8th D. (proxy) Cynthia Messina, 10th D.C. Scott Bowden, Membership Sec'y David Saum, and Newsletter Editor Marc Montoni.

Brief account of the meeting: \$750 of the funds remaining from the ballot drive were allocated to the FFCE to assist in that organization's legal challenge to VA ballot laws. A ballot access account was set up from the remaining funds. Henry Thrasher gave a complete ballot drive report. Paul Hite gave a complete Treasury report. Details of that report appear in this newsletter. Natcom and membership reports were given by David Saum. Committee accepted a resolution to rotate LPVA-S.C.C. meetings in the future. Designated next meeting location: Northern Virginia.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 7, at 12:00 noon. Area members are encouraged to attend.

"He who regulates everything by laws is more likely to arouse vices than reform them."

--- Spinoza, 1677

Dear Libertarian:

Enclosed is an explanation of the failure of us to get on the ballot in Virginia:

My problems:

1. My inexperience.
2. Inability to motivate people who were active in the 1980 ballot drive.
3. Unable to gather huge numbers of signatures personally.

National and Bergland Campaign problems:

1. Six different people who were in charge of the ballot drive over eight months.
2. Unclear priorities for various state ballot drives.
3. Inexperience and lack of funds.

State Party problems:

1. Lack of adequate commitment by State Central Committee.
2. Lack of funds.
3. Lack of regular newsletter.

Local Party problems:

1. Weak local organizations.
2. Lack of help from northern Virginia party in gathering signatures despite one of the best local organizations.
3. Lack of people to be local coordinators.

Surprises:

1. People will give money for a specific goal.

