

Virginia Liberty

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'COME TO THE LPVA CONVENTION!'

An exciting and informative Libertarian Party of Virginia State Convention will take place on Saturday, May 20, 1995, at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond, just blocks from the State Capitol.

For only \$55, participants receive breakfast, lunch, and dinner, plus get to hear speeches and participate in panel discussions on a wide range of issues. In addition, we will be electing new officers for the LPVA and for Congressional Districts. If you have not received an invitation, please call 1-800-619-1776.

Here is the schedule (some slight modifications might be made between press time and the Convention):

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. – Registration and Breakfast

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. – Breakfast Speaker (TBA)

10:15 - 10:30 a.m. – Break

10:30 - 12:30 p.m. – Business Session

(there is no charge to LPVA members to participate in this session; however, you must be a dues-paid, qualified member of the LPVA to vote on party business)

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. – Luncheon Speaker: **Bryan Ellison**

Topic: *"How Government Funding Politicizes Scientific Research"*

2:30 - 3:45 p.m. – Panel Sessions, Part I

Panel A: *"Defending Second Amendment Rights"*

Dennis Fusaro, Gun Owners of America

Paul Moog, Northern Virginia Citizens Defense League

Panel B: *"The Environment and the Free Market"*

Steve Friedman, Horizon Institute (tentative)

Tom Jamerson, James River Conservation District

Kent Jeffreys, National Center for Policy Analysis

4:00 - 5:15 p.m. – Panel Sessions, Part II

Panel C: *"Term Limits and the Citizen Legislature"*

Paul Jacob, Executive Director, U.S. Term Limits

David Morris, Grassroots Political Consultant

Panel D: *"Drug Policy for the 21st Century"*

James Graham, Thomas Jefferson Chapter, NORML

Julie Stewart, Families Against Mandatory Minimums

Lennice Werth, LPVA Activist, Nottaway County

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. – Cocktail Reception (cash bar)

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. – Dinner Speaker: **Jo Jorgensen**

Candidate for LP Vice Presidential Nomination, 1996

Topic: *"Why Republican Politicians Keep Selling Out Freedom"*

9:30 - ???? – Hospitality Suites

LPVA MEMBER SURVEY

Many of you may have received a telephone call earlier this year from a fellow LPVA member who asked you a few questions. We are trying to learn as much about our members as possible so that we can better deploy our resources during this election season and in years to come.

A copy of the survey is enclosed with this issue of *Virginia Liberty*. If you were unable to answer the questions by phone, we ask you to return the written survey by mail. Please fill out the form and return it in the enclosed envelope to P.O. Box 17474, Arlington, VA 22216.

Results of this survey will be compiled and a report will be published in the next edition of *Virginia Liberty* – complete with comparisons of the LPVA membership to Virginia's population at large.

LPVA MEMBERSHIP REACHES RECORD HIGH

First Quarter Rises 22%; Projected 1995 Growth of 120 Members

According to Edmund Burke, a political party is "a voluntary association of individuals who come together to advance shared beliefs." According to the latest reports, the "voluntary association" we call the Libertarian Party of Virginia is growing larger – which enhances our ability to advance our shared beliefs.

LPVA Membership Chair Dick Johnson reports that as of May 1, the Libertarian Party of Virginia has 376 dues-paid members, up 22 percent from the beginning of 1995.

At this rate, Johnson reports, we should have another 120 new members by the end of this year – without any additional, special efforts at membership recruitment.

The LPVA's previous high-water mark for membership was 320, which fell to 254 at the beginning of 1993.

In a Special Report prepared for the LPVA Executive Committee, Johnson writes:

"Dues-paid membership has increased by 112 members over the past two years. Between 80 and 90 of these additional members are 'new members'; namely, they are people who previously were not LPVA members or *LP News* subscribers. The

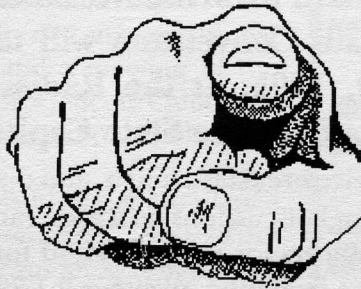
remaining 20-30 members of the 112 are a combination of previous members returning to the fold (usually following a significant membership lapse) and LP News subscribers who have recently decided to sign a membership form (automatically becoming members)."

Johnson notes that LPVA membership began to grow steadily in late 1994, with more rapid growth beginning after the 1994 election.

As of May 1, he said, membership has grown by 22 percent in 1995 alone.

"Compared to our previous rates," he said, "it's as though someone 'threw a switch' after the November elections." One by one, the dominoes seem to be falling – in our direction!

Membership is the cornerstone of any political party. If you have not yet renewed your membership in the LPVA, please send us your \$25 for the coming year to P.O. Box 17474, Arlington, VA 22216. Stand up and be counted as an LPVA member!



YES, I want to become a dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. I have enclosed \$25. This includes membership in the national Libertarian Party and a subscription to *LP News*.

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe – and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles – we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

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

(SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP)

I have enclosed an additional contribution of ___ \$100 ___ \$75 ___ \$50 ___ other

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Return form to:

LPVA

PO Box 17474

Arlington, VA 22216

E-Mail _____

Telephone _____

LIBERTARIAN LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN IN PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Tomas Estrada-Palma, a former LP State Chair in nearby Maryland, has announced his bid to become chairman of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

Estrada, who also ran as an LP candidate for the U.S. Senate in Maryland, comes to this race with a solid record of community activism.

As a member of his local neighborhood association's board of directors, Estrada has improved services (trash collection, pool cleaning, weed control) without raising fees. His efforts to make his neighborhood a better place to live were the subject of a feature story in the local newspaper, the *Prince William Journal*.

