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Vote Crickenberger on November 5th

VIRGINIA LIBERTY

November-December 2002

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NEXT DEADLINE

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With just days until the November 5th election, the Libertarian Party of Virginia's only candidate has been hard on the campaign trail.

Fired up by his recent endorsement by the National Taxpayer's Union, 8th district congressional candidate Ron Crickenberger is going toe-to-toe with incumbent Jim Moran and Republican Scott Tate.

On October 4th, the nation's largest taxpayer advocacy group issued a press release calling Ron the obvious choice, and saying, Crickenberger is the candidate of less government and lower taxes, and is the most attuned to the families of the district.

In contrast, the release says Moran received a grade of "F" in National Taxpayer's Union's most recent annual Rating of Congress because of his votes against tax relief and for more government spending.

Tate is a Republican afraid to privatize social security, and Moran is a sponsor of national ID card legislation, said Crickenberger, who is also the national Libertarian Party's Political Director. These guys never saw a big government boondoggle they didn't love. Moran's campaign has also been struck by the Washington Post's July 10th editorial, which decried allegations of bribe taking against the Democrat. The Post flatly stated that Moran "doesn't deserve the job."

Crickenberger has several debates scheduled with Moran and Tate through the end of the month, including the League of Women Voters, the Mt. Vernon Community Association and others. Dates and times are available at www.RonCrickenberger.com under "calendar."

At the recent Fall For Fairfax festival, Crickenberger shook voters' hands at the party's "discovery table." Dozens of fair goers took the World's Smallest Political Quiz, and members introduced Libertarian concepts to many young people who stopped by.

On October 11th, the candidate addressed the All Dulles Area Muslim Society in Reston during a midday prayer service. Although the event's organizer said audiences are usually quiet during candidate speeches, Ron received spontaneous applause when he declared if elected, "I will never vote to send America's armies to attack any country that has not attacked the United States." In a thank you note, the group's government relations chair Michael Sanford said "Our community clearly related to many of your viewpoints, as you saw from the enthusiastic response."

Ron will also take the anti-war, pro-liberty message to the Ethnic Coalition of America on October 24th. Crickenberger says "I got a great response from this audience during the last campaign. I've noticed that minorities respond well to the Libertarian message when we bring it to them."

Crickenberger hopes the anti-war message will resonate with Democrats, many of whom are upset over congress giving unilateral power to declare war to the President. Campaign volunteer coordinator Noelle Stettner recently took a phone call from a lifelong democrat interested in the campaign. "He said he'd never vote Democrat again. We talked for several minutes, and there didn't seem to be anything in Ron's platform that he disagreed with. The war powers vote was the last straw that is bringing him to the Libertarian Party," Stettner says.

See Crickenberger, Page 2

Crickenberger (continued from Page 1)

TV viewers will also be hearing the Libertarian anti-drug war message, as the campaign purchases 30 second television ads on local cable systems. Crickenberger filmed medical marijuana patients and produced the ad himself with the help of a local editor. Radio announcer Stettner provided the voiceover.

Crickenberger says medical marijuana is the only issue that 73% of voters agree with the Libertarian position on, but 90% of politicians don't. "The other parties are completely out of touch. That's why medical marijuana is the perfect wedge issue for Libertarians. Support is probably even higher in the liberal 8th district, so I hope to steal a lot of votes from Moran on that issue."

"While medical marijuana is an issue that most affects the patients who are in need, it is also an example of incredibly misplaced priorities that affects us all", said Ron. "We have the government spending vast sums of money to raid medical marijuana clinics, throwing terminally ill patients out in the street, instead of going after international terrorists. That makes us all less safe."

The ad can be seen at www.RonCrickenberger.com. "The more donations we get, the more ads we will run," campaign manager Fred Childress says. Those wishing to donate funds to the campaign can do so through the website. Crickenberger expects the ad to be customized for use by Libertarian candidates across the country.

And if a voter missed the TV ads, they're sure to see a Crickenberger for Congress sign. "Signs are one of the few areas where Libertarian candidates can be truly competitive with the other parties. They're relatively cheap, and are guaranteed to be seen by thousands," according to Crickenberger. More than 1000 signs are being posted in the campaign's distinctive teal color. Crickenberger is a long name to get on a sign, but it's also an uncommon name we hope voters will remember."

Ron's campaign staff also hopes Virginia Libertarians will remember that "this is your campaign, too," according to Stettner. "With just a few days of the campaign left, I hope our members will think about ways they can help. Volunteers are needed to put up signs, make phone calls, and hand out literature. If you can't volunteer your time, go to the website and make a donation. Everyone can give up the cost of one night out for liberty." At the very least, Stettner says, every member should be writing letters to the Washington Post and other local publications, pointing out that Moran doesn't deserve the job and asking them to endorse and cover Ron's campaign. That doesn't take much time, and costs only 37 cents. There's something everyone can do," Stettner says.

Please make your contribution for the advertising fund now at: www.RonCrickenberger.com

The Crickenberger Campaign Team:

Marta Howard: media and event coordinator — 703-938-4878

Fred Childress: Campaign Manager — 703-786-7482

Noelle Stettner: Volunteer Coordinator

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Building Local LPVA Affiliates

By Jim Lark, LPVA Local Affiliate Parties Chairman, former National Chairman

Are you interested in building and strengthening Libertarian Party activity in your neighborhood? If so, please contact me. I have the honor of serving as chairman of the Local Affiliate Parties (LAP) committee. Since the end of my term this summer as National Chairman of the Libertarian Party, I have been increasing my efforts toward building local Libertarian groups throughout the Commonwealth.

There are several ways that you can help the Libertarian Party locally, such as:

- Serve as an LPVA contact: You can act as a conduit for people who want more information about the party and our candidates. For example, you can distribute Libertarian Party material (such as press releases) to media organizations and other groups in your area. Simply by being publicly identified as the local LPVA contact, you may receive invitations to speak at (or help find speakers for) high school classes and local civic organizations.
- Serve as a "media monitor": You can let us know when the Libertarian Party and its candidates are mentioned in the local media. You can also let us know about libertarian-leaning members of the media. In addition, you can provide updates to the LPVA Communications Director concerning appropriate contacts at various media organizations. (Many media organizations, such as the news departments at radio stations, have high turnover rates. This makes it difficult for the LPVA to maintain up-to-date records concerning contacts at these organizations.)
- Serve as local precinct captain: As we run more and more candidates, we need people who are willing to be responsible for campaign activities in their neighborhoods.

As LAP chair, I will help you find other Libertarians in your area to assist you. In addition, I can provide various materials, such as outreach literature, tents/tables/signs for outreach booths, and step-by-step guides on local organizing activities in order to facilitate your efforts. In the not-too-distant future, I hope to set up an "Activist Toolkit" on the LPVA website which will provide "one-stop shopping" for information about being an effective activist. Also, I may be able to help your efforts financially by providing funds for mailings to prospects, information tables at county fairs, and other outreach activities.

During the next two years I intend to drive around Virginia in order to establish a network of Libertarian contacts and affiliate organizations throughout the state. By 2005 at the latest I want to see active local parties and contacts in all of the major cities, towns, counties, and college campuses. (I also have the honor of serving as LPVA campus coordinator.) If you are interested in promoting Libertarian activity in your local area, I shall be delighted to spend time in your neck of the woods to assist your efforts.

Each LPVA member can provide enormous help to the team, even if that member is the lone Libertarian in his area. Never underestimate how much impact you can have if you work hard and work smart. If you want to help build the Libertarian Party at the grassroots, please let me know whether I can be of help to you. You are welcome to contact me at affiliates@lpva.com or by calling me at (434) 973-5958.

Jim Lark is Local Affiliate Parties Chairman and Campus Coordinator for the LPVA. He also serves as secretary of the Jefferson Area Libertarians (based in Charlottesville) and advisor to The Liberty Coalition at the University of Virginia. From July 2000 until July 2002 he served as National Chairman of the Libertarian Party.

The next meeting of the State Central Committee will be January 25, 2003 from 1:00 — 4:00 P.M. at the Richard C. Byrd Library Community Room, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield, Virginia 703.451-8055

Lunch at Fast Eddie's Billiards (across the street) from 12:00 — 1:00PM

All Party Members are Encouraged to Attend!