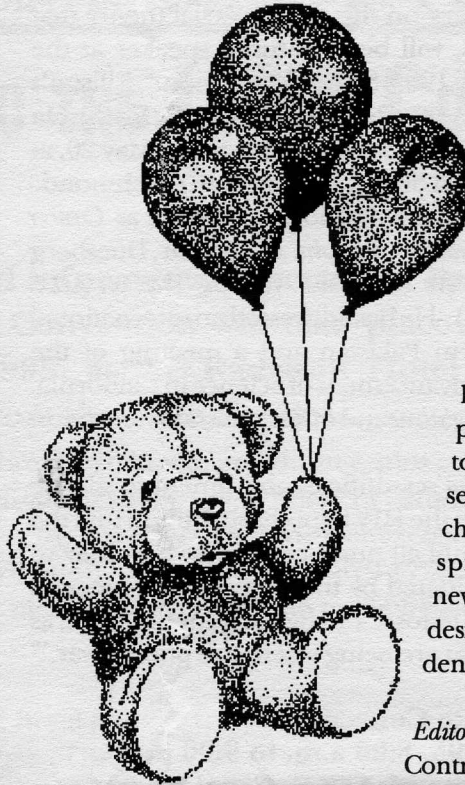
Estrada's opponent is incumbent Board Chair **Kathleen Seefeldt**.

To find out more about Tom's campaign, write to him at 14757 Tamarack Place, Woodbridge, VA 22191 or call him at 703-492-7095. A campaign meeting is scheduled for noon on Sunday, June 4; for details, call **Philip Hodson** at 703-257-1712.

"If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought – not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought that we hate."

Oliver Wendell Holmes
Dissent, *U.S. v. Schwimmer* (1928)

SHOULD THE STATE BREAK UP FAMILIES? LIBERTARIANS LOUDLY SAY NO



The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* published the following letter in its editions of Monday, May 1, 1995. It ran under the headline: "Sharon Bottoms Case: State Supremes Erred in Custody Battle." (Byway of explanation, the Supreme Court ruled that Sharon Bottoms is an "unfit" mother, largely because she is a lesbian, and placed her 3-year-old son, Tyler, in the custody of his maternal grandmother. An appeals court had earlier refused custody to the grandmother, arguing that sexual orientation did not render the child's biological mother unfit.) Despite his disagreement with the newspaper's position, the editorial staff designated the writer as "Correspondent of the Day."

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

Contrary to the assertion made in your April 23 editorial, "Prudent Jurists," the Virginia Supreme Court did not decide in the best interests of the child, Tyler. Neither did it decide in the best interests of society. The ruling sets a fearsome precedent about the power of the government to interfere in the private lives of individuals and their families.

The Bottoms case is part of a wide web of government policy that works to destroy family life. A welfare system has been erected that discourages hard work and provides an easy excuse for fathers to abandon their children. Our educational bureaucracy chases away parents who want a role in their children's learning, and efforts to promote family choice in education are defeated by well-financed teachers' unions. In each case, the welfare lobbyists and the educational establishment argue that "this is in the best interests of the children."

Now the Virginia Supreme Court comes along and says Sharon Bottoms is an unfit mother because of her sexual orientation and her choice of a spouse.

It is immoral for the government to interfere in the most intimate aspects of family life. It also is immoral for the government to rip an infant from his mother's arms, put him in another home, and restrict him from visiting his mother and the other most significant person in her life – indeed, the boy's second loving parent.

The Bottoms ruling means that any family is at risk for court interference. Conservatives, especially, should oppose such attempts by the government to expand its scope and power. They should ask themselves: What will happen if the people who oppose my lifestyle (e.g., owning a gun, smoking tobacco, schooling my kids at home) come to power and declare me an unfit parent?

(signed) Richard E. Sincere, Jr.

Chairman, Libertarian Party of Virginia

SCIENTIST TO ADDRESS LPVA MAY 20

"Is HIV Really the Cause of AIDS?" Asks Biologist Bryan Ellison

Biologist **Bryan J. Ellison**, who has collaborated with Berkeley retrovirologist Peter H. Duesberg on the controversial theory that HIV is not the cause of AIDS, will be a featured speaker at the Libertarian Party of Virginia's 1995 State Convention. Ellison's address, **"How Government Funding Politicizes Scientific Research: The Case of HIV,"** will take place at lunch on Saturday, May 20, at the Radisson Hotel, 555 E. Canal Street, in downtown Richmond.

Bryan Ellison has written for publications as diverse as *Cancer Research*, *Carcinogenesis*, *Policy Review*, and *Spin*. He and Dr. Duesberg co-wrote the 1994 book, *Why We Will Never Win the War on AIDS* (Inside Story Communications). He has addressed an international conference on breast cancer in Pakistan and a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in California. Ellison has also appeared on *Nightline* and other radio and television news programs.

Responding to efforts of the scientific establishment to silence Ellison and others who question the HIV hypothesis, Ellison told the *Oakland Post*: "I will not rest until all Americans know how they've been deceived. I'm not intimidated by the government agencies and special interests who stand to lose. I'm fighting for the truth, as well as for the innocent lives that are being lost in this phony 'war.'"

LPVA State Convention

Saturday, May 20, 1995, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Radisson Hotel Richmond, 555 E. Canal Street

1995 LPVA CALENDAR

**May 19-20 - State Convention,
Radisson Hotel Richmond**

**May 20 - Virginia Republicans
hold local canvasses**

**May 27 - Virginia Democrats
hold local canvasses**

**June 1 - deadline for submis-
sions to Virginia Liberty**

**June 10 - Republicrats hold
special canvasses**

**June 13 - Filing deadline for
General Assembly candidates**

November 7 - ELECTION DAY



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