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Loudoun Convention

By Anne Rocktashel, Chairman, LP Loudoun

Dear Members of the Libertarian Party of Loudoun County:

It's that time again! Time to elect a new Steering Committee, that is. As you may know, according to the LP Loudoun Constitution, on an annual basis we elect a new Steering Committee and in turn that Committee chooses a Chair from among its members. The Steering Committee is comprised of three members. Currently serving in those positions are Mike Lee, David Nemzoff and myself.

I expect there to be open positions on the Steering Committee this year. For one, I will not be able to participate next year because I will be leaving Loudoun County shortly. This is a great opportunity for someone willing to step up and help promote Libertarian principles in Loudoun County.

The Convention will be held during our normal monthly meeting in November:

Date — Wednesday, November 13

Time — 7:00 pm

Place — Eastern Loudoun Regional Library in Cascades in Sterling

I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Anne Rocktashel
Chair, LP Loudoun

A Coherent Vision of Freedom...Carl S. Milsted, Jr., Ph.D.

As shown previously, one way to avoid the “lesser of two evils” dilemma is to position our candidates leftward in many three-way races. Like it or not, the Republicans have successfully marketed themselves as being more libertarian – at least on economic issues – than the Democrats. Some of the RP politicians even follow through on this marketing position, albeit much less well than we Libertarians would like.

Unfortunately, campaigns emphasizing the Libertarian Party’s social issue stances have done much less well than this theory would indicate – at least those campaigns in which I have participated. Therefore, I have made a concerted effort to more carefully listen to the views of those dope smoking hippies who should be a core part of our coalition in order to find out what we have missed.

It turns out that the Nolan Chart does not completely describe the differences between Left and Right in this country. Differentiating ourselves from the RP involves more than emphasizing social issues and foreign policy. On the plus side, we can get this positioning while pushing quite a few economic ideas. I have done so successfully with groups of people who have a history of saying “capitalism kills.”

There are two main differences between the Left and Right that we need to understand in order to truly reach the politically homeless. My (somewhat limited) testing in the field indicates that these are dynamite – the closest things to magic bullets that I have come across. This essay will describe the first: a coherent vision of freedom.

What is Freedom?

We libertarians pride ourselves on our consistency. We have derived our platform from a single axiom, and have done so consistently. However, we have not achieved emotional consistency. There are many free-spirited individualists who view our program with revulsion. Think on it: we libertarians get branded as anarchists at the same time that we fail to get the anarchist vote!

I can hear the Objectivists objecting in the background: “How is it possible to be logically consistent and emotionally consistent at the same time? Are you siding with the philosophically ill?..” The solution to the conundrum is simple: the axiom we use to

derive our program is incomplete; it does not fully define us as being in favor of freedom, of liberty. Simple non-initiation of force unless there is violation of person, property, or contract does not obviously lead to more freedom. Indeed, there are steps towards this definition that are steps away from freedom!

If your wish to understand the gut reaction of many to our program and our rhetoric, watch the movie Robocop. This movie presents a dystopian future based on libertarian ideas just as 1984 presents a dystopian future based on socialist ideas. Imagine a society run by an armed impersonal bureaucracy stripped of any veneer of social responsibility or deference to the “will of the people.” This is the vision of big corporations released from the bonds of government, and there is some history to back this vision. One can argue that this dystopia has some faulty extrapolations. A completely libertarian society would be considerably different. However, it is true that if some aspects of our program were implemented without others, we could end up with such a society. Order of operations is important! As an example, consider how the privatization of prisons has helped fuel the drug war.

Freedom is about having choices, real choices, choices better than “your money or your life.” Our options are limited by the government, true, but they are also limited by other things. They are limited by etiquette, by contract, and by our bosses at work. For many people, these limitations are more apparent than the limitations visibly imposed by government.

In his essay “The Abolition of Work” Bob Black states, “There is more freedom in any moderately de-Stalinized dictatorship than there is in the ordinary American workplace.” For those who are professionals, valued specialists (such as computer programmers), or entrepreneurs, this is not so much the case. But talk to those on the assembly line, or those working in call centers, or the people working the checkout lines. Talk to someone subject to time and motion studies, rationed bathroom breaks, strict dress codes and/or drug testing. Think of their vision of the private sector. To many of them, the government and the unions are agents of Liberty, not Tyranny.

Then there are the constraints of contract. Give me a citywide zoning board over the neighborhood associations I have seen. Give me downtown city streets vs. the mall.

True, the libertarian program does address the above issues indirectly, but they are treated as beneficial side effects instead of as core values. And if we simply dismantle the non-core aspects of government, looking only at the initiation of force directive for guidance, we could create an aristocracy of private power that is as bad as the current bloated government, an aristocracy that could last for decades before market forces put things aright. Then there is the real danger that this private aristocracy could translate this power into public power, locking the situation in place.

Three Aspects of Freedom

Freedom has at least three components:

1. Freedom from the policeman and the bureaucrat.
2. Freedom from the boss.
3. Freedom from everyone else.

Libertarians address the first one but sometimes poo-hoo the others. Liberals focus on the second, though their solutions often backfire. The third aspect is a motivator for environmentalism and calls for population control. That’s right, there is a freedom-loving component to the environmental movement, despite the bureaucratic solutions proposed by many environmental activists.

Big corporations are often bureaucratic, authoritarian, insensitive and sometimes even violent. They use their great concentrations of wealth to manipulate the legal system to screw “the little guy” in the name of “jobs” or “progress.” Many of those “capitalism hating” hippies are not pro socialism; they are merely anti-corporate. Indeed, many are actually small business owners. The problem is that the Greens call for bringing in lions to control the wolves. The better solution is to arm the sheep.

It is time we dusted off the Jeffersonian vision of small farmers and independent small businesses. Big government is an especially bad case of concentration of power, but it is not the only case.

Equality and Freedom, They Go Together!

The Nolan Chart maps political philosophies in terms of economic and personal freedoms. However, it misses a very important value defining many political

(See “Essay” continued on page six)

From the Chair...Marianne Volpe

Dear fellow Libertarians and lovers of freedom,

It's still 2002, but success in 2003 starts today. We are working hard to increase membership and recruit and support record numbers of candidates next year. How will we do this? We will raise funds, recruit new members and run great campaigns with YOUR help. How can you help?

Affiliates, New and Renewing.

Get active in local LPVA activities through your local affiliate, see list at <http://www.lpva.com/main/localAffiliates.htm>. If you don't see an affiliate near you, or you want help organizing one, contact Dr. Jim Lark at affiliates@lpva.com to start one.

Campaigns.

Are you ready to take on the local Demopublican next year or in 2004? Want to recruit the folks to run in races next year and beyond? We are supporting local and state races next year, and to do that we need candidates and campaign helpers. Contact me at Chair@LPVA.com, or by phone at 703-960-2973.

Newsletter and Website Contributors.

The Virginia Liberty and LPVA website need articles, news stories, photographs, letters to the editor and comment pieces. We are looking for folks all around the commonwealth to report on Libertarian activities and issues, and you do not have to have prior experience to join the team. Please contact Dave Briggman at communications@lpva.com, or Chuck Eby at webmaster@lpva.com.

I look forward to hearing from people soon, so don't hesitate to contact me. If you have any questions about any position, or if you have thought of something that you can do to help, please let me know.

Thank you,
Marianne Volpe
Chair, Libertarian Party of Virginia

Harrisonburg-Rockingham L.P. Organizational Meeting

By Dave Briggman, Communications Director

The Organizational Meeting of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Libertarian Party will be held on Saturday, November 2nd at Mr. J's on Route 42 South in the Food Lion Shopping Center in Harrisonburg. The meeting will start at 2:00 P.M.

Joseph Rudman, one of the founders of the Jefferson Area Libertarians and a Harrisonburg resident, is providing assistance with the organization by providing current Bylaws and Constitution on which we can build what we hope will become a leading affiliate within the Libertarian Party of Virginia.

Harrisonburg and Rockingham County have experienced more than their fair share of controversial political issues over the past several years including the development and ownership of a \$6,000,000 city-owned golf course; a \$42,000,000 high school; and the purchase of a building partially-owned by a former Harrisonburg City Councilman at a cost much higher than the appraised value.

Independent candidates who ran on a single issue (stopping the golf course) were able to knock out a majority of the incumbents. However, because they waffled and ultimately failed to stop the golf course, they were soundly defeated in the last local election. It probably didn't help that we were able to imply a link between these alleged "independents" and the local Democrat Party.

Now, we as a Party can succeed because of additional issues beside the blatant expenditures locally, to include the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors having over \$200,000 in taxpayer dollars set aside for charitable donations this budget year; Harrisonburg and Rockingham County having budget items in the "revenue" portion of their budgets for property seizures; and even expenditures on athletic field lighting for fields that Rockingham County don't even own. Neal Boortz, nationally-syndicated Libertarian talk show host who has three hours of air time on the number one radio station in the Shenandoah Valley, also helps to spread the Libertarian word.

A Brave New Tax...Stephen Merrill

The Virginia General Assembly last session boldly invited the voters of Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads to pay on their own for their roadway needs. Just about every Republican in the state has endorsed the idea and its large tax rise. An impressive electoral treasure chest has been raised from those special interests most certain to be pocketing the people's money raised by the new tax.

In Hampton Roads, the Virginia Beach and Norfolk LP affiliates have joined the Ax the Tax Coalition: a group opposing the tax increase and the new layer of government the law would create. In the face of millions of dollars of advocacy from the "Yes Campaign", the Ax the Tax Coalition has made itself heard with the voters. A recent poll commissioned by a top supporter of a new regional government, the Virginia-Pilot newspaper, showed the "No" vote neck-and-neck. That is an excellent boding for a referendum vote likely to be dominated by cynical, fiscal conservatives.

People have begun to recognize they are being seduced out of billions more of their money to march us further down the Road to Socialism. LP members Kim Oliver, Robert Dean and Sanford Pankin have been leaders in this success. This writer predicts a fifteen-point win in Hampton Roads with a 150/1 spending margin in favor of the losers.

The voters in both Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia might want to ask themselves one or two practical questions. What if voters in the other populous part of the State refuse higher taxes? Will our region be the only part of the Commonwealth to have to pay for our own roads together with our equal share for everyone else's roads? How could that be?

It turns out taxation, even with representation, is still not so great.

(“Essay” continued from page four)

movements: equality. The average leftist would argue that the issue of equality is the primary differentiator between Left and Right. A well-versed Leftist would further point out that large discrepancies of wealth are equivalent to the power to initiate force. An exaggeration, perhaps, but “Your time or you starve” has much in common with “your money or your life.”

We libertarians can and should counter that power is a form of inequality, even if it is nominally in the name of the people. Democracy is inefficient; an activist democracy eventually delegates power to the executive creating an elite. Further, power is often converted into personal wealth, even by members of governments that make grandiose claims of being progressive.

Freedom and equality go together for these reasons and more. Great inequalities of wealth require dangerous men to protect them, whether they be part of a police or a private army (e.g. feudal systems). Inequality leads to envy. Conversely, a society with more independent farmers and business owners means more people appreciative of the values of property, hard work and honesty.

An Egalitarian Agenda

There are many steps towards the libertarian goal of a government that respects natural rights that are also steps towards significantly greater equality. Here are a few:

- Eliminate business licenses save those that truly protect people from irreversible harm.
- Outlaw civic funding of sports arenas, special business tax breaks, and other forms of local corporate welfare.
- End farm price supports. Raising food prices is highly regressive, and most of the benefits go to large corporate farms anyway. If aiding the small family farm is to be done, it should be by exempting the first x thousand dollars of farm income from taxation (either property or income taxes).
- Replace the income taxes with wealth taxes. Income taxes hit those who are getting wealthy. Wealth taxes hit those who are wealthy.

- Attack Keynesian economics for what it is: a call for subsidies of the rich! Deficit spending subsidizes the owners of capital in the same way that the government supports (big) farmers by buying commodities and destroying them. Other antisavings measures such as Social Security subsidize the owners of capital in the same way that paying some farmers not to plant raises the price of what they are not planting. Inflation is a subsidy to the financial services industry in that it is a tax on those who would store their savings themselves in the form of cash.
- End the drug war. Today, the rich get therapy while the poor go to jail.
- Give school stamps for the poor. Sell the public schools and make the middle and upper classes pay for their own children’s education.

The results of these measures would be far more progressive than anything that Al Gore or Ralph Nader can come up with. They are all also steps towards more liberty. (Some libertarians might object that replacing income taxes with wealth taxes are not a step toward liberty. I would point out that the protection of wealth is the primary service provided by government in a libertarian society. Wealth taxes are thus the closest thing to a user fee possible. Further, there are many forms of wealth that are very easy to detect and assess by the government in that they exist only insofar that they are registered by the government, so the need for the evil surveillance system known as the IRS is eliminated.)

An Anti-Corporate Agenda

Big corporations have their place in society, particularly for handling projects with large economies of scale. However, corporations have become far bigger and more powerful than they would be in a free society. We live not in a welfare state, but in a cuddly fascist state. We have in the libertarian toolbox instruments far more powerful than anti-trust law for putting big corporations in their place.

- The Securities and Exchange Commission regulations have gotten so onerous that it takes over a million dollars on capital just to do the paperwork to float a new issue on the stock exchanges. The public markets have ceased to be a place to launch new corporations to compete

with the old. Wealthy “angels” and venture capital firms have had to take over this role.

- The tax code severely penalizes companies that return income to investors as dividends instead of cancerously growing into conglomerates. Dividends returned to investors could make up a huge dispersed pool of capital for creating new corporations.
- The ridiculously complicated tax code, coupled with burdensome employment regulations is a huge barrier to entry to new businesses.
- Want to start that new business in the garage? Watch out for the lawn police! Zoning and other restrictions on property use are another tool to snuff out potential competition.
- High income tax rates coupled with deductions for IRAs, 401(k)s and home mortgages help prevent workers saving in liquid form, savings that could be used to start new businesses. Further, requirements on how to “safely” invest one’s 401(k) plan generally mean investing in Wall Street instead of Main Street.

An Environmental Agenda

Socialism and fascism are wasteful. Waste is bad for the environment. Libertarians have better tools to clean up the environment than the Greens have. For example:

- Pollution taxes could be used to discourage excessive amounts of those pollutants that are acceptable and natural in small quantities, such as nitrous oxides. If global warming is a concern, then a carbon tax would be the most efficient method to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Such a tax would be very easy to collect, as it is very hard to hide an oil refinery or a coal-fired power plant. Using a carbon tax to replace the income tax or social security taxes would be a huge reduction in surveillance and bureaucracy.
 - Sprawl is a problem. Tradable property rights are the beginnings
- (“Essay” continued on page seven)

Across the Country

Content for the
next Virginia Liberty
communications@lpva.com

Did You Know?

I came across a rather interesting fact the other day while looking for some interesting content about the LP from around the country and this, my friends, will stun you:

According to the Associated Press, only one party has challengers to the potent Republican congressional machine in the State of Nebraska. Not the Democrats, or the Greens, or the Reform Party — it's the Libertarian Party of Nebraska (lpne.org).

Aside from the U.S. Senate seat in contest in Nebraska, the Party is running candidates for all three congressional seats and there are just under 3,000 registered Libertarians in the state.

The Party's goal is a five percent total on the ballots so they won't have to petition in the next general election.

Not surprisingly, the Chairman of the Nebraska Democratic Party had no comment.

Utah LP Candidate for Congress May Have Solved the Media Problem

Kitty Burton, the LP candidate for the 3rd CD in Utah got pretty ticked off a having been blocked from participating in debates in the same manner Bill Redpath was in his quest for the Office of Government in Virginia in 2001.

Kitty's method of dealing with having been blocked, primarily by the Republican incumbent, Chris Cannon, was to tell her supporters to skip her name on the ballot and vote instead for her Democrat opponent, Nancy Jane Woodside.

"I know when I'm being used," Burton said in an interview with the Associated Press. "And Libertarians will not be used as a political football."

Needless to say, Woodside was grateful for the two to three percent of Libertarian voters expects to cross and vote Democrat.

South Dakota's LP Candidate for Senate Bails

Kurt Evans, LP Candidate for U.S. Senate from South Dakota, has bailed from the race and thrown his support to the Republican candidate, John Thune.

In a written statement Evans attributes his decision, at least in part, to the widespread ongoing voter fraud problem and says Congressman Thune "...shares my commitment to being a man of integrity and character."

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("Essay" continued from page six)

of a solution. Currently, it is illegal for city centers to grow, thus grow occurs in the suburbs. Tradable property rights as a replacement for zoning would allow the city cores to grow while compensating those whose neighborhoods are changed.

- Farm subsidies encourage farming marginal lands that would be better left as wilderness. Eliminate them.
- Rural electrification subsidies and the post office subsidize encroachment into the last wild places. Eliminate/privatize them.
- Privatizing the schools system would make the inner city schools competitive or even better than the suburban and rural schools due to greater competition in higher density areas.
- Privatizing limited access highways would reduce traffic congestion without encouraging people to move out into the exurbs.
- Property rights in the ocean fisheries would not only end over-fishing, they would be a major step towards ending world hunger. Current agriculture produces more than enough calories to feed the world. It is edible protein that is in short supply. Farming parts of the oceans would provide an abundance of edible protein.

An Insensitive Agenda

Just to show that it is possible to make steps toward less intrusive government that many people would consider steps away from freedom, consider the following platform:

- Repeal anti-trust regulations.
- Sell off the national forests and parks.
- End all federal welfare programs.

("Essay" continued on page eight)

(“Essay” continued from page seven)

- End labor laws and affirmative action.
- End taxes on capital gains and inheritance.
- Flatten the income tax rates.

Some of the above is worth pursuing after the progressive and anti-corporate agendas are implemented. When the corporations have been cut down to size in general, anti-trust law will probably become unnecessary. When the middle-class has regained power and responsibility, reprivatizing charity becomes thinkable.

But starting out with these actions is not only a bad idea, it is political suicide. Order of operations is important.

**Bring a friend to
your next
affiliate meeting.**

BAC NEWS

by Shelley Tamres,
LPVA Ballot Access Coordinator

Party Labels: The Good News And The Bad

The good news is, thanks to our lawsuit against the State Board of Elections (SBE) for allowing labels for only the Republicrats, the General Assembly amended their unfair election code this past session to allow labels for candidates certified by “recognized political parties.” This refers to any organization that submits a party plan and bylaws, a list of its officers and State Central Committee members (one from each Congressional District (CD)), and proves it has been in existence for at least six months. These are the same requirements for qualifying for labels for our Presidential candidates, formerly the only candidates identified by party labels in Virginia.

The bad news is, we must deal with a new deadline for certifying candidates to the SBE. And we missed it this year. So Ron Crickenberger, our lone Congressional candidate this year, will be labeled on the ballot with an “I” for Independent, not an “L” for Libertarian.

Petitioning

Ron Crickenberger successfully petitioned for ballot status for U.S. House in the 8th CD.

Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted!

LPVA member Jacob Hornberger successfully petitioned for ballot status in the U.S. Senate race. However, he declined to attend our State Convention to seek the Libertarian nomination and is instead running against John Warner as an Independent. According to the SBE, Hornberger turned in the earliest ever Senate petition.

National LP Platform

Kudos to LPVA member Bill Redpath! He successfully lobbied the Delegates at the 2002 National LP Convention to amend the National LP Platform to include language in support of proportional representation and IRV voting systems.

Upcoming 2003 Legislative Session

We expect to submit a bill to remove the “contiguous district” language and allow petitioners to circulate statewide candidate petitions in all congressional districts.

There are other bills we would like to submit if sponsors can be found. Please let me know if you are available to assist by contacting your State legislators, especially if they serve on either of the Privileges and Elections Committees. You may reach me at ballot@lpva.com or at 703-450-0218.



Jefferson Area Libertarians Recognize Jim Lark for his service to their affiliate and to the National Party

Secretary Lark was presented with a customized beer mug and other gifts from JAL members, in appreciation for his service as national chairman for the past two years.

Photograph ©2002
Marc Montoni (Used with permission)

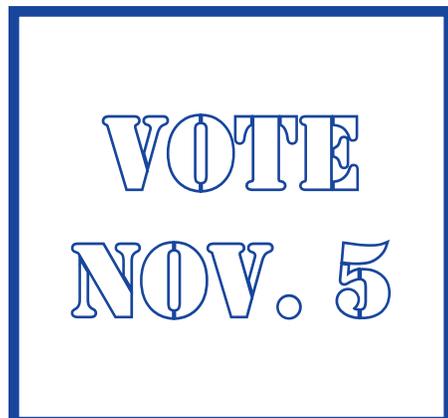
The 2004 LPVA Convention

by Marianne Volpe,
LPVA Chairman

The Convention Committee of the Libertarian Party of Virginia is seeking proposals from local affiliates or other interested persons or groups to contract the production and marketing of the 2004 LPVA Regular State Convention. The exact date and location must be part of the proposal, and must be held at least forty five (45) days, but not more than 4 months prior to the biennial National Convention of the Libertarian Party. The National Convention 2004 is scheduled for the week of Memorial Day, May 25 through June 2, 2004.

Business for a Regular State Convention shall include the election of Party officers, election of delegates to National Libertarian Party conventions, and may include changes in the Party Constitution, passage of resolutions, adoption of a Party platform, and nomination of, or endorsement of, candidates for statewide offices. The convention proposed should be consistent with the general guideline for a successful convention below. A "Convention Manual" is available to those who want to develop a proposal. As the manual is a significant document, a \$20.00 copying charge may be required. Anyone interested in developing a proposal should inform the Chair of that interest at 703 960 2973, or by emailing chair@lpva.com. The deadline for responses to this RFP is February 27, 2003.

Details for expected content and process for submitting a proposal will be forthcoming, but the proposal should provide a full description of the convention (date, place, duration, etc) as well as expected attendance charges and anticipated up-front support required of the LPVA. Please be aware that all LPVA members may attend the business sessions without charge.



Characteristics of a Good LPVA Convention

Note that the "Convention Committee" is the winner of the contract or the in-house committee established upon failure to secure a satisfactory contractor.

Attendance Goal:

- More than largest in past
- Minimum, 1/15th of membership. Anything less is FAILURE.

Timing:

- Not to interfere with the May general elections for Cities, Towns, and other local offices.

Location:

- Place with
 1. tactical significance, or
 2. large local membership, or
 3. significant local attraction
- Quality, not Ritz.
- Low price lodging nearby.

Publicity:

- The convention is announced at least twice running in the "Virginia Liberty" (LPVA cost).
- The membership receives a direct mail piece specifically concerning the convention (ConComm cost).
- Press releases are sent out at least 3 times
 1. to each of the major outlets in each of the major markets in VA, AND
 2. to all the local area outlets.

The convention committee may use the LPVA facilities to the maximum level practical, but the convention committee is responsible for the press releases.

Technical Issues:

- Good A/V system.
 1. Video projection system / overhead.
 2. Music to fill gaps. Band?
- Good backdrop -
 1. Decorations (bunting, flags, banners, etc) (The LPVA has bunting and such decorations available)
 2. Photo Montage
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
- Platform Committee.
- Friday evening registration
- Friday evening social activities. "Chairman's Reception" or Candidate's hospitality suites.

Saturday:

- Free Continental Breakfast in Vendor's Hall (with minimum paid convention package)
- Saturday registration
- Opening session with keynote speech.
- Split to at least two tracks, one talking heads, one training.
- Vendor's Hall
- Paid Saturday Luncheon with Speaker.
- Continue two track programming.
- Paid Saturday Dinner with Prime Speaker.
- Free Saturday Evening activity:
 1. Fund-raiser (Reno Night?) or maybe
 2. Social (Dance?)
- Alternate Saturday Evening Activity (Paid Tour?)

Sunday:

- Paid Theme/speaker Breakfast.
- Business Session
- < Note, the business session may be moved to Saturday afternoon if needed. >
- Platform / Constitution.
- Nominations / Elections.
- Meet the SCC / SCC training (if needed).



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We can use the money saved to focus on Party growth, marketing and candidate sponsorship.

**Make your choice by going to
www.lpva.com
and select the “Change Address” link.**